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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.

Lord God, through whom we find liberty and peace, lead us in Your righteousness and make the way straight before our lawmakers. As they grapple with complex issues and feel the need for Your guidance, lead them to the decision that will best glorify You. Looking to You to guide them, may they not be overwhelmed, remembering the promise in Psalm 84, that no weapon formed against them will be able to prosper.

May Your good blessings continue to be with us. And may we, in response to Your abiding love, ever seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your powerful 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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, one of the most fundamental constitutional responsibilities afforded Congress is the power of the purse. It grants Congress the authority to raise and spend revenue, to operate the government, and examine spending decisions.

The Federal Government is primarily funded through 12 annual appropriations bills. The Federal fiscal year begins on October 1 of each year. If the appropriations bills are not signed into law by September 30, lawmakers and the President must agree on a temporary spending resolution that is known in this town as a continuing resolution, keeping the government open for business. If that fails, the unfunded parts of government shut down.

History has repeatedly shown that shutting down the government is bad policy and also bad politics. It costs the taxpayers money to shut down the government and even more to reopen it. A government shutdown reduces essential services for the American people, erodes the trust of the American people, and limits the ability of Congress to conduct oversight over Federal Government operations.

Government shutdowns don't make for great bargaining tools. How many times have we heard Members of both political parties—probably not at the same time—but say: If I don't get what

I want, I am not going to vote for a continuing resolution. We are going to shut down the government.

What happens after a few days or even, in one case, 3 weeks? Eventually, the heat gets so bad that Congress votes to reopen the government and the Members who crowed that they were going to shut down the government if they didn't get what they wanted—who were eventually pushing for certain policy changes that they wanted—usually, in the end, don't get what they want. That is why it is bad politics, as well as bad financial management.

Instead, Congress is in the same spot, but now is stuck with a last-minute omnibus bill or a long-term continuing resolution. Neither a last-minute omnibus or a long-term continuing resolution allows Congress to carefully analyze spending and make necessary tough decisions. In other words, that is not a good replacement for passing 12 appropriations bills separately. In short, shutdowns have always been a losing proposition for the American people.

On Thursday, I joined Senator LANKFORD and others in reintroducing a bill entitled the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act. This bill would permanently end government shutdowns by creating an automatic continuing resolution.

This would continue critical services and operations and hold Federal workers harmless while Congress negotiates a final spending agreement. To encourage Members and the President to reach an agreement on funding, the Lankford bill would prohibit Members of Congress, congressional staffs, and Office of Management and Budget officials from traveling outside of Washington, DC, during the automatic continuing resolution. In other words: Do your job. Stay here in town until you get it done and prevent a shutdown.

It would also prevent Congress from recessing or from considering legislation unrelated to appropriations bills

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



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with limited exceptions after 30 days of an automatic continuing resolution.

So Congress needs to stop governing from crisis to crisis, respect the appropriations process, and fulfill its constitutional responsibilities to keep the government funded. Moreover, we need to put an end to the recurring political side show of costly government shut-downs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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, a new report came out last month detailing who benefits from the working-families tax relief that Republicans enacted in the One Big Beautiful Bill, and here is what they found: Americans in every county in America will see tax relief from this bill. Let me say that again. Americans in every county in America will see tax relief from this bill.

I said this was a new report, but it is hardly news for Republicans. We knew what we were doing when we crafted this bill. We knew that we were enacting tax relief that would benefit people in every corner of this country. We knew that it would benefit people of every income level and that the greatest proportional benefit would go to working Americans. That is what we did in 2017. In 2017, we cut taxes for all Americans, and the greatest proportional benefit went to working Americans. What we did this year with the One Big Beautiful Bill was make that tax relief permanent. Now hard-working American families can be confident that they won't see a tax hike next year or in the years to come, and they can spend, invest, and save more of their hard-earned money with greater confidence for the future.

This morning, I want to walk through how working families will benefit from our legislation.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered tax rates for every income level and adjusted tax brackets to provide additional relief, but those reforms were going to expire this year without action from Congress. What that would have meant is that a typical family earning \$80,000 a year would have seen their tax rate jump from 12 percent to 15 percent next year. Not only that, that family would have lost other benefits, like the increased standard deduction and the increased child tax credit.

The standard deduction, which is something that 90 percent of taxpayers in this country use to simplify and reduce their taxes, would have been cut nearly in half, and the child tax credit would have shrunk from \$2,000 per child

to \$1,000 per child. For people in my State, that would have meant paying an average of \$2,500 more in taxes next year—\$2,500. Republicans were determined not to let that happen, and with our bill in July, we locked in the lower tax rates permanently.

We also made permanent the increased child tax credit and actually increased it further to \$2,200 per child and then linked it to inflation so it won't ever lose its value, and then we made the higher standard deduction permanent as well.

We also added a \$6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, and then we eliminated taxes on tips—something that will benefit millions of Americans who earn part of their income from tips. That includes servers, busboys, and bartenders; Uber, Lyft, and taxi drivers; hairstylists, tour guides, and a whole host of other Americans. Working people who once dreaded big tax bills on their tips every April are now breathing a little easier. They are already making plans to save that money, put it toward their schooling, or use it for groceries and other needs of their families.

We also eliminated taxes on overtime pay. That means that folks like police officers, first responders, and nurses won't have to pay taxes on the money they earn when they spend time away from their families working extra shifts to keep us safe. It is also a boon to Americans who put in overtime working in manufacturing and the trades—hard-working Americans who spend the workday on their feet and take a shower after work, not before.

All of these reforms make for a Tax Code that works for working people. That gives them more breathing room in their budgets and helps them build a better future for their families.

I also want to say a word about what this bill does for Americans who work for themselves.

Family-run businesses—farmers and ranchers, like the people I represent in South Dakota—are the backbone of a lot of American communities. They are families' livelihoods, job creators, and part of Americans' way of life. This bill makes sure our Tax Code helps them grow. Small businesses, farms, and ranches will all benefit from the permanent lower tax rates in this bill.

Those that are passthrough businesses will also benefit from the 199A small business deduction, which is also now a permanent fixture of the Tax Code. These provisions free up cash that will allow family farms and ranches and small businesses to invest in their operations and their workers.

Then there are the investment incentives this bill makes permanent: bonus depreciation for new equipment, meaning a farmer can deduct the full cost of a new tractor or combine the year he or she starts using it; a factory owner can deduct the full cost of improving his or her assembly line; a construction company can invest in new vehicles and technology more easily.

Immediate expensing for research and development is also now permanent—a provision that has had a meaningful impact on getting innovative technologies off the ground in South Dakota and around the country.

We also raised the exemption threshold for the death tax, which means a lot more family businesses, farms, and ranches are protected from this fundamentally flawed tax and the costly estate planning that comes with it. It means Americans who have worked their entire lives building up their dream won't have to worry about that dream being sold off or dismantled to settle a tax bill when they pass it on to the next generation.

With the working families tax reform Republicans enacted this year, America's Tax Code is now permanently oriented toward supporting hard-working Americans, helping the people who work every day to build a better future for their children, ensuring that they keep more of their hard-earned money, and making America stronger and more prosperous.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few moments ago, we got more news that the economy Donald Trump is sabotaging is in worse shape than we imagined. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the economy added about 900,000 fewer jobs than originally thought through the early part of this year. This report shows one thing: The job market was already struggling when Donald Trump took office, and he has made it much worse.

His tariffs are raising prices. His tariffs are making factories slow down. His "Big Ugly Bill" is kicking 16 million people off healthcare; unemployment is going up; health insurance premiums are going up; and people are less optimistic about the future as they struggle to make ends meet.

When Donald Trump came in, he said he would start the golden age—he was criticizing Joe Biden. But he is doing worse and worse and worse every month. Under Donald Trump—since Donald Trump has taken office, as these numbers show, there are fewer jobs, there are higher prices, and there is less opportunity for the American people.

The economy is clearly getting worse under Donald Trump's stewardship. His policies are leaving the American people holding the bag, and they don't like it.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on nominations, the story of this Republican majority has been a story of surrender—a surrender of the Senate's power over to Donald Trump. That is especially true of the nominations process.

What is going on right now with nominations is beyond the pale. Donald Trump has nominated, as a whole, some of the worst, some of the most unqualified, some of the most unscrupulous loyalists ever to serve in the Federal Government.

These nominees are just horrible, one after the other, and now Republicans don't even want to vote on them. I understand why. They know how bad these nominees are, and they don't want to be held accountable. They know the American people would be appalled if they knew the kind of people Trump is trying to confirm and bring into the government.

So what do they do? Do Republicans send these terrible nominees back to Donald Trump and say: Try again, try someone better—which previous Republican Senators have done, even under Republican Presidents? Nope. Of course not, not these Republicans. Oh, no. They would rather go nuclear, change the way the Senate confirms nominees to make the confirmation process easier, faster, more hidden with virtually no scrutiny or accountability.

Republicans don't want to be forced to vote on some of these awful people. They don't want to go on record one at a time, so they would rather turn the Senate into a conveyor belt and escape accountability.

Just look at the kinds of nominees that have already gone through this Chamber and tell me if you think this is normal, that Senate Republicans have already approved anti-vaxxers and pseudoscientists to serve as public health officials to lead American health policy—not just quacks like R.F.K., Jr., but people like Jay Bhattacharya, who opposed healthcare guidelines during COVID and policies meant to keep our kids safe in school. Thanks to Republicans, he is now leading America's healthcare system. God help us.

And if Republicans go nuclear, it is going to get even worse. It is insane that Republicans have allowed the Department of Justice to be staffed by Donald Trump's own personal lawyers who prosecute his enemies, exonerate his friends, regardless of the law. It is a disgrace. That is a mark of dictatorship when that happens, when there is no rule of law in prosecutorial Agencies.

Thanks to Republicans, we now have podcasters and influencers in senior leadership at the FBI, people like Dan Bongino, someone with zero experience at the Agency. And if Republicans go nuclear, it is going to get even worse because nominees will be hidden; there won't be accountability; there won't be votes on individual nominees.

Finally, it is utterly insane that every Trump nominee has had to pass a litmus test about denying the legitimacy of the 2020 election when everyone knows that Donald Trump made up a whole bunch of lies about the 2020 election and keeps talking about it unproven. But you have to pass this litmus test: Was the election faked? Did Trump really win?

They have to say yes. That means they are willing to lie for Donald Trump.

And so Republicans are going nuclear to hide people like this from the public eye because they don't want to be forced to take a vote on them. Well, sorry, Republicans. In the Constitution, voting on nominees is our job. And when we have a President like this, one which you know—you know he has no sense of integrity or honesty or fidelity to the truth, you know he is a President who doesn't care about acting corruptly—look what he is doing with his own personal wealth—then the Senate's job is to scrutinize and review nominees, and it is doubly important under a President like this.

I warn my Republican colleagues. They will come to regret this move because what goes around comes around. They may not like being on the receiving end of the changes they will bring to bear this week. After all, when Democrats were last in charge, we were able to confirm a record number of judges to the bench.

I ask my Republican colleagues to think carefully—very carefully—before moving forward on this awful, awful, provision that goes nuclear and blows up even worse the Senate rules.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, on Epstein, yesterday, the House Oversight Committee released a salacious drawing, the figure of a woman drawn around the text of a lewd poem. At the bottom, Donald Trump's signature.

Where did this image come from? From the Epstein estates. You know what this looks like to every American? Donald Trump is yet again lying to the American people.

He said for months that he never signed anything. He said this letter was “nonexistent.” He said the Wall Street Journal, often his political ally, is lying, but the letter is right now before our eyes.

It is gross. The American people can see for themselves that Donald Trump is an inveterate liar. There is no turning away from it. We have had probably, almost certainly, the most dishonest President in American history who will just lie at will. It is his MO.

The Epstein saga is, perhaps, the nastiest example of a trend that infects his entire Presidency, an infection of lies, dishonesty, dodging, self-enrichment. It is as if lying, to Trump, is like oxygen is to the rest of us. He needs to do it. One must imagine the truth to be fatal to him.

If Donald Trump disagrees, if he has got a problem with anything about

this, the answer is simple; he should release the Epstein files; he should tell the truth.

What he should not be doing is calling the Epstein files a “Democratic hoax.” A “Democratic hoax?” Does he think his supporters are stupid? Does he think the American people are stupid? No one believes him when he says this. It came from the Wall Street Journal, hardly a Democratic newspaper.

Shame on you, Mr. President. Shame on you for lying to the American people; shame on you for lying about this; shame on you for lying about so many other things.

Donald Trump and his minions are trying to desperately put this issue back in the bottle. At the same time, Americans are struggling to make ends meet. Americans are struggling to retain their trust in government after so many lies from the President.

Americans are struggling to keep their jobs, pay their bills, and provide for their kids. And then, when they look to the White House and see the President on a scorched-Earth campaign try and hide the truth about Jeffrey Epstein, they say: How can they trust Donald Trump on anything else? How can Americans trust a President who lies not only about the Epstein files but about the economy; who says that things are actually great; that there is no inflation; who pathetically urges foreign leaders to tell the Nobel committee to give him the Nobel Peace Prize?

In reality, unemployment is going up, manufacturing is going down, his own tariffs are forcing companies to raise prices.

How can anyone trust a President like Donald Trump who lied about Medicaid? Remember when he said Medicaid would not be touched by the “Big Beautiful Bill”? And now Medicaid has seen the biggest cuts in American history.

Donald Trump lied to the American people about Social Security. He said he wouldn't touch it. And now Social Security is being strangled by Donald Trump and cuts that come straight from the DOGE playbook. He said he would usher in a golden age. Friday, we learned that unemployment continues to rise.

Autocrats—autocrats lie. They reject reality, spin fantasy to try and retain control. That is what Donald Trump is doing. He is poisoning the soul of America and betraying the people who trusted him to fight for their interests.

President Trump, if you disagree with me, if you have a problem with anything I am saying, my answer is very simple: Do what you said you would do. Release the Epstein files. Release the Epstein files.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just listened

to the minority leader talk about the nominations the President has made to fill out the positions in government. The U.S. Senate has standards, we have customs, we have long-established traditions, and these include allowing a President to fill out the team he needs for the government to function.

These traditions go all the way back to George Washington. So let me remind the Senator from New York about how the Senate functions—is supposed to function—before he and those with this Trump derangement syndrome have come to the position that the country shouldn't be allowed to function, because exactly 235 years ago this week, the Senate used its advise and consent powers, and they used them for the first time.

President George Washington nominated Alexander Hamilton to be the Secretary of the Treasury. The Senate confirmed him immediately. The official Senate history says:

Minutes later, perhaps even before the messenger returned to the President's office, senators approved [Hamilton] unanimously.

That has been the standard for more than two centuries. Senate Democrats have now, under CHUCK SCHUMER, trashed this tradition of the U.S. Senate. Confirming even the most routine nominees is now a long and bitter fight.

From Hamilton's confirmation in 1789 to SCHUMER's unprecedented obstinate obstruction going on today, the Senate has gone from speed to stalemate.

Prior to Senator SCHUMER trying to shut down the Senate and shut down the confirmation process, routine nominees cleared the Senate Chamber quickly by voice vote, by unanimous consent, and often in groups.

More than half of every President's nominees were confirmed that way until this year; 90 percent or more of a President's nominees were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent from the days of George Washington all the way through the Presidency of Barack Obama.

During President Trump's first term, Democrats cut it down to 65 percent. Now during the second term, it is zero. Absolutely zero of President Trump's nominees have been confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote. Not a single nominee has been confirmed that way since President Trump took office almost 8 months ago.

President Trump is the first President in U.S. history to not have a single nominee confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. Not one. Never happened before in the history of the United States. Maybe CHUCK SCHUMER is proud of that. Maybe he is going to use it around with the Democrats and the far-left wing of his party who continue to be radical, extreme, dangerous, and scary and don't want this country heading in the right direction, but it is a disgrace what he has done to the U.S. Senate.

This is the Schumer confirmation shutdown. He and the Senate Demo-

crats are forcing the Senate to waste hundreds of legislative hours because they have filibustered each and every one of President Trump's nominees, every single one.

Mr. President, 109 sub-Cabinet nominees have been confirmed this year. Democrats filibustered every one of the 109, and that calls for two separate rollcall votes with 2 hours in between set aside for debate. Now, of the 109 nominees, in those 2 hours that were set aside for each one of those 109, 81 of them not a single word was spoken by the Democrats on the floor about any of them.

CHUCK SCHUMER just came to the floor, and he said: These nominees are not qualified. But he didn't say anything about when any of these 81 actually came to the Senate floor; when we voted, through cloture, and then waited 2 hours for the Democrats, they talked about other things. They didn't talk about the nominees. If they are so bad, why didn't they talk about them?

The average amount of time of all of these sub-Cabinet nominees spent by the Democrats: 2 min 12 seconds. Eighty-one of them, they said nothing. Only seven of them did they talk about for more than 10 minutes. If they are so bad, why aren't they talking about them? Because these people are qualified.

But they were delayed for no reason other than the Trump derangement syndrome. Each one has been confirmed after maximum amounts of time have expired. That is time that should have been spent on legislation. But, no, the Democrats don't want us to be able to legislate.

Is what they have done advise and consent? No. Is it congressional oversight? No. Is it serious scrutiny? No. It is obstruction on autopilot. That is what we are seeing in this body by those Democrats, led by CHUCK SCHUMER, the "king of the shutdown." No President has ever faced a total shutdown of nominees like President Trump has under the Democrats and CHUCK SCHUMER.

This has resulted in a historic backlog. Today, 149 qualified, ready-to-serve nominees are still waiting to be considered here on the Senate floor, and they are stuck in Senate purgatory.

Now, we know these nominees are qualified, despite what Senator SCHUMER said on this floor just a couple of minutes ago. How do I know they are qualified? Well, the FBI has vetted each and every one of them. The Office of Government Ethics has reviewed each and every one of them. The Senate committees who held hearings heard from all of these nominees, and they were all voted successfully out of committee.

And now let me just point out to CHUCK SCHUMER that over half of them earned bipartisan support with Democrats voting for them in the committee. Yet, here on the Senate floor, Senate Democrats are stonewalling their consideration.

And there are still more than 800 nominees and nominations and positions in our government that still need to be filled. So, this week, Senate Republicans are going to restore these longstanding traditions of the Senate to get back to the way the Senate is supposed to work.

Nominees who have been successfully approved by Senate committees will now be considered and confirmed in groups. This is keeping with the longstanding traditions of how this body operates. The Republican plan is similar to one that was proposed by Senators KLOBUCHAR and KING in 2023.

At the time, they said that they were facing obstruction. Sixty-two percent of Joe Biden's nominees had been confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote. So this updated process applies only to the routine executive branch decisions. This is pretty simple. We are talking about positions like Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Assistant Secretaries, Ambassadors, and hundreds more. These are the positions that in the past have never required a rollcall vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

America needs these men and women working, not stuck in some procedural traffic jam. The process of Cabinet-level and judicial nominees remains the same. They are going to continue to come to the floor individually for debate, discussion, and votes. These rule changes will get the Senate working again, doing the business of the American people.

Eight months now into President Trump's second term, only 12 percent of President Trump's team is in place.

Now, remember, modern Presidents have over a thousand positions to be filled. At this pace, it would take over a thousand additional hours of Senate time on the floor to fill it.

No Senate, Democrat or Republican, has ever operated this way. No President, Democrat or Republican, can govern efficiently under the current abuse by the Democrats.

The Schumer confirmation shutdown leaves critical jobs unfilled in our government. That weakens our economy. It undermines our international diplomacy. It jeopardizes our safety. It disrespects the will of the voters. This rules update will clear this backlog of nominees, and it will allow us to scrutinize nominees effectively and confirm qualified nominees efficiently.

Committees are still going to hold hearings. They will still question the nominees. There will still be all of the background work, and then the FBI checks will still be done. The Office of Government Ethics will still review the conflicts. None of that changes. What changes is this pointless partisan delay right here on the Senate floor.

What we are doing today is restoring the Senate's constitutional responsibility. That responsibility is advice and consent, not stall and delay. President Trump was elected to get America back on track. He deserves to have his

team on the job and so do the American people. Senate Republicans are committed to making the Senate work again just as it has for every President up until now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The minority whip.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2025

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been my honor and one of the highlights of my Senate career to watch the restoration of democracy in the Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. I have said on the floor many times with real pride, my mother was born in Lithuania, and she was an immigrant to this country at the age of 2. And she never made it back to her home country where she was born, but I did, even to the town where she was baptized and raised before she came to the United States.

It has been quite a journey. In 1978 or 1979, I visited what was then the Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania. I am still struck by the images which were so common there: the gray Soviet approach to things both physical and otherwise and the belief that these poor people were under the subjugation of Moscow at a time when they deserved independence.

And then to have served in the House of Representatives and, again, in the Senate and to watch the evolution of Lithuania as well as Latvia and Estonia as democratic countries and the amazing development where they became part of NATO and part of the European Union and became Western-viewing nations and equal partners with other countries in Europe when it came to security and democracy—it is remarkable.

And yet I am not naive, I know these are smaller countries, and they will be easily overwhelmed by Russia if that were the Russian ambition.

So I have tried over the years to maintain the strong relationship between the Baltic States and NATO and also the strong relationship with the United States and these three Baltic nations.

One of the things I worked on for a number of years is known as the Baltic Security Initiative. It is an investment by the United States of several million dollars in the training of troops in the Baltic States so that they are prepared if they are brought into enemy conflict. It is a modest investment. They have shown their good faith on their side by maintaining strong support from NATO and contributions to it. But the Baltic Security Initiative is an incentive for them to continue along those lines.

As I have said, I am not naive about this situation. Being part of NATO means that our alliance will stand by them if they are ever invaded by another country. I hope that never happens, but if it does, it means that NATO is there. They cannot go it alone, but they have certainly shown they are prepared to do their part to demonstrate their commitment to democracy and the values the United States shares.

We are now considering the National Defense Authorization bill. It is an important piece of legislation, which we, every year, take seriously and pass, and I hope we do this time as well.

I have offered amendments that would strengthen our alliances in my bipartisan amendment to authorize the Baltic Security Initiative. Since I created the program by including it in the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill, this initiative has provided millions of dollars in dedicated security assistance to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

These important NATO allies are on the frontlines against Russian aggression. They have a long history of experiencing Russian tyranny, and I firmly believe they have also been targets of Putin if they were not members of NATO. They are some of the top NATO members in terms of military expenditures and percentage of GDP, something President Trump has rightfully urged. I have visited bases in Lithuania where American and other NATO allies are working closely to deter Russian aggression.

Yet, despite the clear success of this program, we recently learned that the Trump administration announced last week that it intends to suspend the European security programs, including the Baltic Security Initiative. That would be music to the ears of Vladimir Putin, and it sends a dangerous signal as Putin continues to attack Ukraine despite assurances from President Trump that he wanted to end the war on Ukraine on his first day in office.

As I mentioned, I am the son of a Lithuanian immigrant. My mother's family knew she could depend on the United States and all it stood for when they gave up their home in Lithuania and came to this country.

We should not allow the President to unilaterally threaten our alliance that has been carefully threaded over decades and decades.

I am grateful to the senior Senator from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, for joining me on the amendment which I am going to offer on the Baltic Security Initiative. I urge my colleagues to join us.

I am reaching out to colleagues on both sides of the aisle and asking them to stand with me for the Baltics to make it clear to Putin this is not going to be easy picking for him in the future.

They are part of the NATO alliance and a worthy part as well. We should continue our support, and I hope the Baltic Security Initiative is an indication of that.

I urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in this bipartisan effort to support Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: WICKER for up to 10 minutes, REED for up to 15 minutes, COTTON for up to 5 minutes, and TUBERVILLE for up to 10 minutes.

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

UKRAINE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, now let me say that I come to the floor today to join with President Trump and with a bipartisan majority of my colleagues in the Senate in calling for another tougher round of sanctions against Russia and its war machine.

For the past 8 months, President Trump and President Zelenskyy have extended the hand of peace. Ukraine is committed to a cease-fire. President Trump has sat down personally with Vladimir Putin on U.S. soil. In response, President Putin has mocked the peace process by repeatedly escalating his attacks on the free people of Ukraine, and he is doing so even as we speak.

Over the weekend, Russia launched its largest aerial attack of the war. Putin rained over 800 Iranian-designed drones and missiles down on cities across Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv.

For the first time, Russia damaged Ukraine's main government building, where the Cabinet of Ministers meets. The burning building symbolizes Putin's ultimate prize: His dictatorship seeks to take down Ukraine's democratically elected government.

On Sunday, President Trump said he is ready to increase the economic pressure against Russia. I agree. So does commentator Mark Levin, an experienced political writer and analyst and a prominent advocate for President Trump and his agenda.

After the attack, Mr. Levin put it well when he said:

It's time to unleash an economic barrage against Putin and sell NATO what Ukraine needs to slam back.

I say: Amen. Do not tolerate Putin's lies and games any longer.

President Trump has given Vladimir Putin every chance to show who he is, and time and again, Putin has shown himself to be a war criminal. Economic and military punishment is all Putin understands, and it is all he deserves.

Here is a brief refresher. In February, Vladimir Putin marked the third anniversary of his invasion by launching what was then the largest drone strike of the war. The next month, Ukraine agreed to a cease-fire even though Ukraine is the one being invaded.

The episode previewed a pattern that has continued ever since: Ukraine

shows its intention for peace and security, and Putin always escalates his unprovoked attacks.

In March, Russia launched drones and ballistic missiles into a residential neighborhood in President Zelenskyy's hometown. Putin fired cluster munitions into the city, sending shrapnel—where did he send it? Into restaurants, homes, a children's playground. He killed 9 children in that strike. Once again, the world saw Vladimir Putin escalate, targeting a nonmilitary town because that is where President Zelenskyy is from—the actions of a war criminal who should be in prison.

In the following months of this year, Presidents Trump and Zelenskyy remained committed to peace. But then, in May, Putin launched 273 drones against Ukraine. It was a new record, but he broke that evil benchmark a few days later in the largest combined drone and missile attack of the war so far. He launched 367 aerial weapons against Ukraine. Once again, the world saw Putin escalate, proving to be a war criminal.

Amid the brutality, Vladimir Putin has played games with peace talks. We have all seen it. With one hand, he signals interest in negotiations; with another, he lobbs bombs and kills civilians.

In early July of this year, he once again upped the ante. He sent 728 drones and 13 missiles to Ukraine, making clear his evil intention. Once again, the world saw Putin escalate, proving to be, again, a war criminal.

At this point, I need to mention that those attacks are making little progress for the invading Russians. That is a strong testament to the will and resolve of the Ukrainian people and military, who are simply defending their own country, their own soil, and doing so admirably.

In the aftermath of this attack in July, President Trump made the correct assessment that Vladimir Putin “talks nice [and] then he bombs everybody.” Those are President Trump's words, and I congratulate him on that observation. The barrage prompted President Trump to work with NATO to supply Ukraine with more arms. He also gave Russia a deadline to pursue peace.

Just this weekend, the world saw the war criminal escalate again. He dropped more than 800 Russian drones onto civilians, neighborhoods, and government buildings. Vladimir Putin sent an unambiguous message: He is not interested in peace; he is interested in conquering Ukraine. And he won't stop there.

As if this weekend's attacks were not a clear enough sign of his intentions, Putin continued his brutality just this morning—just this morning, Mr. President. He launched a glide missile into a village, killing at least 24 Ukrainians who had lined up to receive their pension payments. Nearly two dozen more were wounded, and the statistics are still coming in.

Just last week, Russia struck another hospital—this time in Donetsk—killing two people and damaging medical facilities.

I could go on with more examples, but it is worth stopping here to again make two points that former Secretary Mike Pompeo made in an interview just this morning with Brian Kilmeade on FOX News.

The first is that there is very little military objective to strikes like these. Twenty-four innocents killed is a tragedy, but it is not a resounding military success. That is because Putin is not and cannot make very many resounding military successes.

The second is that Putin clearly has no intention to stop. This morning, former Secretary Pompeo, a distinguished former member of President Trump's Cabinet, said:

Vladimir Putin has zero interest in any negotiated solution.

Zero interest.

He is going to stay at this until there is an enormous cost imposed on him.

I think that is what the President of the United States was saying just a day or so ago. In other words, there is no reason to believe that Putin wants anything less than to take the country of Ukraine successfully, and he will not stop until he is forced to stop.

The Kremlin is projecting confidence at home, but that confidence is a sham.

This morning, a Moscow newspaper was honest enough to say:

The Kremlin believes Russia is slowly but surely achieving its goals in Ukraine.

I disagree with that, by the way.

To continue the quote:

So Moscow doesn't intend—

Doesn't intend—

to stop or feel any desire for half-hearted solutions & half-baked compromises.

Could there be any doubt that this is a true statement? They have a fake confidence, but they have no intention of stopping.

Mr. Putin is regularly shutting down internet access for Russian citizens so they won't know what is going on in the war, so they won't know how slowly they are moving, allowing only approved sites that do not allow the truth to come through. This is Russian totalitarianism at its best—or worst.

Putin hopes to project enough confidence at home to sustain the war effort and wear Ukraine down. Abroad, he hopes to wait out the West with fake peace talks while he continues pummeling Ukraine with missiles and drones of death.

Where does Putin's rain of fire come from? It comes from Russia's war machine, which produces what seems to be an endless supply of deadly drones. But it does not have to be endless. Today, Russia barely has the economic capacity to continue bombarding Ukraine—barely.

But now at last, President Trump has indicated he is willing to cut off that capacity. Again, I say: Amen. We must be willing to cut it off. Again, a major-

ity—a huge bipartisan majority—of Senators have said this.

Russia's friends are only encouraging his villainy. China is buying and selling with Russia, enabling its war machine. North Korea sent its own troops to assist Russia's soldiers on the battlefield. Iran designs and supplies weapons. That is a troubling axis of aggressors.

In the face of such malicious collaboration, we must use every available tool to increase pressure on Putin's war machine. Extending the hand of peace has not worked with this dictator because this dictator is not interested in peace. He will respond only to strength. He will act only if his war machine begins running out of funds, and we can help accomplish that.

The U.S. Senate has shown broad support for increasing Russian sanctions. Eighty-four Senators have signed on to a tough sanctions bill that can help us bankrupt Putin's war machine.

I am ready to work with my colleagues and the President to put real cost on Putin for these war crimes. I congratulate the President of the United States for his strong statement this weekend. As Mark Levin said, let us “unleash an economic barrage against Putin.” Well said. Let's do it today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CARIBBEAN MILITARY STRIKE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, last week, President Trump gave two orders to the U.S. military that were astonishing even by this administration's standards.

First, he ordered the Department of Defense to be renamed the Department of War, a political theater exercise designed to sound tough while distracting from the real issues facing the Nation. Second, he ordered a military strike on a speedboat operating in the Caribbean, reportedly killing 11 people on board.

In response to the attack, Venezuela has placed its military on high alert, and we are one miscalculation away from a shooting war no one in this Chamber has authorized.

Rather than rebranding itself, the Pentagon should be providing to Congress and the public answers. For example, the intelligence that justified that strike on the vessel, the legal authority the President relied upon, and an assurance that we are not drifting toward another undeclared war.

The Department of Defense was named as such after World War II for a reason. It was a deliberate statement from America's military that we are not a tool of conquest but a shield designed to deter aggression, defend the

Constitution, and keep the peace. Reverting to the old name would not make us safer. It would send exactly the wrong message to the world at a time when tensions are already dangerously high.

Changing the name of the Department of Defense will not improve military readiness, will not strengthen deterrence. It will not prevent a single conflict. What it will do is signal to the world that America is abandoning its role as a stabilizing force and embracing a posture of quasi—or real—permanent warfare.

I am deeply concerned about the President's military actions in the Caribbean, which were taken without congressional authorization, without clear legal justification, and without any evidence presented that it was necessary to protect the United States or its forces from an immediate threat. Now, nearly a week out after the operation and amid threats of additional actions, the administration is just beginning to brief Congress on these issues.

I want to be very clear. We all share a commitment to protecting the American people from transnational criminal organizations. Cartels are violent and dangerous, and they cannot be allowed to traffic across our borders. But we cannot allow that Homeland Security mission to become a blank check for war, for military action directed at civilians. We cannot let one man's impulsive decision making entangle this Nation in another conflict we neither need nor want nor care for.

Last week's strike was no minor confrontation. This was a deliberate, lethal use of American military power. Press reports suggest that the operation was carried out by an attack helicopter or MQ-9 Reaper drone. Neither of those platforms are typically deployed to warn a vessel to stop. Those aircraft are designed for precision strikes. There is no evidence—none—that this strike was conducted in self-defense.

That matters because under both domestic and international law, the U.S. military simply does not have the authority to use lethal force against a civilian vessel unless acting in self-defense. At most, and only in extraordinary circumstances, warning shots or disabling fire might be used to halt the vessel posing an imminent threat. That is the standard rule of engagement for U.S. forces worldwide. And there are no indications that U.S. forces attempted to stop, board, or even contact the vessel in question.

Lethal force, particularly force that kills nearly a dozen people, is reserved for moments when there is no other option existing, when the safety of U.S. personnel or vital interests is immediately at stake. No such case has been made here.

The Trump administration has offered no proof that this vessel was engaged in an attack or even that it was engaged in drug trafficking at the

time. They offered no positive identification that the boat was Venezuelan nor that its crew members were members of Tren de Aragua or any other cartel. And even if we believe their unsupported assertions, that does not change the legal calculus.

Our Armed Forces are not law enforcement Agencies. They are not empowered to hunt down suspected criminals and then kill them without trial. The Department of Defense's own senior leadership, including the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, have testified before the Armed Services Committee that the mere designation of a cartel as a foreign terrorist organization does not confer any new authority to use military force. And that is the administration speaking publicly.

Let us be candid about what this means. Eleven people were killed without any apparent justification other than the word of President Trump. If there is evidence that these people were, indeed, cartel members trafficking drugs, it needs to be made public immediately. I would point out that the U.S. military monitors maritime drug movements in this region on a daily basis. For weeks—perhaps months—surveillance aircraft and other sensors have been tracking cartel operations in the Caribbean. This strike, therefore, was not a snap decision made in the heat of the moment. It appears, frankly, quite premeditated, and it was carried out, in my view, without the legal authority to do so.

Congress received a notification from the White House on September 3 citing a number of reasons for the attack and claiming that the President acted under his article II authority. But article II is not a blank check. The President is the Commander in Chief, but Congress retains the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8 of the Constitution. The War Powers Resolution exists precisely to prevent unilateral military actions like this from dragging our country into undeclared war.

The law is also clear that any change to the legal and policy frameworks governing the use of military force must be reported to Congress within 30 days. The administration submitted its annual review in February. If President Trump issued a new order on August 8 authorizing the use of force under these circumstances, as has been reported, then Congress should have received immediate notification. And we have not. Section 1067 of the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act further requires notification of any changes to an Execute Order, or "exord."

Lastly, section 130f of title 10 United States Code requires a detailed justification for and description of military operations involving lethal force. The Department submitted a 130f notification to Congress, but its contents

were entirely insufficient and inconsistent with the level of detail that are normally compiled in such a report. This is a direct challenge to the separation of powers.

If we allow this to stand, then Congress will have effectively ceded its war powers to the executive branch. We will have surrendered to the authorities the Framers to the Constitution invested in us, the representatives of the people, to decide when this Nation goes to war.

And we also must reckon with the risk of escalation. Venezuela has already placed its military on high alert. President Maduro's regime has accused the United States of aggression. If they retaliate or answer by firing on our surveillance aircraft or other naval vessels in the region or responding in kind against U.S. civilians, the Trump administration has already stated that it will respond with more force. Then we are on a path for a shooting war with a foreign nation, a war that no one in this Chamber has authorized and that the American people have not been consulted about.

We have seen this pattern before. Time and again, this President has tested the limits of Executive authority. He has unilaterally ordered major U.S. military operations in Iran and Yemen, and has refused to answer to Congress about these strikes. Right now, more than 2,000 National Guard troops are deployed on the streets of Washington. And earlier this summer, more than 4,000 National Guardsmen and marines were deployed in Los Angeles.

Each time, we have seen the slow erosion of congressional oversight. Each time, we have seen the creeping normalization of unilateral military action. And each time, we have inched closer to a world in which the decision to wage war or to use the military to enforce the law is made by one person alone.

That is not the system our Founders designed. James Madison wrote:

The Constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care, vested the question of war in the Legislature.

And we forget those words at our peril. This Chamber must act immediately. Members of Congress must receive a full briefing from the administration, including the intelligence that supposedly justified the strike, the legal analysis authorizing it, and a copy of any Presidential order that reportedly expanded the use-of-force authorities. If that order exists, it must be scrutinized publicly. If the President has exceeded his authority, this body must consider all remedies available, including legislative action to limit the use of funds for further unauthorized military operations.

We cannot allow the United States to slide into another mindless conflict. We cannot risk the lives of American

servicemembers based on secret orders and dubious legal theories. We owe it to the American people, to our Constitution, and the world to stand for the rule of law. We took an oath here—all of us—not to obey the President but to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, which is being threatened right now.

We also, as Senators, have responsibilities to protect the congressional powers inherent in the Constitution, not to simply surrender them to the President because of political expediency. Let us reassert Congress's role. Let us demand accountability. And let us ensure that this Nation does not stumble into war by the reckless acts of a single man.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, what the American people saw last week in the Finance Committee with Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., was not a hearing on oversight. It was a dogpile by politicians who are scared to death of questioning the status quo. It was, at its worst, a full-on blitz against one man for the simple crime of telling the truth and refusing to play ball with the swamp.

I spent 40 years in coaching before I got into this clown show. I know what it looks like when a player gets piled on. I know what it looks like when referees refuse to call a fair game. And I know what it looks like when the other team tries to run up the score. That is exactly what we saw last week—a coordinated, deep-state hit job on Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

I have absolutely no idea what my colleagues have against R.F.K., Jr. Surely, they don't disagree with his efforts to make America healthy again. But there is one thing I know for sure: R.F.K., after that hearing, is not working for the swamp; he is fighting for the American people—people all over this country.

I have personally seen him come close to tears while talking about his passion for ending the chronic disease epidemic in this country. What is wrong with that? As a proud grandfather to Rosie Grace, I am so grateful to have someone who is so passionate about helping our young people live longer, healthier lives leading Health and Human Services. I am excited. He is working for moms and dads across this country in my State of Alabama who are sick and tired of being lied to by the so-called experts in this country.

When you are playing for the people and are willing to take on the system, you are going to take some hard hits. We have all seen that. Just ask President Trump. He took a bullet for the exact same reason—a bullet.

Although it didn't come in the form of a bullet, R.F.K., Jr., sure got hit real, real hard last week by the deep

state. But instead of folding, R.F.K., Jr., stood his ground. He got back up after every hit and responded with the truth and facts. That is toughness. That is leadership. That is why President Trump picked him for the role.

Democrats came into that hearing ready to throw every flag they could in an attempt to get 20 seconds of fame on their social media. Senator WYDEN opened up with a personal attack, calling for R.F.K.'s resignation. Senator WARNOCK piled on, calling him a hazard to public health. Senator WARREN tried to run a trick play, twisting his words to paint him as dishonest. Senator SANDERS just couldn't stomach the fact that someone finally said out loud what everybody already knows: For years, Big Pharma money has corrupted politicians and our medical institutions. Big Pharma is quietly calling way too many of the plays here in DC.

These weren't questions. They weren't oversight. They were cheap shots.

I was particularly disappointed because several of my Republican colleagues joined in on this fiasco. Something I have learned is that when you challenge the status quo, you find out real quick who is willing to stand with you and who is just concerned with getting reelected.

You might be asking, what has R.F.K., Jr., done to receive all this wrath from my colleagues? It is because he has dared to bring accountability to our health-related government Agencies. He is asking questions that are daring to challenge the status quo.

There is a lot of misinformation being spread by Democrats about R.F.K.'s position on vaccines. I have never seen anything like it. The Department of Health and Human Services is not—and I repeat: not—banning vaccines. R.F.K. is simply directing the Department to look into some of the potentially long-term effects of anything that we are putting into our bodies. As far as I am concerned, that is a great thing. It is long overdue.

He is also restoring sanity by getting rid of woke bureaucrats at the CDC—an Agency that lost the trust of the American people during COVID.

I know a lot of my colleagues have been hyperfocused on the CDC Director being fired. They obviously weren't there, and I wasn't either, but according to R.F.K., Jr., he asked the CDC Director point blank "Are you a trustworthy person?" and she said "No."

You know, I owned a small business one time, and if one of my employees had told me that, I would have immediately fired them the same way he did.

He is calling out the deep state, and that is why they are after him—the same CDC bureaucrats who told us to follow the science during COVID, the ones that shut down our schools. They shut down our churches. They told us that endless vaccines would stop the spread of COVID despite the fact that

the vaccine was not proven to do anything to stop the transmission of the virus. In other words, they lied to us. Meanwhile, liquor stores and abortion clinics were allowed to stay open. And let's not forget the violent BLM riots that broke out in blue cities across the country during the summer of 2020. What a joke.

The so-called health experts failed America, and in doing so, they revealed that the only thing they really care about is power and control. That is a scary place to be. And now they want to lecture R.F.K., Jr., about science. He has dedicated his entire career to this subject. That is like a coach who never stepped on a field trying to tell me how to run a football program. It is laughable, and we have a lot of people who should be laughed at.

Let me tell you, the CDC, from top to bottom, needs to be cleaned out. That Agency was supposed to protect us in 2020 until the end of COVID. Instead, it became a political mouthpiece. It censored doctors and nurses, and it worked with Big Tech to shut down free speech. People lost their lives because of the CDC—lost their lives. And when R.F.K., Jr., fired some of those folks, this town acted like the sky was falling. They needed to be fired because the swamp protects its own. That is why they went crazy.

Thank goodness he hasn't stopped there. Secretary Kennedy has already delivered results. He worked with me in the MAHA Caucus to push the FDA to finally—finally—ban red dye No. 3—a dangerous chemical that was banned from cosmetics. It was banned from cosmetics because they found it causes cancer. But what did we do? We left it in our food. Now, that makes a lot of sense. We left it in our kids' food and in the food that we eat every day, but they couldn't put it in cosmetics. There is no common sense there.

R.F.K., Jr., is fighting for families.

Another major problem is that he is cracking down on the revolving door between NIH, the CDC, and Big Pharma. It is corrupt, and it is wrong.

He is focused not only on preventing diseases, but he is helping people live longer lives. Under his leadership, HHS is focused on increasing access to healthy, affordable, nutrient-dense foods instead of just pumping more drugs into sick people. These are real wins for the American people. Yet what does he get in return? Attacks and smears.

R.F.K., Jr., told the truth last week when he said we are the sickest country in the world. He is exactly right. He goes by facts, not by the so-called science. Despite spending more on healthcare than anybody else, we are leading in obesity, diabetes, cancer, and mental health problems. Don't believe me? Then explain why you can go to Italy and eat nothing but bread and pizza and pasta for a week and not gain a pound. It is because of all the chemicals and toxins we have here in our food in the United States that we get

obese. That is not winning; that is losing. And you don't fix a losing team by running the same plays over and over. You fix it by changing the culture. You fix it by changing accountability. Make people accountable for what they do. You demand results. That is what R.F.K., Jr., is doing.

He is also daring to ask questions, which apparently isn't allowed in the deep state here—commonsense questions like: Why are American kids required to get dozens more vaccines than we did when we were all growing up? We have gone from a few to almost 100. Yet, by every metric, we are sicker as a country, as 6 out of 10 Americans have a chronic disease in this country—6 out of 10, which is most of us. Our food is filled with chemicals and things that other countries won't even allow. That is why we have these diseases. Why are we protecting Big Pharma's bottom line while our families are getting sicker?

These are fair questions and questions we should be asking if we actually care about the people we represent. But in this town, when you ask fair questions, you get labeled "dangerous," "anti-science," and "conspiracy theorist."

R.F.K., Jr., is not your typical politician. He is blunt. He is not very comfortable around people. He doesn't toe the line. And that is exactly what the doctor ordered because if all you do is follow the deep state's demands—what happens up here—you will never get the change in this country we desperately need. Sometimes you have to call out the mistakes, push harder for answers, and not be afraid to shake things up. That is how you build a winning team. That is what R.F.K., Jr., is doing. He is not playing it safe, and he is getting real results.

Since R.F.K. took over at HHS, companies like Hershey, Kraft, Pepsi, Steak 'n Shake, and In-N-Out Burger have made meaningful changes to their ingredients. He is delivering major wins, and the swamp can't stand it because they can't control him. That is what happens up here—they want to have control.

But let's not forget the American people are watching. There are 77 million Americans who voted for President Trump and his agenda. That is the most votes a Republican running for President has ever received. President Trump campaigned on making America healthy again, along with R.F.K., Jr.

Now, if some of my colleagues want to keep running defense for Big Pharma, that is their choice. But I didn't come to Washington to protect the swamp; I came here to fight for the great State of Alabama and the people across this country—for the parents who are trying to raise healthy kids, for families who have felt lied to by their government, and for the hard-working folks who lost their jobs simply because they chose not to take the COVID vaccine.

I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with R.F.K., Jr. He is not per-

fect—none of us are—but he is in the fight for the right reasons. He is fighting for accountability, transparency, and for the health and freedom of the American people, and that is a team I am proud to be on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Arkansas.

CELLPHONE JAMMING REFORM ACT

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, when a criminal is convicted of a crime and locked away in prison, you would think that would put a stop to their illicit activity, but sadly, in too many tragic cases, criminals just continue their wicked ways behind bars. That is because tens of thousands of contraband cell phones are smuggled into and throughout prisons, enabling convicted criminals to carry on with their criminal business as usual from behind bars.

Contraband cell phones in prisons pose a severe threat to public safety. After all, these convicted criminals aren't using cell phones to order take-out, to check the weather, or to watch NFL highlights—no. They use contraband cell phones to order hits on criminal rivals, to traffic drugs, and to run extortion schemes.

Convicted criminals who are sitting in a prison cell shouldn't be able to endanger correctional officers, members of law enforcement, and innocent Americans outside of prisons by using contraband cell phones. If we opt to stand idly by, we might as well hand these criminals the keys to their prison cells.

That is why I have introduced again the Cellphone Jamming Reform Act—to allow State and Federal correctional facilities to use targeted cell phone jamming equipment in prison housing facilities. The key word here is "targeted." The technology is so precise that it does not interrupt with the regular communications of law enforcement or emergency first responders in the vicinity.

However, there is more than one way to skin a cat, and at the end of the day, I simply care about delivering results for every Arkansan. That is why I am proud to support President Trump in his efforts to bring back law and order to neighborhoods and communities across our country. I applaud the Trump administration's efforts to crack down on crime and specifically Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr's announcement that the FCC will vote on a proposal allowing prisons to jam contraband cell phones for the first time. As I am sure many of my Republican colleagues and friends would agree, this action is both a welcome step forward and a long-overdue development.

For years, I have repeatedly urged Democrats to take action, but they didn't—instead, prioritizing and coddling criminals as usual. Consider that in the final hours of the Biden Presidency, Joe Biden commuted the sentences of nearly 1,500 convicted criminals, robbing hundreds of thousands of

victims of the closure and justice they deserved. To be clear, these were not sympathetic figures; these were criminals, such as a drug dealer responsible for killing a relapsing addict; a fraudster who stole millions of dollars intended for hungry Arkansas kids and low-income families; and the so-called "kids-for-cash" judge, who accepted kickbacks in exchange for his role in sending thousands of children to private detention centers.

Sadly, that is not all. Last year, just 2 days before Christmas, Joe Biden announced he was commuting the death sentences of 37 depraved rapists and murderers. While we still don't know how many of these pardons were signed by Joe Biden and how many were signed by his radical aides using his autopen, this is a reminder that, unfortunately, the Democratic Party is the party of soft-on-crime.

As further evidence of this, consider the so-called George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would have handcuffed law enforcement instead of dangerous criminals. Further, consider that every single Soros prosecutor is a Democrat. Finally, consider that the jurisdictions with the worst crimes at the local level are all controlled by Democrats.

Now, you may have heard some Democrats argue that cities with the highest homicide rates are in Republican States, but look a little closer. In almost every case, those cities—like Jackson, MS; Birmingham, AL; and St. Louis, MO, are run by Democrats.

Look at Democrat-led Charlotte, NC. Just last month, an innocent, 23-year-old Ukrainian refugee was heinously murdered by a crazed career criminal while riding a light-rail train. Thanks, in part, to the soft-on-crime policies of the liberal former Governor, Roy Cooper, this deranged murderer had been arrested 14 times, had been convicted of crimes, including robbery with a dangerous weapon, and had assaulted his own sister. Yet he was still allowed to walk free and take the life of Iryna Zarutka.

I want to extend my condolences to her family and loved ones and assure them that we will pursue justice in her tragic case. President Trump and Republicans are working on behalf of innocent individuals like Iryna, who have a right to be safe and secure in their homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

Compare Charlotte to Washington, DC, where more than 1,900 arrests have been made and more than 200 illegal guns have been seized since President Trump deployed the National Guard and Federal law enforcement last month. While the Democratic DC Mayor admitted that President Trump's strategy is working, other Democratic leaders in places like Chicago and Baltimore are resisting assistance and putting up a big stink.

But let me remind everyone that Chicago mayor Brandon Johnson and Baltimore mayor Brandon Scott aren't the

ones riding public transportation alone after a long day at work like Iryna Zarutska. They aren't the ones clutching a bottle of pepper spray in their pocket as they wait for a bus to arrive at a stop on an empty street. They don't have to worry that their briefcase or purse will be ripped away from them as they walk to their car in a parking garage.

I would bet that many of the 81 percent of Americans who see crime as a major problem in large cities worry about some of these very real threats in their day-to-day lives. So I would invite the Democrats to wise up and join us on the right side of this issue: fighting crime and standing up for innocent Americans. I am pleased to stand with President Trump and my Republican colleagues to crack down on crime and ensure that every law-abiding American can live in safety, security, and freedom.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

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

NOMINATION OF MARIA A. LANAHAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Maria Lanahan to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. I will oppose her nomination.

As the principal deputy solicitor general in the Missouri Attorney General's Office, Ms. Lanahan has been at the forefront of litigating cases on politically charged issues, including restricting access to reproductive rights.

For example, she served as counsel of record for Missouri in an effort to restrict access to mifepristone, one of two drugs used for medication abortions, despite the fact that decades of peer-reviewed research has found mifepristone to be safe.

Ms. Lanahan argued in briefs that abortion medication are "dangerous drugs," and she claimed in responses to written questions that she was unaware of more than 60 studies supporting the FDA's approval expanding the use of mifepristone.

It is notable that she argued that Missouri has standing to bring this case because access to abortion medication is "depressing expected birth rates for teenaged mothers in Plaintiff States." She also claimed that Missouri would be injured because a loss of potential population would lead to "diminishment of political representation" and "loss of federal funds."

Ms. Lanahan also served as counsel of record to Missouri in its challenge to the CHNV Parole Program, which grants a pathway for parole in the United States from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In the Missouri Attorney General's Office, she has demonstrated hostility to humanitarian parole, a critical component of our country's commitment to aiding people who are in the midst of a humanitarian crisis.

I urge my colleagues to oppose Ms. Lanahan's nomination.

VOTE ON LANAHAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lanahan 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 505 Ex.)

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—3

Ernst	Van Hollen	Wyden
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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 assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomi-

nation of Executive Calendar No. 269, Robert Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security.

John Thune, John Barrasso, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, Jon A. Husted.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 506 Ex.)

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Van Hollen	Wyden
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WICKER). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Robert Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:27 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 3 minutes prior to the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF ROBERT LAW

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I staunchly oppose Robert Law's nomination to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans at the Department of Homeland Security.

If confirmed, Robert Law will be responsible for developing policies for all of DHS's critical national security missions, including border security and immigration enforcement, cyber security, protecting critical infrastructure, counterterrorism, and disaster management.

This role requires someone who understands the full mission of DHS and can manage strategy across all of these components. Given his record and views, I have serious concerns about how he will carry out these responsibilities.

First, he has shown that he has limited understanding of some of DHS's most critical missions. In comments before my committee, he has maligned DHS cyber security and election security missions, and he downplayed terrorism threats that DHS is charged with countering. He has dismissed the work of key DHS components like FEMA and CISA as "off mission," and I am deeply concerned that he will abandon critical emergency management and cyber security missions that protect our communities every day.

I am also concerned about Robert Law's promotion of discriminatory travel bans and mass deportations. He has a record of working with organizations that were founded by White nationalists, whose extremist policy positions he himself has enforced and advocated for.

Robert Law currently serves as Senior Counselor to Secretary Noem and is supporting DHS's ongoing efforts to indiscriminately ramp up deportation of law-abiding individuals and families while losing focus on counterterrorism, cyber security, and disaster preparedness.

During the first Trump administration, Robert Law worked at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, where he helped implement the travel ban targeting many Muslim nations, creating, essentially, a religious test for entering the United States. Robert Law also supports ending the Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA, and has referred to Dreamers as "human shields."

To make matters worse, he denied to my committee that the Trump administration has a family separation policy when, in fact, we know that there are children who still have not been reunited with their parents.

If Robert Law is confirmed, I am concerned that he will neglect vital missions of the Department and make Americans less safe. Because of this, I strongly oppose Robert Law's nomination, and I would urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

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

VOTE ON LAW NOMINATION

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

Mr. PETERS. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 507 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Fetterman	Klobuchar
Baldwin	Gallego	Lujan
Bennet	Gillibrand	Markey
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Blunt Rochester	Heinrich	Murkowski
Booker	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Cantwell	Hirono	Murray
Coons	Kaine	Ossoff
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Padilla
Duckworth	Kim	Peters
Durbin	King	Reed

Rosen	Shaheen	Warren
Sanders	Slotkin	Welch
Schatz	Smith	Whitehouse
Schiff	Warner	
Schumer	Warnock	

NOT VOTING—5

Boozman	Justice	Wyden
Johnson	Van Hollen	

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 actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 293, Kyle Christopher Duke, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Bernie Moreno, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kyle Christopher Duke, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 508 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

Thune	Tuberville	Wicker
Tillis	Welch	Young

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—3

Johnson	Van Hollen	Wyden
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to tell you a story about Tina Pierce. Tina grew up on a farm in Idaho. She was the first in her family to earn a college degree.

After earning her degree in accounting, she served in the U.S. Marines. She was deployed in Kuwait as the comptroller for the contingency Operation Desert Thunder.

She earned her MBA from Colorado State University. She graduated at the top of her class. She then became a CPA, a certified public accountant. She has been married 26 years. She has four children. Her husband also served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a colonel.

Why do I bring her up? Well, here is why. President Trump nominated Tina Pierce to be the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Energy. She went through the process with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where she was voted out in May of this year 13 to 7—pretty strong bipartisan vote.

She passed out of the committee and then has sat waiting. What is interesting for this is the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Energy has actually never had a vote in the Senate on the floor of the Senate. It has always been a position that, in the past, went through committee, was approved in committee, and then passed on the Senate floor either by unanimous consent, a voice vote, or what is called en bloc, grouped together with other nominees and passed all in a group.

This is not the Secretary of Defense; this is not the Secretary of Energy or

the Secretary of State. This is the CFO for the Department of Energy. It is one of those 1,200 positions that the Senate must confirm but, historically, has always been confirmed in a very fast-track process after they passed out of committee. Especially when they pass out 13 to 7 out of a committee, everyone knows they are going to pass.

You see, that is the way it used to be—but not anymore. My Democratic colleagues have determined that Tina Pierce should be filibustered. So this marine, married to a marine, mom, highly qualified, graduated top of her class has to sit at home and wait as Democrats block every single nominee on the floor. So she waits since May of this year to see if the Senate can open up enough time to have a vote.

Well, that is not the only one. Jonathan Morrison was President Trump's nominee to be the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Jonathan was the first in his family to go to college. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001, went on to law school at Notre Dame. He also got a master of laws degree in international business law from University College London.

Over his career, he has worked with automobiles. He has also served as Chief Counsel at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He is supremely qualified to be able to lead this part of the administration.

He came out of the committee in a vote of 16 to 12, but he also just sits and waits because there is not enough time.

In every administration, there are lots of nominees. There is 1,200 nominees. And everyone knows there are so many nominees, so you pick and choose which nominees you actually want to be able to debate. That is normal in every single administration.

They all have to go through the committee process, but when it comes to the floor, you don't dedicate all the floor time to different, what are called, sub-Cabinet officials. Those get fought out in committee, and then they come to the Senate floor and either pass en bloc or they pass by voice vote or unanimous consent. Or if they are highly controversial individuals, maybe we will have a floor vote on them.

It has been 200 days of this administration. Let me give you some examples of this. What is called a cloture vote, a demand to be able to go through this full, long process—under Bill Clinton, there was zero of those—zero. Were there controversial nominees? Sure, there were. But they worked through the process on that.

Under G.W. Bush, zero cloture votes that were required in the Senate. There were nine under President Obama, but then under the first President Trump administration—38, all of a sudden.

You know what we did as Republicans? We pushed back. And there were 71 under President Biden. It was kind of a tit for tat. Now our Demo-

cratic colleagues have determined this is not going to be tit for tat anymore. We are just going to shut the whole place down.

Now under President Trump, 134.

What does this really mean? This really means that we are not moving anyone across the floor unless they actually have 3 hours of floor time. That is a vote on a motion to proceed. That is 2 hours of debate time here on the floor for that person and then another vote after that. It takes a total of 3 hours to be able to do that whole process—3 hours for every single person, when you have got 1,200 people.

You would think during that time—that is, the 2 hours of debate time—we would have massive amounts of debate because if these are highly controversial nominees, of course, there is going to be debate on this floor to be able to discuss all these highly controversial people.

Well, let's talk about that. For these sub-Cabinet officials that are there—there has been 109 of them—all of them have been filibustered through the process to say they demanded. The average Democratic debate time for these 109 people has been 2 minutes—actually, technically, 2 minutes 12 seconds.

So 2 hours of time that they have demanded to debate these highly controversial people, and they have allocated 2 minutes 12 seconds, on average.

Well, interestingly enough, 81 of those 109 Democrats actually did zero debate on the floor. This was just about shutting the Senate floor down. That is all it was. This was about attacking President Trump, not acknowledging the fact that he won the election and that he should be able to actually go through the process to be able to have his staff like every other President has had.

Interestingly enough, I have had folks that have said to me: How do you actually fix this? How does this get better? Well, the first way this gets better is, typically, in the past, Republicans and Democrats would sit down together and would say: This is intolerable; we can't actually get to other bills.

You see, right now, to be able to do the 3 hours that it takes to be able to move it just with the nominees that we have in the backlog right now—not counting the 700 more nominees that are still coming in the days ahead—it would take 900 hours the rest of this year to actually move those through across the floor—900 hours.

Well, if you look at the rest of the year, the Senate would have to be actively voting and in process 80 hours a week every single week, only on nominations. That would mean we would not do the National Defense Authorization; we would not do the 12 appropriations bills; we would not do a farm bill, we would not do an FAA reauthorization; we would not do a new tax policy.

We wouldn't do anything else except nominees 80 hours a week. If we did that, we could get caught up on the

backlog. But oh, wait. We have to keep doing that the next year and the next just to be able to maintain this.

So when I say this is intolerable and it has never been done in the past, that is what it means. The Senate has to do legislation as well as nominations. This is a situation that my Democratic colleagues have broken the Senate structure. We have got to figure out a way to be able to fix this that works for Republican or Democrat Presidents in the future. Regardless of party, the President has got to be able to move their nominees. And this should not be an issue that once they have gone through committee and been resolved, that they literally can't get to the floor, or that people wait for months and months and months to be able to get a vote on the floor because there is so little time and we are so backed up.

So here is a simple idea: Just like has been done in the past, move folks in groups just like it happened in the past. You go to the first Trump administration, there were the 22 separate votes that were taken en bloc, groups of folks that have all been passed out of committee.

Under the Biden administration, that happened 17 times where Republicans allowed Democrats to be able to lump these individuals together to be able to pass them together.

Under this administration, so far, zero. None.

Under the first Trump administration, 559 of the 1,200-plus people all went through that process. Under Biden administration, 277. This is Republicans and Democrats alike. Now it is zero because my Democratic colleagues, I assume, have just determined they are going to be the resistance. But what they are setting up is a process where in the future, as soon as there is a Democrat President, this is going to be the same thing because Republicans are just going to go tit for tat on that.

That is not right for the country; it is not right for then; it is not right for now.

Very simply, we have got to get back to legislating, which means we have got to allow the President to be able to have his nominees go through the process. We have a constitutional responsibility to advise and consent. Let's do that in the committee process. Let's bring those to the floor in a debate. Let's actually pass or not pass those individuals, whatever this body may determine. But let's, at least, get an up or down vote on every single one of these individuals to be able to get this part of our responsibility checked off.

Because this week, we are also trying to work on the National Defense Authorization. That is an essential piece of legislation we have got to get done. By the 30 of this month, we are supposed to have 12 appropriations bills done. We can't get on appropriations bills, can't work on the National Defense Authorization, the time that it needs, while we are backed up with

hundreds of nominees and my Democratic colleagues are blocking, literally, a mom and a marine who is a highly qualified CPA to say they can't be the CFO. Please.

This is all about trying to attack Trump, but what they are doing is actually stopping the country from getting its business done. So let's get this fixed. That is my request.

My colleagues are coming to the floor in the next hour. We are all going to make our case. This is so important that we actually get resolved—not some time—right now, get this resolved.

I yield the floor to my colleagues who will continue to be able to make the case. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague from Oklahoma. He did a tremendous job on what he just laid out, and he has also been working tirelessly on this for the last few months, in particular the month of August, along with myself, Senator ERIC SCHMITT, Senator TED BUDD, Senator RON JOHNSON, all trying to coalesce on how to make this place work again.

This is about preserving the institution, not about partisan advantage. Unfortunately, this is where we are today.

I think it is important that we rise to continue to talk about this, about Senate Republicans working to restore order to this Chamber. The Senate has a constitutional obligation to provide the President advice and consent on his nominations for key professions. This role is a cornerstone of the checks and balances system created by our Forefathers, and it is a process we must ensure continues to function, no matter who is currently serving in the White House.

I understand being in the minority, and it is certainly frustrating when your party doesn't win the general election. But as we have heard our colleagues say a number of times, elections have consequences. And while we have seen power change back and forth from Republican and Democratic administrations, the Senate was specially designed to uphold our constitutional obligation of advice and consent.

We serve 6-year terms with one-third of the Senate being up for reelection every Congress because we want to make sure that we are not shortsighted or partisan acting, but unfortunately this year, we have seen that unravel due to historic obstruction by Senate Democrats, a theme that goes back nearly 25 years.

Over the August recess, as we have worked on this, I spent a great deal of time studying the history of Senate confirmations to better understand inflection points and how we actually got here.

This is a common theme. The Senate slows confirmations when there is a Republican in the White House. It started in 2003 when President Bush

nominated Miguel Estrada, a brilliant attorney, to serve there, and he received bipartisan praise from the likes of future Biden White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain. Democrats, concerned that Estrada might be soon nominated to the Supreme Court, used the filibuster to block him—the first time in history an appellate court nominee was blocked.

What started with Estrada continued to shape Bush's term. While President Clinton had 98 percent of his nominees confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent, President Bush had 90 percent in his first term—a small but noticeable dropoff.

Much to the disappointment of conservatives around the country, President Obama was sworn into office in 2009. In his first term, how many nominees do you think Obama had confirmed without a rollcall vote? Ninety percent—the exact same as his Republican predecessor, President Bush.

Next, President Trump. He took office in 2017. Senate Democrats dusted off their same playbook that they wrote during President Bush's term, and while Obama had 90 percent of his nominees approved without a rollcall vote, President Trump actually received just 65 percent. This slowed the Senate down and, more importantly, kept well-qualified leaders out of key roles for our country.

President Biden took office in 2021. He nominated a number of people controversial not just to Republicans but actually to many Democrats too. In fact, one in particular was his Secretary of Labor. His nominee to be Secretary of Labor couldn't get confirmed by his own party and actually was in an acting role for over 680 days—nearly 2 years without a confirmed Cabinet Secretary. Despite all of this, 57 percent of President Biden's nominees were confirmed without a rollcall vote.

Now, this takes us to President Trump's second term, where he won, obviously, an overwhelming majority of Americans with the popular vote and the electoral college, but, as you know, he has received zero percent of his nominees without a rollcall vote—not one.

Look at this chart. This lays it out for you. You have H. W. Bush, 98 percent; Obama, 90 percent; you have Clinton here, 98; you have Trump 1, 65; you have Bush again, 90. I mean, look at this: 98, 98, 90, 90, 65, 57, 0. Does this seem like people are trying to make this place work or does this seem like they are trying to bring it to a screeching halt?

For me, I came here to actually do something. So we have 120 pieces of bipartisan legislation on really incredible things that have been marked up in committee and are ready to see time on this floor. They are things like social media to protect kids online, to finally stand up to Big Tech and say: The safety and security and mental well-being of our children comes first, not the profits in your pocket.

We have bills on affordable housing, knowing that now, when you look at the American dream, almost everyone's piece of that comes through owning their own home. While previously you would buy your first home between 26 and 28 years old, now that number has moved to 38 or beyond. Making sure that we make that more tangible for Americans, that we figure out how to actually address those prices, is critical, and we have a bill waiting to see the floor.

Yet Senate Democrats continue to try to prolong this, to try to put every roadblock in place just to keep President Trump from getting his people in place.

At the end of the day, last November, the American people were actually faced with two options, and this, to me, was the most well-informed election we have ever had in American history because they were two very known entities. You knew what you were getting. You had seen Kamala Harris serve as Vice President, you had already seen President Trump serve in one term, and so you knew what you were getting. And the American people overwhelmingly said: We want President Trump back in office.

Kamala Harris said she wouldn't do anything differently—I think you all remember that on “The View”—anything differently than Joe Biden. So they said: This is what we want. But yet we are not allowing him to get his people in place to actually do the things that he needs to do for the country.

I understand voting against nominees that you disagree with. I even understand requiring a cloture vote on some. What I can't understand is the blocking, is the delay tactics on every single nomination. These are bipartisan nominees—many of them. The ones we will be talking about here came out of committee with a bipartisan vote.

Now, during President Biden's term, there were certainly a lot of nominees that I did not agree with, but a President deserves some deference. Give him an up-or-down vote and move on. Senate Democrats have given no such deference to President Trump and, just like the 2024 election, in my opinion, have failed to present the case to the American people. This is not obstructing nominees; this is a protest of an election that didn't go their way.

We have spent an unreasonable amount of time just trying to confirm largely uncontroversial nominees when we could be using it to see those bills that have been marked up in a bipartisan fashion on this floor. We could be using it to work through appropriations bills, which, in my opinion, are so critical to the job that we do. We could be using it to continue to move the NDAA and make sure that our forces are the best trained, ready, and equipped across the planet. Instead, we are nearly 9 months into this administration, and President Trump has less than 12 percent of his positions confirmed.

The Senate has worked hard these last 9 months. We have actually held a record number of rollcall votes. We have been in session a record number of days. Unfortunately, we have another record, and that is that we have zero voice votes here for President Trump at this point in time.

But it doesn't stand to reason that a historical effort is being put on us for continuing this lowest number of nominees confirmed through the Senate. President Trump is on pace to have confirmed just 426 nominees by the end of this Congress—426. Look at this. You have President Biden at the end of his first Congress, the end of the first 2 years—919 nominees confirmed.

Now we hear our colleagues on the other side of the aisle consistently say that we did everything possible to create an impediment for President Obama. That is clearly not true when it came to letting his people have an up-or-down vote or giving them an opportunity to get in his Cabinet.

You look at President Trump, you see what they did here—715 nominees by the end of Congress. Then you go to President Biden—817 at the end of the first Congress. At the current rate we are at now—and you heard my distinguished colleague from Oklahoma say that if we kept doing this, it would be 900 more hours that we would spend just in the near future—we will have only 426 nominees confirmed into his administration by the end of this Congress at the rate we are going.

Now, do you know how many people serve in a Cabinet? serve in an administration? Over 1,200. Over 1,200. So what you are saying essentially, then, is that at the end of his first 2 years, you are going to give him a third of the people, at best, that he needs to complete the mission that the American people very clearly said on November 5 they wanted to see enacted.

It is not right. President Trump deserves the men and women he has nominated to be in place today, and that is exactly why our conference has been working diligently to find a solution.

The Democrats' behavior in requiring a cloture vote on almost every single nominee is, in fact, a change in rules. Their behavior has set a new precedent. It is one that will last with this body on and on and on and on.

We want this Senate to work again. We want it to function once again. We want to be able to bring this important legislation that we worked on in committee in a bipartisan fashion to the floor and get things done for the American people once again. And we are not going to allow the obstruction by the Senate Democrats to continue.

It is important to understand that a significant number of these nominees that we will be talking about this week and next came out of committee on a bipartisan basis. Some are individuals whom many of us have known and have worked with for years. They deserve an opportunity to serve, and I think many of my Democratic colleagues would actually agree.

Now, before we discuss the rules changes our conference has coalesced around, we have obviously made sure that we have been thoughtful about a number of different avenues.

People have brought recess appointments up, amongst a number of different things. When recess appointments are made, they only fill a position for this Congress, so you are not fixing it for the entirety of President Trump's tenure. Also, many times, these recess appointments are generally unpaid positions. For these outstanding nominees, it would be unfair to ask to make many of them move across the country with their families for an unpaid job that expires at the end of a Congress, not even at the end of President Trump's term. Therefore, we landed on another solution—the KLOBUCHAR-KING proposal.

Now, look, this solution would allow us to vote en bloc, to confirm multiple nominees at one time—so not so dissimilar to how the Senate used to work for every other President—passing dozens of nominees at once through unanimous consent. We haven't had any of those packages here.

Look, there is no perfect solution, but one thing we do know is that we have to get this place back functioning again.

So I want to point out that when the KLOBUCHAR-KING proposal was introduced, the Senate was regularly confirming batches of nominees by voice vote—clearly something that is not happening now.

This was when the Senate was keeping the same pace confirming President Biden's nominees with Senate Democrats' pace confirming President Trump's in his first term.

The blame for the delay of President Trump's nominees lies solely with Senate Democrats. When President Trump first took office, he became the first President to not have at least 90 percent of his nominees confirmed without a rollcall vote.

I mean, this chart speaks for itself.

Now that they have exhausted every tool, they keep chipping away until nothing is left—not a single nominee more to obstruct. This is truly ridiculous, and it is actually no way to run a country. This is not what our Founding Fathers intended when they gave the Senate the power of advice and consent, and it is not what our voters sent us to Washington, DC, to do.

So, alongside Senate Republicans, I remain committed to finding a pathway forward to get the Senate back to working, to put institutional reform ahead of partisan politics, and to make sure this body is actually working for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to compliment my colleague from Alabama Senator BRITT. I can't begin to tell you how hard she has worked through the August time period.

There is this sense of we are just trying to be able to ram this solution through the Senate. She spent hours on the phone talking to different Democratic Senators—as I did, as multiple other members of our group did—to try to be able to find a pathway to be able to resolve this because that has always been the way it has been resolved. Eventually, it just gets to a point that you talk to each other enough, you figure out a way to be able to work it out; you work it out; and you figure out how to be able to do that. We reached an impasse the first days of August.

Typically, before we actually have a gap to be able to be back home in August, we will pass dozens on what is called an en bloc vote.

That didn't happen this time. We couldn't find that pathway to be able to actually get there. So in frustration, Senator BRITT, myself, Senator BUDD, Senator CORNYN, Senator SCHMITT, Senator JOHNSON all spent lots of time over August trying to be able to figure out how do we weave out of this, and the idea became: There is a Democratic proposal that is out there that was brought to the Rules Committee in 2023. It was never voted on in the Rules Committee when Democrats actually ran and chaired the Rules Committee. But it was brought to the Rules Committee to say: Let's see if we can figure out how to be able to do this in a better way, and that was to be able to put in the rules to do en bloc voting, to be able to say: If they have come out of committee, they passed out of committee, we know they are going to get passed on the floor. Instead of holding up sub-Cabinet individuals—we are not talking about the Cabinet level—these sub-Cabinet individuals, put them all together in a group and be able to pass them.

We agreed the least partisan way to be able to do this, that is fair to both Republicans and Democrats, is to be able to literally take a Democrat proposal in 2023 and say: Let's finish that out. Let's actually bring that and to be able to bring it for a vote.

The response we got back, overwhelmingly, from our Democratic colleagues was: Yes, we still believe that is a good idea. Let's start it when the next President comes in place.

So in other words, we want to block every single one of President Trump's nominees, but we want to make sure this doesn't happen to us.

It will. So we have got to be able to fix this now.

Interestingly enough, many of my Democratic colleagues that I have spoken to over the past several weeks about this, when I brought up this proposal to say: This is a way to fix it that we think is the best solution for the Senate long-term, they have quietly over the phone said: Yes, we need to get this fixed. We just don't want to be the people to actually fix it. You fix it for the Senate.

We think it is better long term to be able to find a rule that works in a non-

partisan way that resolves it for everybody. We understand full well there will be a Democrat President and Democrat Senate in the future; that they will do en bloc voting like this. Fine. That is the way we did for a century. We didn't have to have a rule to be able to do that. We just came to agreement and did it.

So let's get back to actually operating because we do have serious issues to argue over. We have got lots of arguments about budget. We have \$37 trillion in debt. We need to spend more time arguing about that and less time arguing about who the CFO for the Energy Department is going to be when they have already passed out of committee in a large bipartisan vote. So let's have the argument over the hard issues, and let's move the nominees that we know are going to get moved across the floor in a way that makes sense to everybody, regardless of party.

I have multiple other colleagues that are coming to the floor here in just a moment. We want to be able to make the argument to the American people.

I have to tell you, I have lots of phone calls that have come to my office that say: Why can't the President actually move his nominees? Why is this? This seems to be different.

And people may not know all the numbers and the details, but they feel it and go: Why does it feel like he is being treated differently? Well, it is because President Trump is being treated differently by not having a single voice vote, not a single unanimous consent, and not a single time to be grouped together into groups that we know are going to pass. That has not ever happened in this Senate.

And I have had multiple colleagues say: And we are going to keep blocking every single one.

Do you know what? Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. We are trying to figure out how to be able to get back to our functioning again and to be able to actually operate.

So I have multiple colleagues that will come to this floor, and we will keep making the argument to say: Let's get the nomination process fixed because we have got to get back to legislating more.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I regret to say that my Democratic colleagues have become addicted to hating President Trump, and it is no longer about policy or even strong disagreement. It seems to be an obsession—obsessed with finding every way possible to undermine the President and his agenda, no matter the cost.

And what they have done to the nomination process in the Senate might be the height of partisanship since President Trump returned to office. Democrats have blocked 100 percent—that is, 100 percent—of President Trump's nominees from being confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Now, by the way, why do I say—my chart here. Look at this. It has been the tradition for noncontroversial nominees to be confirmed by the Senate.

And in the first Trump, it fell from 90 percent under President Obama—games Democrats play—to 65 percent under Trump 1. Well, it turns out it was 57 percent under Biden. Now, under Trump 2, we have zero percent of the nominees approved by unanimous consent.

Let's put that in perspective. We are speaking about noncontroversial nominees, and it has been something that has been consistent for Presidents of both parties for decades, as we can see from this chart. And yet here we are, 8 months into President Trump's second term, and not a single nominee confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—zero, zip, nada.

By the way, these nominees made it through committee with bipartisan support on the record. Democrats, Republicans both voted for them in committee, and yet we can't get them off the floor without tying up precious floor time.

Now, that may sound like process. It might sound like: Oh, my gosh. We are talking about time. This is how the Senate works, in terms of getting the nomination through quickly, allowing the legislative issues addressing our country to then be faced.

It is a full-blown example of Democrats not caring if the business of government gets done. They would rather obstruct President Trump than to allow the American people to be served.

Now, Americans are sick of it. They want Congress to work, and Republicans are showing up to work. We are ready to confirm the people required to work in government to keep the country running, but Democrats are holding nominees for ransom it seems for no other reason than their desire to obstruct President Trump.

So why does Congress have such a low approval rating? Why do people think this place doesn't work? It is because of stunts like this, blowing up the standard operating procedure, which allows us to get on the work of the people, all to score cheap political points.

Now, the American people chose President Trump. They gave Republicans control of the House and the Senate. They told us the agenda they wanted pursued.

So when Democrats dig in their heels, kick and scream, they are proving that they did not hear the message the American people sent last November.

If no one is standing with you but your own party insiders and maybe the occasional liberal cable news host, then your resistance isn't brave. It is meaningless. It is an obstruction. It is only there to defeat the will of the American people. It is noise.

The American people deserve better. Republicans are ready to deliver.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the unprecedented obstruction by my Democrat colleagues, which brings us here today, in the activity we are going to see on the floor this week and next.

Article 1, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution requires that every officer in the United States receive the advice and consent of the Senate. This is a very important function. At times, it can seem tedious, I suppose, on the floor when we are voting on some of these, but this is contemplated by our Founding Fathers to be a really important part of the process of getting good, qualified people in important positions in the executive branch.

With that power comes responsibility, a duty. And the Democrats have completely abandoned that duty to provide the advice and consent; instead, moving forward with complete obstruction.

"Unprecedented," now that term gets thrown around a lot in this town. Every day somebody says something is unprecedented. It is not actually unprecedented. This really is unprecedented.

In the almost 250 years of our country, and, of course, a little bit sooner than that when we had the first Congress—a little bit later than that when we had our first Congress, we have never seen anything like this, like not even close. The minority leader would rather burn all the norms down than do it like we have done it before. Even though that process has sort of eroded to some degree in recent years, it was never anything like this.

For those of you watching at home or in the Gallery here today, and we are glad to have you, the Senate kind of operates in three calendars—let's put it in those terms—three operational modes.

One is the legislative calendar when we have bills that come up—the NDAA, the continuing resolution, appropriations bills, that kind of stuff.

Let's be clear. What the minority leader has already said he would do and what Democrats in this Chamber have already voted for is to completely eliminate the legislative filibuster. If they were in charge, if they were in the position the Republicans are in right now, they would blow it up; it is gone. DC is added as a State, maybe Puerto Rico, court packing—they voted on this stuff. I am not making this up. They campaign on this stuff. That is what the minority leader would like to have happen to the legislative calendar.

Let's talk about the impeachment calendar. Well, last year, we saw Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas impeached by the House of Representatives. The Articles of Impeachment are transferred over here. We are all sitting at our desks. For the first time in the history of this country, there wasn't a trial.

Now, trials look a little bit different. Sometimes they are in committee, and sometimes they are in front of the full Senate. But there is not a single instance in the history of this country where the person who was impeached who either was still alive or in that office hasn't had a trial. So they blew that up.

Now we are dealing with the Executive Calendar, which is essentially where all the personnel decisions are made. We approve Ambassadors, Cabinet Secretaries, judges, U.S. attorneys, marshals, all that stuff. There has been not a single instance, not one time has there been a unanimous consent granted in this Chamber—not once. That has never happened before.

We will talk about some of those details here as we move a little bit further along in this debate, but just to add a little meat onto the bones, in defiance of the vision of the Founders, the Democrat obstruction leaves President Trump on pace to have just 426 nominees confirmed by the end of the 119th Congress. That is if we are working at a pace which is unprecedented. I don't mind it. We can be here. I am not afraid of hard work. But if we are here as much as we have been here just to get to that number, which is lowest in history—less than half of what Joe Biden had at this point in time, 817; or even President Trump's first term, 715. So at the end of the first Congress, those are the numbers. So it is not even close. It is less than half of the total number.

By the end of his term, we are projecting that a mere 872 confirmations—so the full 4 years—would actually get through. That would be the first time in the history of the country that that number would fall below 1,000, compared to Joe Biden's 1,175 and President Trump's first term, which is about that same number, about 1,200, and President Obama's staggering number of almost 1,500. So it is not just slow; it is sabotage, echoing the darkest days of the most partisan feuds we had threatening our young Republic 200 years ago.

Democrats have required cloture 360 percent more in President Trump's first term—in this term's 200 days than in his first. So 137 nominees have been subjected to it—nearly double Biden's 71 and far beyond Obama's paltry 9.

In the past, over 50 percent of every President's nominees were confirmed via voice vote or unanimous consent—until this year, where President Trump has received 0.0—Blutarsky. That is unprecedented.

Under Obama, in his first 200 days, 292 nominees passed by voice vote alone. President Trump has just 135 confirmed, all via overcoming—except Marco Rubio—overcoming filibusters. Every single one, save the first, has been filibustered.

To put that in perspective, Clarence Thomas—perhaps the most controversial Supreme Court judge as far as that vote went—got 52 votes. It wasn't even

filibustered. All of these are being filibustered, including the general counsel to the Department of Transportation.

The average time from nomination to confirmation is a glacial pace of 94 days—nearly double President Trump's first term of 54, worse than Biden's 70, and a far cry from Reagan's efficient 25 days. We have shattered records with the most Senate session days in roll-call votes in modern history—126 days in the first 200; more than Biden's 121—yet the backlog swells: 139 nominees on the Executive Calendar, 153 in committee, 786 not yet received.

This obstruction is antithetical to our constitutional design. You can have problems with nominees. You can vote no. You can even filibuster some of them. But to filibuster all of them and not have a voice vote on any of them is a symptom of something else—Trump derangement syndrome. They can't get over the fact that President Trump actually won. They thought that by coming on this floor, as the minority leader did so often, and calling half the country MAGA extremists, trying to bankrupt him and his family and throw him in jail for the rest of his life—they thought that thing was over. But the American people sat in their own jury box, they watched all of this nonsense unfold for the last 4 years, and they rendered their own verdict, and it was for reform; it was for the very kinds of people President Trump is putting up for these positions.

So to subvert that democratic process, the sand has been thrown into the gears of our Republic in a way that we have never seen before. That is what we are here to fix. The Democrats have turned the cooling saucer of the Senate into a deep freezer.

But here is the good news: A great thaw is coming. The Republicans in this place are going to return the Senate back to what it was always meant to be able to do, which is to actually function and vote on confirmations. It is not that tall of an ask. But, again, blinded by TDS—and quite frankly, if you talk to some of my Democratic colleagues, like I have privately, they understand that this is a real problem. They know that this is wrong. But they can't be seen by their increasingly radical base doing anything that would be perceived as helping President Trump.

So here we are. The conditions have been set, the landscape has been made, and it is time for action. I would argue that this isn't actually even a new phenomenon; this has been a slow-moving disaster 25 years in the making.

After the 2000 elections, Democrats met at a private retreat to strategize how to maximally obstruct the Republicans—25 years ago. A couple of leftist Harvard professors concocted an idea: Filibuster the Executive Calendar.

The minority leader wasn't done there. Just yesterday, he blew up our entire system on voice voting in the Senate. When push came to shove, he would rather blow up all the norms of this place to hold on to the power that

is slipping away from him. He is going to have another test when it comes to a continuing resolution, but we are dealing with this right now.

The decisions of the minority leader over the course of the last 25 years has led us to this place. So if anybody uses the term “gone nuclear,” just understand we are having to deal with the nuclear option that has already been executed on the Senate Chamber, which is to say we are filibustering everything, and there is no unanimous consent on anything. That is the nuclear option, and we have to react to it.

One final note here. What we are really trying to do is restore the balance and using a profile that was submitted by a couple of our Democrat colleagues in the last year or two. In their words—and this is, by the way, voting en bloc—their words, not my words:

The slowdown of the confirmation process that we’ve seen in the Senate on the last several administrations is preventing key officials from taking up their positions.

The en bloc proposal being referred to is—“This commonsense reform will help improve efficiency and make sure we’re able to fill positions that are vital to our national security, economic success, and more.”

When the Democrats proposed that solution very recently, 62 percent of Biden’s nominees had already been confirmed by voice vote. Think about that. Two-thirds of his people were in place, and they were calling for the reform. Guess how many have been confirmed by voice vote now. Zero. Zero percent.

So we are going to take them up on their offer of reform. I appreciate the majority leader moving this forward to restore, again, the very important balance that our Founders knew was necessary for this Republic to survive. America demands no less.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 379

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to begin by thanking our colleagues—particularly from Oklahoma and Alabama—for leading the working group that was appointed by the majority leader to try to solve this problem. In their typical deliberative, careful, and thoughtful fashion, they could have come up with a lot of ideas that would, I think, perhaps overreach, but rather than do that, they have come up with a solution that Democrats themselves have proposed, which strikes me as the epitome of fairness.

But there are three main points I want to make before I sort of summarize where I think we are.

First of all, as my colleagues have eloquently noted, we have exhausted virtually every other alternative to this vote to overrule the Parliamentarian and establish a new precedent, which is an alternative to a formal rule change which takes 67 votes. But we know our colleagues will never vote for that, leaving us no alternative but to invoke what is sometimes called the nuclear option.

But as our colleague from Missouri just pointed out, this is really not so much a nuclear option as a restoration option. This is restoring the Senate to the way it used to work—not just before President Trump was reelected but for the last couple of hundred years, where we had an orderly process to consider a President’s nominees, a committee process to vet them, and then a debate and a vote on the Senate floor, so that the mandate of the voters in the Presidential election could be carried out by the President.

So we have tried virtually everything else, but I am going to give them one last chance here in a minute, but then as I have been thinking about it: What have we been doing as we have spent hour upon hour, day upon day, week upon week trying to move through all of these various Senate-confirmed nominees, with no help—not just no help but with active obstruction—from our Democratic colleagues?

I think about all of the other things that we could be working on—even together—bipartisan solutions to our Nation’s biggest problems and challenges. Economists call that opportunity cost. In other words, when you are mired down in this mindless obstruction and blocking any nominee just because they happen to be nominated by President Trump, you are missing the opportunity to do other important things. I know all of my colleagues—all 100 of us—came here to, hopefully, do important things, and that has been the source of great consternation and disappointment, I know, to many of us.

But then I think about the people who have been nominated by President Trump. I have had them tell me this is an honor of a lifetime—people who have enjoyed tremendous success in business or in their professional lives to then give all that up in order to serve their country. These are patriots, and it is profoundly unfair to them, to their families, and to the American people to continue to block these nominees and leave them, basically, hanging in the wind. I have talked to many of them myself, these nominees, with their asking: Senator, when can I expect a vote on the Senate floor?

I say: Well, I don’t know.

Many of them have said: Well, I have had to quit my job or sell my business. I have had to go through a rigorous vetting process for ethics and legal conflicts of interest and I am waiting and my family is waiting, not knowing whether we will be going to, maybe, an Embassy somewhere around the world or serving in some other important position here in Washington, DC, in the Trump administration. So this is profoundly unfair to them.

And we wonder whether we are having a hard time getting good people to want to serve in government. Well, thankfully, there are still people who are willing to do it, despite the way they get treated when they are nominated. Thank goodness there are still good people who want to serve. Our Nation depends on it.

But just to summarize, more than 140 of President Trump’s nominees are waiting to be voted on as we speak. I don’t know how you argue the converse of what I feel to be the case, which is the President won the election on November 5, and he is entitled to his team. He is at least entitled to an up-or-down vote on the nominations, and the American people are the ones who actually gave him that mandate. This is a kick in the teeth, a punch in the gut to those voters who voted for President Trump in this last election, expecting that he would bring change to Washington, DC, but he can’t accomplish that mandate without his team.

As we have heard, Senate Democrats are now engaged in an unprecedented level of obstruction, preventing these nominees from being confirmed and burning up all the floor time when we are in session on waiting around to vote on these nominees, most of whom in the past would have been confirmed by a voice vote or some sort of an expedited process—by consent even—but not with Donald J. Trump as President. Democrats have taken a completely different approach in obstructing each and every one of his nominees.

Most of these individuals are uncontroversial. I remember the other day, we were voting on the general counsel for advocacy for the Small Business Administration, and I asked myself: What is that? And, yes, maybe—just maybe—we should limit the number of Senate-confirmed positions. I think that might be a good exercise to go through and see: Are there people who currently require Senate confirmation for whom it really isn’t necessary because they only serve for a short period of time under the leadership of, maybe, a member of the President’s Cabinet who is Senate-confirmed?

Under George Herbert Walker Bush and President Clinton, 98 percent of those nominees were confirmed by unanimous consent. Under George W. Bush and President Obama, 90 percent were confirmed by unanimous consent, which is no debate, no argument—just a unanimous consent request, without objection, so ordered.

During President Trump’s first term in office, only 65 percent were. So you can see the slide from 98 to 90 to 65. What we have also learned is what goes around comes around. With President Biden, his number was 57 percent, but that is a far cry from what we have seen in President Trump’s second term, with zero—zero—of these non-controversial nominees, patriots. They want nothing but to serve their country, but they are being denied that opportunity out of blind, partisan obstruction—mindless obstruction. The only way it can be explained, the Senator from Missouri mentioned, is with Trump derangement syndrome, and this is it in all of its ugly manifestations. There is no other explanation.

Now, changing the Senate rules is not something we do lightly because

we know what goes around comes around, but the truth is, Republicans are more than willing to live with the change in the rules when Democrats are in the majority, when there is a Democrat President, which someday there may well be. So we are acting on behalf of all Senators, of all Presidents, of all nominees, and the entire American people when we say something has to change, and we are going to change it this week. I know all of us would prefer to deal with this in some way other than overruling the Parliamentary and invoking the so-called nuclear option, but we have exhausted all of the other possibilities, with one exception, perhaps.

In a moment, I am going to propose a unanimous consent request on a resolution that would allow the majority leader to call up at least 10 nominees advanced out of the same committee to be considered for a vote en bloc, or all together. This is something very similar to that which the chairman of the Rules Committee, Senator KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota, and ANGUS KING, an Independent from Maine, had proposed in 2023. If Democrats were really interested in solving the problem, if they were really interested in restoring the Senate to its previous reputation as the world's greatest deliberative body, they wouldn't object; they would agree. It is their idea, but what remains to be seen is whether Senate Democrats will agree to their own proposal.

If Senate Democrats will consent to this proposal which I will propound momentarily, which will allow the en bloc consideration of nominees, then we can avoid a rule change, but if they block this resolution, they will show their true colors. They will show that this is not about deliberation; that this is not about what is in the best interests of the American people; that this is not about genuine oversight—but that this is naked, partisan obstruction. It will then be clear to all of us across the country that Democrat objections to changing the rules have nothing—nothing—to do with preserving the institutional integrity of the Senate and more to do with their crusade against President Trump and the American people who elected him last November 5.

We will see if Senate Democrats would prefer to continue their historic obstruction or whether they would consent to let us carry out the essential function of this Chamber to provide a vote. That is all we are asking for is a vote on the nominations.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 379 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I have been listening to my colleague from Texas. The part that he said a couple of times over the last several minutes was that he was looking for some sort of explanation as to why Democrats are doing what we are doing. So let me attempt to respond to them.

I can't help but observe that my colleague from Texas and Senate Republicans like to point out that Senate Democrats were proposing reforms to the nominations process in 2024—yes, just last year. That is not a secret. A formal proposal was introduced. The Senate Rules Committee, of which I was a member and am now serving as ranking member this session, held a public hearing on these issues just over a year ago. There have been bipartisan discussions about these issues going back years. Senate Democrats led a bipartisan effort in 2024 for changes that would take effect in 2025.

Now, why are those dates important? Because these proposals were made back when the outcome of last year's Presidential election was unknown, like that is the ultimate fair way to do it. That is the way to get bipartisan support. These ideas are good or not good; you support them or you don't support them regardless of who is President or which party is in power. Unfortunately, Senate Republicans, at the time, showed little interest in these reforms, not just last summer but even late into 2024.

I can't help but observe that, at the time, they were engaging in their own unprecedented obstruction and blockades of President Biden's nominees. One Senator, a Republican Senator, held up routine promotions at the Department of Defense for nearly a year—yes, I said the “Department of Defense,” by the way—and they were planning to use these same tactics if then-Vice President Harris had been elected President. But now that Donald Trump is back in the White House—surprise, surprise—they are ready and set to make all of these changes immediately. The truth is, we shouldn't be in this situation. On that much, I guess, we do agree.

But I am not just talking about the process. I am not just talking about the process. Since the beginning of the second Trump administration, this Senate has been faced with an unprecedented number of highly extreme and unqualified, unfit nominees, many nominees whose stated goal is to dismantle the Departments and Agencies and programs which they are being nominated to lead. Meanwhile, this administration is unlawfully impounding funds, firing people in droves, and abolishing Agencies created by Congress—actions that, if this Senate and Congress as a whole was living up to its responsibility as a separate but coequal branch of government, this branch is supposed to be providing oversight and

accountability that is so lacking by the majority.

Yet still, given all that, Senate Democrats have been willing to negotiate. We have been partners in good faith. There was even a bipartisan agreement on the table just before the August recess that we just returned from, a proposal that would expedite some of the less objectionable nominees. All the administration had to do was accommodate some reasonable requests—bipartisan requests, for that matter—from a number of Senators.

Now, that is the normal process. Presidents and administrations of both parties have cooperated with Senators from both parties for decades to ensure the confirmation of nominees. But Trump rejected that option just weeks ago. The President himself told Leader SCHUMER and Senate Democrats to “go to hell” before the recess. Those three words are the perfect summary of how this President views Congress. It shows his contempt for Congress. That is why we are in this situation when it comes to his nominees, many, again, of whom are extreme and unfit in so many unprecedented ways.

Talk about unprecedented. The way this administration is behaving is unprecedented. This is not normal. Now, it is clear that the President rejected a reasonable bipartisan agreement before the recess, and I appreciate my Republican colleagues' new interest in the 2024 proposal to reform the nomination process. So in that spirit of bipartisan cooperation, I think there is a very good chance that we can pass this with a very simple amendment to make the resolution effective January 20, 2029.

Nobody here knows who the President will be then. Nobody knows which party will control the White House or be in the majority in this body by then. Nobody can predict it, and that is exactly the point. If the rule is good, then let's do it not knowing who is going to be in power when it takes effect.

So I invite discussion and negotiation about the effective date in this resolution or, as my colleague from Texas suggested, maybe even revisiting the list of which nominees should require Senate confirmation. But this resolution doesn't even begin to discuss or address that. So as this resolution is currently drafted, it is unacceptable, and, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, of course, I am disappointed that our colleague from California is objecting on behalf of the Democrats in the Chamber, but I just want to summarize what I think I heard him say. First, Democrats are prepared to hold all these nominees hostage pending some sort of agreement.

Well, you heard the Senator from Alabama, the Senator from Missouri, and the Senator from Oklahoma all talk about the endless discussions with

individual members of the Senate Democrats, many of whom are sympathetic to the problem but were powerless to change it because the leadership—the minority leader, the Senator from New York—who controls that caucus would not hear of any sort of negotiation.

We are all accustomed to negotiating around here. We do it on a daily basis. But we have tried, in good faith, every possible permutation, short of this action that we are taking today. But I have to ask, is it in good faith to say: Let's wait until 2029 to change the rules? What is President Trump supposed to do over the next 3 years? Govern with one arm tied behind his back, without the team that he has selected to help him govern the country?

He won the election on last November 5. He got a mandate. People are sick and tired of the status quo here in Washington, DC. They want to see change. They want to see things shaken up. But now Democrats are saying: You have got to wait until 2029. That is obviously unacceptable.

And then, finally, I would just point out we could have offered a number of different solutions to this problem, some that, perhaps, would advantage Republicans and disadvantage Democrats, but we haven't done that. We said: Let's take the Democratic proposal from 2023 and offer that. Surely, they would think that is reasonable since they themselves have proposed it in the first instance.

But what we have just heard is that Democrats won't even agree to that—their own proposal, their own idea. So, to me, it is abundantly clear that we have exhausted all the opportunities for negotiation. We have vetted a number of different alternatives, but it is this all-consuming, mindless partisan objection to President Trump and his policies that are blinding our Democratic colleagues from doing what they know is right, which is having a way, with debate and with votes, to give the American people a President who has a team to carry through the policies that they voted for on November 5.

So, Mr. President, I am disappointed but not surprised, but I think we have done everything we can. This obstruction has to end, and it will end very soon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

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

VOTE ON DUDEK NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 509 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Hagerty Van Hollen

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The Democratic leader.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I make a point of order that a motion to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377, is not in order because legisla-

tion that provides for the en bloc consideration of individual nominations on the Executive Calendar is legislative business; therefore, such a resolution should be required to be considered in legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In the opinion of the Chair, the Senate has not previously considered this question; therefore, the Chair, under the provisions of rule XX, submits the question to the Senate for its decision.

The question is: Is a resolution for the en bloc consideration of specific nominations on the Executive Calendar required to be considered in legislative session?

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to table and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 510 Leg.]

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—46

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

NOT VOTING—1

Van Hollen

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The question now occurs on agreeing to the motion to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377.

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS)

and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 511 Leg.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Peters Van Hollen

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 377) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, John Kennedy, Katie Boyd Britt, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Tim Sheehy, Tom Cotton, Josh Hawley, Mike Rounds, Jon A. Husted, James E. Risch, Ted Budd, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Mike Lee.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0F-25. 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 19-43 of August 7, 2019.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).
Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0F-25

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19-43; Date: August 7, 2019; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On August 7, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 19-43 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the AECA, of twelve (12) MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters, equipped with the following:

thirteen (13) APS-153 (V) Multi-Mode Radars (12 installed, 1 spare); twenty-five (25) T-700-GE-401C Engines (24 installed, 1 spare); twelve (12) Airborne Low Frequency Sonar Systems (ALFS) (12 installed); thirteen (13) AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems (12 installed, 1 spare); twenty-four (24) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (24 installed); twelve (12) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems—Low Volume Terminals (MIDS-LVT) Block Upgrade Two Terminals; four (4) M-240D crew served guns; four (4) GAU-21 crew served guns; and one thousand (1,000) AN/SSQ-36/53/62 sonobuoys. Also included are twenty-four (24) AN/ATC-210 RT-1990A (C) radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); twenty (20) AN/ARC-220 High Frequency radios; twenty (20) AN-APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; spare engine containers; facilities study; design and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated value was \$800 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$610 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of the following non-MDE items: U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics supply support services and other related elements of logistical and program support related to torpedo integration, spares, calibration, and support equipment. There is no additional MDE being reported with this notification. The estimated total value of the new non-MDE items is \$50 million, resulting in a revised estimated non-MDE value of \$240 million. The estimated total case value will increase to \$850 million. MDE will continue to constitute \$610 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay. The Republic of Korea will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major non-NATO ally that is an important force for political and economic stability in Indo-Pacific region.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 21, 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. 25-1E. 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 21-31 of March 19, 2021.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael E. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-1E

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Sec. 36(B)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 21-31; Date: March 19, 2021; Implementing Agency: Army.

(iii) Description: On March 19, 2021, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 21-31 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of two hundred eighty-eight (288) AGM-114R Hellfire missiles. Also included were AGM-114R spare parts; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; repair and return; storage; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value was \$36 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$33 million of this total.

On October 1, 2021, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0P-21, under Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act, of an increase in value of the AGM-114R Hellfire missiles. The estimated total increase in MDE value was \$9 million. This resulted in a total cost of MDE value of \$42 million. The total case value increased to \$47 million.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: up to one thousand and twenty-two (1,022) AGM-114R Hellfire missiles. The following non-MDE is also included: spare parts; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$400 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$50 million to a revised \$55 million. The revised estimated total case value will be \$447 million. MDE will constitute \$392 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as 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. The proposed sale will im-

prove the Republic of Korea's air and missile defense capability and ensure greater interoperability with other Hellfire missile users in the region.

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

(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: September 9, 2025.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in acknowledgement of National POW/MIA Recognition Day this September 19, 2025, I honor Idaho's and all of America's prisoners of war, POWs, and missing in action, MIA, as I extend my support and gratitude to their loved ones.

In February, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, DPAA, the Agency primarily responsible for recovering America's servicemembers, unveiled its 2025 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster. Each year, the Agency creates a poster commemorating the lives of U.S. servicemembers still unaccounted for from past conflicts and showcasing the DPAA's commitment to bringing them home. This year's poster features the statement, "Delivering on the nation's promise."

Fittingly, this year's poster was designed by a Gold Star Daughter, Jeanie Jacobs Huffman who, unfortunately, knows deeply and personally the price military families pay for our freedoms. Jeanie Jacobs Huffman's father, Navy Commander Edward J. Jacobs, Jr., remains unaccounted for after contact was lost with the aircraft he was piloting in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of North Vietnam in 1967. At the unveiling of the poster, Jeanie shared, "I always felt a huge void in my life not having my father. I believe that each of our missing is still seeking their way home and they expect that our nation's promise will be kept."

To help meet our Nation's promise to America's servicemembers and support the efforts of those who work tirelessly for their return, I continue to press for the enactment of the Bring Our Heroes Home Act. This legislation would help eliminate obstacles preventing families and caseworkers from accessing the records needed for recovering America's POWs and MIA.

This POW/MIA Recognition Day, and every day, I remain deeply grateful for the committed individuals and groups, such as the POW/MIA Awareness Rally Corp. of Pocatello, ID, and others across our country who keep an unwavering spotlight on the need to bring every American servicemember home. With a heavy but hopeful heart, I continue to pray for all those who await

answers about lost servicemembers and thank America's servicemembers, veterans, and their families for their extraordinary commitment to our country.

REMEMBERING DR. ANNETTE NEVIN SHELBY

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Annette Nevin Shelby of Tuscaloosa, AL.

The daughter of Gladys Price and Edwin Claude Nevin, Dr. Shelby was born on January 22, 1939, in Kinston, AL. Dr. Shelby graduated as an honors graduate of Kinston High School and attended Alabama College, now the University of Montevallo, for 2 years before transferring to the University of Alabama.

While earning her bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees in speech, she excelled in several organizations on campus, including Delta Delta Delta sorority and Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha National Debate Society. Her commitments were honored through inductions into Mortar Board, a women's service organization, and into Phi Beta Kappa, a national scholastic honor society.

Dr. Shelby's dedication to higher education did not end in Tuscaloosa; rather, her personal and professional careers were just beginning. She earned a Ph.D. degree at Louisiana State University, received an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and received an honorary litterarum humanorum doctoris degree from the University of South Alabama.

The daughter of two educators, Dr. Shelby followed in their footsteps through a lifelong commitment to educating the next generation. Notably, Dr. Shelby's 20-year instruction at Georgetown University in management, corporate, and crisis communication led to national acclaim and earned her tenure and a promotion to professor. She was the first woman in the business school to achieve this distinction and was named professor emerita upon her retirement.

Dr. Shelby's love for travel rivaled her husband's, retired U.S. Senator Richard Craig Shelby. She served as a director of Georgetown's program in comparative business at Oxford, taught graduate and undergraduate students at the Helsinki School of Economics, and lectured at the University of Leipzig. She also taught on the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program, where she spent time in 11 countries.

Throughout her life, Dr. Shelby sought to invest in the lives of students and in universities and schools. At Alabama, she served as the vice president of the women's division of the women's alumni association, where she spearheaded the restoration of Woods Hall, the first structure built on campus following the Civil War. She later served on the president's cabinet

and the president's advisory board, as well as the Women of the Capstone. A true lover of the arts, she also served as president of the Alabama Speech and Theatre Association, where she promoted theatre programming for high schools. Her national leadership was solidified in 2019 when she was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts to serve as a representative for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

As two of the most generous, dedicated Alabama trailblazers, Dr. and Senator Shelby have continued to make remarkable contributions that will no doubt strengthen our State for many years to come.

In 2023, Dr. and Senator Shelby established the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at the University of Alabama. The program endeavors to educate future leaders through civic engagement, research, and public policy. Most recently, Spring Hill College broke ground on the Annette N. Shelby Health and Science Innovation Center. This state-of-the-art facility will not only expand Spring Hill's current nursing and pre-med programs, but also launch new programs.

Dr. Shelby died on July 23, 2025, at her home in Tuscaloosa. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Senator Shelby; two sons Richard Craig Shelby, Jr., and Claude Nevin Shelby (Lisa); two grandchildren Anna Elizabeth Shelby and William Nevin Shelby; and brother Edward Haskell Nevin.

On behalf of Dr. Shelby's friends, family, and students, I am deeply proud to recognize her extraordinary life. Dr. Shelby's quiet strength, keen intellect and discernment, and elegant poise all contribute to her legacy as one of Alabama's most influential figures. Her status is cemented not just in the buildings and programs across the State that bear her name, but for the tremendous, indelible impact she made on all who were fortunate to know her. Alabama and our Nation are undeniably stronger because of her extraordinary life of service.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL REBECCA McELWAIN

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I would like to congratulate an accomplished North Dakotan who is providing outstanding service to the Nation in the U.S. Army. BG Rebecca McElwain recently became the new Army budget director, and we look forward to working closely with a fellow North Dakotan in this role.

Brigadier General McElwain was raised on a family farm near Karlsruhe, ND, and graduated from Minot High School. She attended North Dakota State University where she was in the ROTC program. She graduated with a bachelor of science in business administration from NDSU in 1997 and was then commissioned into the U.S. Army Finance and Comptroller Corps. From there, she spent significant time serv-

ing abroad, including deployments in Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East, with command assignments at every level.

Prior to this new assignment, she served as an Army congressional budget liaison and then the director of the Army's budget liaison office. Through all of her assignments, she brings as wealth of experience that will serve the Army and Congress well.

Brigadier General McElwain and her husband James have a son Andrew. James is a classically trained chef, and Andrew is a recent graduate of the University of Mary Washington and works with the General Services Administration in Washington, DC.

We benefit enormously from talented leaders like Brigadier General McElwain, and we look forward to her continued contributions to the Army and to the Nation. I congratulate her on this new role and look forward to working with her.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MICHAEL P. MASON

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force, Maj. Michael P. "Mikey" Mason.

As a Department of the Air Force Senate Legislative Liaison Officer, from January to July 2025, Mikey performed his duties well and without reservation supporting the 119th U.S. Congress. Hailing from Scottsdale, AZ, and a graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Mikey has served in the Air Force for over 13 years. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exceptional and unrivaled officership. A graduate and former instructor at the U.S. Air Force Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School—AMMOS—he brings extensive experience in both nuclear and conventional munitions, gained from diverse roles across Air Combat Command Air Education and Training Command, U.S. Air Force Europe and Air Force Materiel Command.

Major Mason distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform as an Air Force Legislative Liaison to the Senate. In this role, he advised Department of the Air Force senior leaders and helped develop strategic engagement opportunities to advance U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force priorities. His leadership facilitated seamless collaboration on behalf of the Department of the Air Force across 62 congressional offices, serving as the principal Air Force liaison to 21 Senators and their respective staff. He supported numerous engagements and delegations for 109 Senators, Congressmen, and staffers to showcase Department equities in the United States and abroad. Most notably, Mikey spearheaded initiatives within Headquarters Air Force to effectively bridge the information gap between Members of

Congress and the Department of the Air Force.

By fostering a shared understanding of congressional priorities and Departmental objectives, Mikey enabled the alignment of goals and fostered a cohesive, multifunctional approach to achieving them. Mikey's direct support led to the successful execution of nine Senate confirmation, posture, and subcommittee hearings while managing 32 congressional requests, directly shaping and advancing legislative priorities. Additionally, Mikey's diplomatic nature and commitment to enhancing global partnership was evident during four congressional and staff delegations planned and executed under his leadership. These trips, both within the United States and overseas, supported the Air Force Caucus, State delegations, key Senate committees, and our allies and partners. Through these interactions, he successfully strengthened international collaboration and cultivated relationships crucial for advancing shared defense priorities while showcasing select Department of the Air Force equities. Due to his direct involvement and oversight, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions to ensure the Department of the Air Force possessed the right authorities and resources necessary to equip our warfighters and fulfill their role in the joint fight.

Finally, he led a pivotal congressional delegation to the Middle East to secure key regional partnerships, conduct vital oversight of U.S. military operations, and gain firsthand understanding of critical national security issues, including counterterrorism, the humanitarian crisis, and regional stability. Mikey's significant efforts led to numerous successful engagements between this governing body, current and former administration officials, senior military leaders, industry executives, technology innovators, and leading edge thought leaders. These interactions helped Senators and their staff advance the national security conversation and collaboration required to achieve our shared goal of peace through strength.

After serving in this crucial role and becoming a fixture on Capitol Hill, Major Mason has moved on to become the executive officer to the director, Air Force Legislative Liaison, Washington, DC, office. Mikey and his wife Carolyn have instilled a legacy of service for their two children Walker and Kinsley. They have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Mikey's service and his work with my office and the Senate over the past year on issues of vital importance to the defense of the United States. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has kept our country safe and strong.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE MITCHELL

• Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mrs. Arlene Mitchell, a tireless servant and philanthropist for the people of Alabama.

Mrs. Mitchell, who grew up just over the Alabama border in Atlanta, GA, quickly made Mobile home with her husband Mr. Mayer “Bubba” Mitchell, a native Mobilian. The Mitchell family’s decades of dedication have paid dividends and strengthened Mobile for generations to come.

Notably, Mrs. Mitchell represented Mobile County on the Board of Trustees for the University of South Alabama—USA—a seat previously held by her beloved husband. In 2022, Mrs. Mitchell made history when she was elected as the first female chair pro tem of the board of the university. Her trailblazing commitment and heart for service proved critical to the university, increasing enrollment growth, spurring record fundraising, and advancing many crucial USA programs. Her oversight of the construction of the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine Building, renovation and expansion of the USA Health Children’s & Women’s Hospital Pediatric Emergency Center, and the establishment of the Arlene Mitchell Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, among countless other initiatives, have been transformational to the university, its community, and the region.

Equally important, Mrs. Mitchell and the entire Mitchell family were instrumental in establishing the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, the region’s only academic cancer treatment and research center. This visionary investment has brought world-class, groundbreaking research and hope to patients and families across Alabama and the entire gulf coast. Throughout the years, Mrs. Mitchell has generously donated to lifesaving initiatives at USA, including the Pediatric Emergency Center project, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit renovation, and the da Vinci surgical system acquisition at USA Health Children’s & Women’s Hospital. Mrs. Mitchell has not only generously given her resources, but her time and compassion, spending countless hours rocking precious babies in the NICU.

Mrs. Mitchell’s service to the Mobile community extends far beyond her work on the board. Her impact can be felt across the gulf coast region, whether through her support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama, the Exploreum Science Center, or the Senior Citizens Services of Mobile. She has been recognized as Mobilian of the Year, the first woman to receive this honor, the Distinguished Friend of Education by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and alongside her husband, has been honored by the United

Way of Southwest Alabama for their lifetime of philanthropy.

This year, Mrs. Mitchell was conferred the honorary title of chair pro tempore emerita of the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees. And while her biggest accomplishment of all, is her life with Mayer, her 4 children and their spouses, 8 grandchildren and their spouses, and 19 great-grandchildren, I couldn’t be more honored to celebrate her legacy of leadership, selflessness, and generosity.

I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. Senate to please join me in extending our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Mitchell for her extraordinary contributions to higher education, healthcare, and the well-being of countless Alabamians. May her example be a guiding light to us all.●

TRIBUTE TO JAY AND SUSAN WOOD

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Jay and Susan Wood of Powell County as Montanans of the Month. Jay and Susan have made it their mission to ensure Montana’s veterans never go hungry and delivered more than 44,000 pounds of food to veterans across 16 Montana counties in 2024. So far this year, they have distributed tens of thousands of pounds to southwest Montana vets in need.

The Woods have created a community with the Southwest Montana Veterans Food Pantry, where veterans can feel a part of a family. Additionally, they have built an extraordinary network of food pantries, nonprofit organizations, supermarkets, specialty businesses, and countless other groups across the State that work together to identify and support area veterans.

Their work is a worthwhile mission, and Jay and Susan are an inspiration to us all to give back to our communities. Their selfless efforts deserve recognition and serve as a powerful reminder to cherish our freedoms and thank those who have fought to defend our country.

Jay and Susan, thank you for your tireless dedication. Your compassion and service to Montana’s veterans make our State proud. May God continue to bless your efforts and all the men and women you serve.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, on February 25, 1975, Resolution No. 371 was presented to the City Council of Alexandria, VA, to establish the Alexandria Archaeological Commission. It was the first in the Nation. The commission, composed of Alexandria residents, was tasked with developing goals and priorities relating to the preservation and public interpretation of sites and artifacts that contribute to the history and heritage of the city of Alexandria,

the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States. To this day, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission remains a model for public archaeology in the country.

Over the past 50 years, more than 100 commissioners have served on the Alexandria Archaeological Commission. Working with city officials and staff, developers, homeowners, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and residents, the commission has unearthed and honored history in many ways, including by:

Advocating for the hiring of the first City Archaeologist and the creation of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, which is today the most visited museum in the city and is nationally recognized for its pioneering work in urban archaeology.

Ensuring that the full history of Alexandria is told by supporting the creation of the African American Heritage Park and the preservation of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.

Advising on the establishment of the Archaeological Protection Code that requires developers to adhere to archaeological preservation measures.

Developing plans for the interpretation of history and archaeology along Alexandria’s waterfront, including the remnants of four excavated 18th-century ship hulls and tens of thousands of artifacts that tell the story of commerce during the colonial era.

I join countless Virginians in recognizing the extraordinary vision of the residents of Alexandria and the city council in 1975 and the commitment today’s local leadership maintains to preserve Alexandria’s historic and cultural artifacts for future generations.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT W. FLEMING

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the late Robert Fleming of Minnesota. Robert passed away in Phoenix, AZ, at the age of 97 on July 31, 2025. He was chairman of the U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey committee for five Olympics, including the 1980 “Miracle on Ice” gold medal-winning team, and dedicated three decades of his life to the sport. He and the 1980 team were inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2004. He brought a new awareness to hockey, and he developed youth and collegiate programs across the country, helped men’s and women’s teams perform on the international stage, and inspired generations of athletes.

Robert also had a rewarding career at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, where he worked for 43 years, eventually serving as the chief administrative officer for the Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation, where his work helped run a hospital that serves millions of patients. He was also president of the Medical Group Management Association and received the organization’s highest honor, the Harry J. Harwick Award.

He loved his cabin on Beaver Dam Lake in Wisconsin and was committed to making sure his kids and grandkids got excellent educations. Robert is survived by his wife Cynthia, as well as

four children, 16 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. We are all grateful to Robert for what he has done for Minnesota and the country. May his memory be a blessing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—PM 39

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 persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2025.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. This crisis continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224, as amended, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 8, 2025.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14046 OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2021, WITH RESPECT TO ETHIOPIA—PM 40

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 Ethiopia declared in Executive Order 14046 of September 17, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond September 17, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to northern Ethiopia, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, and stability of Ethiopia and the greater Horn of Africa region, continues 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 14046 will respect to Ethiopia.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 8, 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 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. 2591. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3055. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop an action plan on members of the Armed Forces eligible for pre-separation counseling and veterans becoming supply chain employees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3423. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to include aircraft deicing storage facilities in the definition of airport development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3424. An act to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to collaborate with Federal tenants with respect to shared-space arrangements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3425. An act to direct the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish

processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of certain buildings and grounds, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3428. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4550. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, 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. 2591. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3055. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop an action plan on members of the Armed Forces eligible for pre-separation counseling and veterans becoming supply chain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3423. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to include aircraft deicing storage facilities in the definition of airport development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3424. An act to require the Administrator of the General Services Administration to collaborate with Federal tenants with respect to shared-space arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3425. An act to direct the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish processes to strengthen oversight, performance, and accountability of contract security personnel engaged in the protection of certain buildings and grounds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3428. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4553. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 2748. A bill to establish a program to beautify the District of Columbia and to establish the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-1681. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; OR; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference” (FRL No. 12783-01-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1682. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; IA; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 12096-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1683. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Report to Congress and the President for Fiscal Year 2022”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1684. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination of Attainment Date; 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standards; California; Sacramento Metro Area” (FRL No. 12637-03-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1685. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; WA; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference” (FRL No. 12328-01-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1686. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Revised Format for Materials Incorporated by Reference” (FRL No. 12812-01-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1687. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Review and Renewal of Eligibility for Application-Specific Allowances” (FRL No. 10782-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1688. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units: Temporary-Use Incinerators and Air Curtain Incinerators Used in Disaster Recovery” (FRL No. 12232-03-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1689. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Florida; Approval of State Plan for Control of Emissions from Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units” (FRL No. 12577-01-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1690. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District; Internal Combustion Engines” (FRL No. 10873-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1691. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; South Dakota; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 12596-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1692. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Texas; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS” (FRL No. 12796-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1693. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Polyether Polyols Production Industry: Removal of Affirmative Defense” (RIN2060-AW56) (FRL No. 11651-04-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1694. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Oregon; Lane Regional Air Protection Agency; Outdoor Burning” (FRL No. 12446-02-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1695. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Removal of Obsolete Rules on Control of NO_x Emissions” (FRL No. 12693-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1696. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; New York; Emission Statement Certification of the 2008 and 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 12733-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1697. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; IA; Alter Metal Recycling Permit Modification” (FRL No. 12750-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1698. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Manage-

ment Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Finding of Failure to Attain; Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Huntington County Sulfur Dioxide Attainment Plan” (FRL No. 12835-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1699. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1700. A communication from the Assistant Division Chief, Competition Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment” ((RIN3060-AK67) (WC Docket No. 17-84)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1701. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Quota Transfer and Adjustment (General Category December Subquota)” (RIN0648-XD473) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1702. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; White Hake Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery” (RIN0648-XD514) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1703. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2024 Commercial Accountability Measure for Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack” (RIN0648-XD526) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1704. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reopening of Commercial Fishery for Golden Tilefish in the South Atlantic” (RIN0648-XD532) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1705. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota

Transfer From NC to VA” (RIN0648-XD584) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1706. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fraser River Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders” (RIN0648-XD573) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1707. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2024 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts” (RIN0648-XD598) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1708. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XD668) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1709. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XD676) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1710. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands” (RIN0648-XD706) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1711. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From North Carolina to Virginia” (RIN0648-XD718) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1712. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XD734) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1713. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Blueline Tilefish and

Golden Tilefish Fisheries; Final 2025–2027 Golden Tilefish Specifications and 2025 Blueline Tilefish Specifications” (RIN0648-XE313) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1714. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; 2025 Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Measures” (RIN0648-BN51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1715. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Halibut Recreational Quota Entity Program Fee Collection” (RIN0648-BN18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1716. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2024 Commercial Longline Closure for Golden Tilefish in the South Atlantic” (RIN0648-XE009) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1717. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program” (RIN0648-BM81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1718. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John; Framework Amendment 2” (RIN0648-BM63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1719. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 66” (RIN0648-BM71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1720. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pacific Halibut Fisheries of the West Coast; 2024 Catch Sharing Plan and Recreational Management Measures; Correction” (RIN0648-BM75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1721. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries

Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Safe Handling and Release Practices for Sharks on Longline Vessels and Revision to Vessel Monitoring System Requirements in the Eastern Pacific Ocean” (RIN0648-BM67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1722. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; 2024 and 2025 Summer Flounder and Scup, and 2024 Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Measures; Correction” (RIN0648-XE030) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1723. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XD669) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1724. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; 2024 Commercial Quota Harvested for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts” (RIN0648-XE259) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1725. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to action on a nomination and discontinuation of service in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1726. A communication from the Regulations Supervisor, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Offshore Distribution Cap Changes” (RIN1012-AA41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1727. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Miscellaneous Corrections, Clarifications, and Improvements” (RIN1212-AB51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1728. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “International Traffic in Arms Regulations: U.S. Munitions List Targeted Revisions” (RIN1400-AF42) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1729. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the threat of foreign interference in or undermining public confidence in United States elections that was declared in Executive Order 13848 of September 12, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1730. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001 that was declared in Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1731. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1732. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011 with respect to Libya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1733. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to action on a nomination and discontinuation of service in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1734. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-SC-24-0046) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1735. A communication from the Acting Director, Regulations Management Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Obsolete Regulation" (RIN0572-AC71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1736. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR); FAR Case 2024-001, Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Thresholds" (RIN9000-AO73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1737. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-06, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2025-26) received in

the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1738. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-06, Introduction" (FAC 2025-06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1739. A communication from the Acting Chief of Legal, External, Affairs, and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to designation of an acting officer for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1740. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2025 Report to Congress - Annual Update: Identification of Quality Measurement Priorities and Associated Funding for the Consensus-Based Entity and Other Entities"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1741. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress: Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 Preventing the Misclassification of Drugs Under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program Federal Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1742. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2022 Report to Congress: Review of Medicare's Program for Oversight of Accrediting Organizations and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Validation Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1743. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

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. HAWLEY:

S. 2736. A bill to require the Administrator of General Services to display or inscribe the national motto of the United States on all Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 2737. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a pilot program to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy to certain veterans through community care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2738. A bill to establish eligibility requirements for covered educational employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2739. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HUSTED (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2740. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage States to develop academic standards for elementary school and secondary school for artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2741. A bill to establish within the Environmental Protection Agency the Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2742. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the reallocation of applicable volumes for small refineries under the Renewable Fuel Standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2743. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to modify certain limitations on disproportionate share hospital payment adjustments under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2744. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify and extend the rules for personal casualty losses arising from major disasters and the rules for the exclusion from gross income of compensation for losses or damages resulting from certain wildfires; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2745. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to provide to firefighters of the Department of Defense medical testing and related services to detect and prevent certain cancers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2746. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to produce suspicious activity reports relating to Jeffrey Epstein and his associates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2747. A bill to require the Secretary of State to designate the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern, to impose certain sanctions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 2748. A bill to establish a program to beautify the District of Columbia and to establish the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2749. A bill to exempt Medicare from any sequestration under Statutory PAYGO that is caused by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act; to the Committee on the Budget.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. Res. 378. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 8 through September 12, 2025, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. Res. 379. A resolution amending the Standing Rules of the Senate to authorize the Majority Leader to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of certain nominations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. Res. 380. A resolution urging the protection of Medicare from the devastating cuts caused by H.R. 1; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. Res. 381. A resolution to designate September 9, 2025, as "National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day", and to recognize the sacrifices made by American and Allied soldiers who liberated Italy from German occupation during World War II; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 94, a bill to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

S. 128

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 128, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the

Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 1371

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1371, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the number of eligible shareholders of an S corporation.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements with respect to diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, his name and the name of the Senator

from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 2126

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2126, a bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2268

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2268, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2309

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2309, a bill to direct a physician or nurse practitioner employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the death of a veteran not later than 48 hours after such physician or nurse practitioner learns of such death, and for other purposes.

S. 2380

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2380, a bill to direct the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, to seek to establish an Economic Security Working Group within the Quad.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2426, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2447

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2447, a bill to repeal changes to Medicaid cost sharing requirements and the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. SHEEHY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2686, a bill to limit youth offender status in the District of Columbia to individuals 18 years of age or younger, to direct the Attorney General for the District of Columbia to establish and operate a publicly accessible website containing updated statistics on juvenile crime in the District of Columbia, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to prohibit the Council of the District of Columbia from enacting changes to existing criminal liability sentences, and for other purposes.

S. 2687

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2687, a bill to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council.

S. 2690

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that commercial driver's licenses be restricted to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to engage in employment in the United States that includes driving a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to require local educational agencies, State educational agencies, and other governmental education entities to respect the rights of parents regarding gender transition, and for other purposes.

S. 2709

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program.

S. 2718

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2718, a bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Finan-

cial Institutions Act of 1994 to provide for capitalization assistance to enhance liquidity.

S. 2726

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2726, a bill to prescribe Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 374

At the request of Ms. ALSOBROOKS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 374, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. does not have the confidence of the Senate or of the American people to faithfully carry out the duties of his office and should be removed from his position.

AMENDMENT NO. 3210

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3210 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3592

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3592 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3732

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3732 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3761

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3761 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 378—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12, 2025, AS “MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. MURPHY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 378

Whereas malnutrition is the condition that occurs when a person does not get enough protein, calories, or nutrients;

Whereas malnutrition is a significant problem in the United States and around the world, crossing all age, racial, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas malnutrition can be determined by social drivers of health, including poverty or economic instability, access to affordable health care, and low health literacy;

Whereas there are inextricable and cyclical links between poverty and malnutrition;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as when a person or household does not have regular, reliable access to the foods needed for good health;

Whereas communities of color, across all age groups, are disproportionately likely to experience both food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native households are at significantly greater risk for food insecurity than all households in the United States;

Whereas 1 in 18 Asian Americans and 1 in 5 Pacific Islanders experience food insecurity;

Whereas Black children are almost 3 times more likely to live in a food-insecure household than White children;

Whereas infants, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has found that failure to provide key nutrients during early childhood may result in lifelong deficits in brain function;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition affects between 30 and 50 percent of patients admitted to hospitals, and the medical costs of hospitalized patients with malnutrition can be 300 percent more than the medical costs of properly nourished patients;

Whereas deaths from malnutrition have increased among adults 85 and older since 2013;

Whereas, according to the “National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update”, as many as half of older adults living in the United States are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas, according to recent Aging Network surveys, 76 percent of older adults receiving meals at senior centers and other congregate facilities report improved health outcomes, and 84 percent of older adults receiving home-delivered meals indicate the same;

Whereas older adults receiving home-delivered meals for 2 to 5 years were 72 percent less likely to be at risk of malnutrition compared with those receiving home-delivered meals for not longer than 6 months;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition in older adults alone costs the United States more than \$51,300,000,000 each year; and

Whereas the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition established “Malnutrition Awareness Week” to raise

awareness and promote prevention of malnutrition across the lifespan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Malnutrition Awareness Week”;

(2) recognizes registered dietitian nutritionists and other nutrition professionals, health care providers, school food service workers, those who provide home-delivered meals, social workers, advocates, caregivers, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness, treatment, and prevention of malnutrition;

(3) recognizes the importance of existing Federal nutrition programs, like the nutrition programs established under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and Federal child nutrition programs, for their role in combating malnutrition, and supports increased funding for these critical programs;

(4) recognizes the role of community-based organizations, food banks, faith-based organizations, and local agencies and the need for partnerships among them and with healthcare providers in preventing and addressing malnutrition in underserved areas;

(5) recognizes—

(A) the importance of medical nutrition therapy under the Medicare Program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

(B) the need for vulnerable populations to have adequate access to nutrition counseling;

(6) recognizes the importance of the innovative research conducted by the National Institutes of Health on—

(A) nutrition, dietary patterns, and the human gastrointestinal microbiome; and

(B) how those factors influence the prevention or development of chronic disease throughout the lifespan;

(7) recognizes that malnutrition affects people of all ages and backgrounds and that early identification and intervention can reduce health care costs, hospital readmissions, and long-term complications;

(8) encourages the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to facilitate the implementation of the new Malnutrition Care Score, an electronic clinical quality measures for adults over the age of 18;

(9) acknowledges the importance of healthy food access for children, especially in childcare settings and schools, and the benefits of evidence-based nutrition standards; and

(10) acknowledges that addressing malnutrition is critical to achieving national goals related to chronic disease prevention, healthy aging, and good health for all.

SENATE RESOLUTION 379—AMENDING THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAJORITY LEADER TO MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 379

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS.

Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following:

“8.(a) In this paragraph, the term ‘covered nomination’ means a nomination to a position that is not a position—

“(1) at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code;

“(2) as a judge of a court of appeals of the United States; or

“(3) as Chief Justice of the United States or as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

“(b) It shall be in order for the Majority Leader to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of not more than 10 covered nominations that were reported to the Senate by the same committee of the Senate and placed on the calendar.

“(c) Consideration of a motion to proceed under subparagraph (b), and the en bloc consideration of the nominations that are the subject of the motion, shall be conducted in the same manner as if it were a motion to proceed to the consideration of a single nomination.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 380—URGING THE PROTECTION OF MEDICARE FROM THE DEVASTATING CUTS CAUSED BY H.R. 1

Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 380

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office (referred to in this preamble as “CBO”) has estimated that the Act entitled “An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14”, approved July 4, 2025 (Public Law 119-21; 139 Stat. 72) (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) and referred to in this preamble as “H.R. 1”) will add \$4,100,000,000,000 to the deficit between 2025 and 2034;

Whereas such an increase to the deficit will automatically trigger across-the-board spending cuts, called “sequestration”, under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 931 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as “S-PAYGO”);

Whereas sequestration will impose indiscriminate, across-the-board spending cuts to social safety net programs that millions of families in the United States rely on;

Whereas the Medicare program established under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), a critical lifeline for the people of the United States, is not exempt from sequestration under S-PAYGO;

Whereas CBO has estimated that \$45,000,000,000 will be cut from Medicare by sequestration in 2026 alone;

Whereas CBO has estimated that a total of \$536,000,000,000 will be cut from Medicare by sequestration through 2034;

Whereas these Medicare sequestration cuts compound nearly \$1,000,000,000,000 in health care reductions under H.R. 1, stripping coverage from 15,000,000 people of the United States and further undermining the financial stability of health care providers;

Whereas more than 67,000,000 people of the United States relied on Medicare for their health care coverage in 2024;

Whereas cuts of this magnitude will jeopardize the financial stability of community health centers, hospitals, providers, and many others who rely on Medicare payments to serve seniors, people with disabilities, and those with end-stage renal disease;

Whereas Republicans’ partisan bill expanded the national debt by \$4,100,000,000,000, and the Republicans chose not to protect the people of the United States from these cuts; and

Whereas the people of the United States have paid into Medicare throughout their working lives with the expectation that their earned benefits will be protected: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate should protect the Medicare program established under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) from devastating cuts caused by the Act entitled “An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14”, approved July 4, 2025 (Public Law 119-21; 139 Stat. 72) (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” and referred to in this resolution as “H.R. 1”);

(2) the Senate should safeguard seniors’ Medicare benefits and essential social services that are jeopardized by the cuts triggered by H.R. 1; and

(3) seniors who have paid into Medicare throughout their working lives should be protected from reckless, across-the-board cuts to their health care.

SENATE RESOLUTION 381—TO DESIGNATE SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, AS “NATIONAL WORLD WAR II ITALIAN CAMPAIGN REMEMBRANCE DAY”, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICES MADE BY AMERICAN AND ALLIED SOLDIERS WHO LIBERATED ITALY FROM GERMAN OCCUPATION DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SHEEHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 381

Whereas the Allied invasion of Sicily began on July 9, 1943, with the first-ever large scale assault in the history of the United States Army;

Whereas, between July 9 and 10, 1943, the Allies executed the single largest amphibious landing of troops to that point in World War II, bringing more than 180,000 soldiers ashore on Sicily as part of Operation Husky;

Whereas the Cassibile Armistice was signed on September 3, 1943, and publicly announced on September 8, 1943, marking the surrender of Italy to the Allies and the withdrawal of Italy from the Axis powers;

Whereas September 9, 1943, marks the beginning of the liberation of mainland Italy from German occupation, with American forces landing at Salerno and along the Amalfi Coast for the launch of Operation Avalanche;

Whereas the campaign to reach Rome included many hard-fought engagements, including the months-long struggle at Monte Cassino and the Battle of Anzio;

Whereas, on June 4, 1944, the Fifth Army of the United States entered Rome, becoming the first Allied force to liberate a European capital from German occupation;

Whereas the United States Office of Strategic Services worked with Italian partisan networks to support the April 1945 uprising and to lay the groundwork for post-war democratic reconstruction in Italy;

Whereas, on April 29, 1945, the surrender at Caserta resulted in the capitulation of nearly 1,000,000 Axis troops in the Italian theater, the largest surrender of German forces at that point in the war;

Whereas, on April 30, 1945, the death of Adolf Hitler signaled the collapse of Nazi leadership, occurring just 1 day after the German surrender in Italy;

Whereas, on May 2, 1945, the unconditional surrender of German forces in Italy took effect, liberating the Italian peninsula;

Whereas, on May 7, 1945, the overall German surrender in Europe took place;

Whereas the Italian campaign was a joint-forces effort by the United States Army, the United States Army Air Forces, and the United States Navy;

Whereas the Italian campaign was one of the longest continual combat campaigns undertaken by the Allies during World War II, lasting 602 days;

Whereas the Italian campaign was supported by one of the longest sustainment operations conducted by American and Allied maintenance forces, exemplified by the Ordnance Corps of the United States Army, which were comprised of approximately 24,000 officers, 325,000 enlisted individuals, and 262,000 civilians stationed in the United States and overseas;

Whereas, for the majority of the Italian campaign, despite being on the offensive, the Allies were outnumbered by the Germans;

Whereas the Italian campaign involved the participation of several Allied states, with troops from the present-day countries of Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, and the United Kingdom fighting alongside troops from the United States;

Whereas Allied troops persevered through harsh terrain, severe weather, and limited resources to achieve important and hard-fought victories throughout the Italian campaign;

Whereas victory in the Italian campaign was achieved at great human cost, with approximately 350,000 Allied casualties, including 150,000 American casualties, of which more than 60,000 individuals were killed or missing and 92,000 individuals were wounded, and over 426,000 Axis casualties;

Whereas more than 15,000 American servicemembers are commemorated in American cemeteries in Italy, including 7,845 laid to rest and 3,095 commemorated in the wall of remembrance at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, and 4,392 laid to rest and 1,409 commemorated in the wall of remembrance at the Florence American Cemetery in Tavarnuzze;

Whereas the advanced age of the few remaining veterans of the Italian Campaign, the fact that less than 1 percent of American veterans of the Second World War are still living, and the gradual fading of living memory make it increasingly urgent to preserve and share the stories and sacrifices of those veterans with future generations; and

Whereas the world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the "Greatest Generation" who assumed the task of freeing and restoring peace and democracy to Italy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2025, as "National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day";

(2) honors the bravery, service, and sacrifice of American and Allied forces during the campaign to liberate Italy;

(3) recognizes the importance of preserving key battlefields, cemeteries, and historical sites across Italy, along with the memory those sites embody within Italy, as sacred places of remembrance;

(4) supports all commemorative and educational efforts that work toward preserving this hard-fought memory for future generations;

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, education, and reflection; and

(6) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to commemorate the Italian Campaign and express gratitude to Americans who gave their lives and to all others who served to defend freedom in the Italian campaign.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3830. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3831. Mr. GALLEG0 submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3832. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3833. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3834. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3835. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3836. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3837. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3838. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3839. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3840. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3841. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3842. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3843. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3844. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3427 proposed by Ms. ERNST to the amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3845. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3846. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3830. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This division may be cited as the "Department of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of content for this division is as follows:

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Sec. 5001. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 5002. Definitions.

TITLE LXI—WORKFORCE MATTERS

Sec. 5101. Report on vetting of Foreign Service Institute language instructors.

Sec. 5102. Training limitations.

Sec. 5103. Language incentive pay for civil service employees.

Sec. 5104. Options for comprehensive evaluations.

Sec. 5105. Job share and part-time employment opportunities.

Sec. 5106. Promoting reutilization of language skills in the Foreign Service.

TITLE LXII—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

Sec. 5201. Periodic briefings from Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Sec. 5202. Support for congressional delegations.

Sec. 5203. Notification requirements for authorized and ordered departures.

Sec. 5204. Strengthening enterprise governance.

Sec. 5205. Establishing and expanding the Regional China Officer program.

Sec. 5206. Report on China's diplomatic posts.

Sec. 5207. Notification of intent to reduce personnel at covered diplomatic posts.

Sec. 5208. Foreign affairs manual changes.

TITLE LXIII—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

Sec. 5301. Supporting Department of State data analytics.

Sec. 5302. Post Data Pilot Program.

Sec. 5303. Authorization to use commercial cloud enclaves overseas.

Sec. 5304. Reports on technology transformation projects at the Department of State.

Sec. 5305. Commercial spyware.

Sec. 5306. Review of science and technology agreement with the People's Republic of China.

TITLE LXIV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

- Sec. 5401. Foreign information manipulation and interference strategy.
- Sec. 5402. Lifting the prohibition on use of Federal funds for World's Fair pavilions and exhibits.

TITLE LXV—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

- Sec. 5501. Report concerning Department of State consular officers joining Coast Guard and Navy missions to Pacific island countries.
- Sec. 5502. Report on security conditions in Damascus, Syria, required for the reopening of the United States diplomatic mission.
- Sec. 5503. Embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations return to standards report.
- Sec. 5504. Visa operations report.
- Sec. 5505. Reauthorization of overtime pay for protective services.

TITLE LXVI—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 5551. Submission of federally funded research and development center reports to Congress.
- Sec. 5552. Quarterly report on diplomatic pouch access.
- Sec. 5553. Report on utility of instituting a processing fee for ITAR license applications.
- Sec. 5554. HAVANA Act payment fix.
- Sec. 5555. Establishing an inner Mongolia section within the United States embassy in Beijing.
- Sec. 5556. Report on United States Mission Australia staffing.
- Sec. 5557. Facilitating regulatory exchanges with allies and partners.
- Sec. 5558. Pilot program to audit barriers to commerce in developing partner countries.
- Sec. 5559. Strategy for promoting supply chain diversification.
- Sec. 5560. Extensions.
- Sec. 5561. Updating counterterrorism reports.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

- (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.
- (2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of State.
- (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

TITLE LXI—WORKFORCE MATTERS

SEC. 5101. REPORT ON VETTING OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the execution of requirements under section 6116 of the Department of State Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2023 (22 U.S.C. 4030) that includes—

- (1) a description of all steps taken to date to carry out that section;
- (2) a detailed explanation of the suitability or fitness reviews, background investigations, and post-employment vetting, as applicable, of relevant Foreign Service Institute instructors who provide language instructions; and
- (3) a description of planned additional steps required to execute such section.

SEC. 5102. TRAINING LIMITATIONS.

The Department shall require the approval of the Secretary for eliminations of long-term training assignments.

SEC. 5103. LANGUAGE INCENTIVE PAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

The Secretary may provide special monetary incentives to acquire or retain proficiency in foreign languages to civil service employees who serve in domestic positions requiring critical language skills that are located in the fifty United States, the District of Columbia, and non-foreign areas (United States territories and possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). The amounts of such incentives should be similar to the language incentive pay provided to members of the Foreign Service pursuant to section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)).

SEC. 5104. OPTIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall assess options for integrating 360-degree reviews in personnel files for promotion panel consideration.

(b) **EVALUATION SYSTEMS.**—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include—

- (1) one or more options to integrate 360-degree reviews, references, or evaluations by superiors, peers, and subordinates, including consideration of automated reference requests; and
 - (2) other modifications or systems the Secretary considers relevant.
- (c) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall describe, with respect to each evaluation system included in the report—
- (1) any legal constraints or considerations;
 - (2) the timeline required for implementation;
 - (3) any starting and recurring costs in comparison to current processes;
 - (4) the likely or potential implications for promotion decisions and trends; and
 - (5) the impact on meeting the personnel needs of the Foreign Service.

SEC. 5105. JOB SHARE AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and publish a Department policy on job share and part-time employment opportunities. The policy shall include a template for job-sharing arrangements, a database of job share and part-time employment opportunities, and a point of contact in the Bureau of Global Talent Management.

(b) **WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY TRAINING.**—The Secretary shall incorporate training on workplace flexibility, including the availability of job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee onboarding.

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on workplace flexibility at the Department, including data on the number of employees utilizing job share or part-time employment arrangements.

(d) **EXCEPTION FOR THE BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.**—The policy described in subsection (a) shall not apply to officers and employees of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

SEC. 5106. PROMOTING REUTILIZATION OF LANGUAGE SKILLS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

- (1) foreign language skills are essential to effective diplomacy, particularly in high-priority positions, such as Chinese- and Russian-language designated positions focused on the People's Republic of China and Russia;
- (2) reutilization of acquired language skills creates efficiencies through the reduction of language training overall and increases regional expertise;
- (3) often, investments in language skills are not sufficiently utilized and maintained

throughout the careers of members of the Foreign Service following an initial assignment after language training;

(4) providing incentives or requirements to select “out-year bidders” for priority language-designated assignments would decrease training costs overall and encourage more expertise in relevant priority areas; and

(5) incentives for members of the Foreign Service to not only acquire and retain, but reuse, foreign language skills in priority assignments would reduce training costs in terms of both time and money and increase regional expertise to improve abilities in those areas deemed high priority by the Secretary.

(b) **INCENTIVES TO REUTILIZE LANGUAGE SKILLS.**—Section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)) is amended by inserting “and reutilize” after “to acquire or retain proficiency in”.

TITLE LXII—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

SEC. 5201. PERIODIC BRIEFINGS FROM BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and at least every 90 days thereafter for at least the next 3 years, the Secretary shall offer to the appropriate committees of Congress a joint briefing facilitated by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research and including other bureaus, as appropriate, on—

- (1) any topic requested by one or more of the appropriate congressional committees;
- (2) any topic of current importance to the national security of the United States; and
- (3) any other topic the Secretary considers necessary.

(b) **LOCATION.**—The briefings required under subsection (a) shall be held at a secure facility that is suitable for review of information that is classified at the level of “Top Secret/SCI”.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

- (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;
- (2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5202. SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

- (1) congressional travel is essential to fostering international relations, understanding global issues first-hand, and jointly advancing United States interests abroad; and

(2) only in close coordination and thanks to the dedication of personnel at United States embassies, consulates, and other missions abroad can the success of these vital trips be possible.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with applicable laws and the Secretary of State's security responsibilities, the Secretary shall reaffirm to all diplomatic posts the importance of congressional travel and shall direct all such posts to support congressional travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees to the extent feasible considering capacity and security considerations, when authorized by applicable congressional travel procedures to include the congressional authorization letter and congressional travel legislation and policies. The Secretary shall reaffirm the Department's policies to support such travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees, by making such support available on any day of the week, including Federal and local holidays when required to complete congressional responsibilities and, to the extent practical, requiring

the direct involvement of mid-level or senior officers.

(c) **EXCEPTION FOR SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.**—The requirement under subsection (b) does not apply in the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the First Lady or First Gentleman, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Defense.

(d) **TRAINING.**—The Secretary shall require all designated control officers to have been trained on supporting congressional travel at posts abroad prior to the assigned congressional visit.

SEC. 5203. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZED AND ORDERED DEPARTURES.

(a) **DEPARTURES REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees listing every instance of an authorized or ordered departure during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The Secretary shall include in the report required under paragraph (1)—

(A) the name of the post and the date of the approval of the authorized or ordered departure;

(B) the basis for the authorized or ordered departure; and

(C) the number of chief of mission personnel that departed, categorized by agency, as well as their eligible family members, if available.

(b) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—Any instance of an authorized or ordered departure shall be notified to appropriate committees not later than 3 days after the Secretary authorized an authorized or ordered departure. The details in the notification shall include—

(1) the information described in subsection (a)(2);

(2) the mode of travel for chief of mission personnel who departed;

(3) the estimated cost of the authorized or ordered departure, including travel and per diem costs; and

(4) the destination of all departed personnel and changes to their work activities due to the departure.

(c) **TERMINATION.**—This requirements under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5204. STRENGTHENING ENTERPRISE GOVERNANCE.

(1) **ORGANIZATION.**—The Chief Information Officer and the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of State should report directly to the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources or, in the event such position is vacant, to the Deputy Secretary of State.

(2) **ADJUDICATION OF UNRESOLVED BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.**—Adjudication of unresolved budget and management decisions should be made by the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources in consultation, as appropriate, with the Deputy Secretary of State.

SEC. 5205. ESTABLISHING AND EXPANDING THE REGIONAL CHINA OFFICER PROGRAM.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be established at the Department a Regional China Officer (RCO) program to support regional posts and officers with reporting, information, and policy tools, and to enhance expertise related to strategic competition with the People's Republic of China. RCOs shall, to the greatest extent possible, have appropriate fluency.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to

the Department of State to expand the RCO program, including for—

(A) the hiring of locally employed staff to support Regional China Officers serving abroad; and

(B) the establishment of full-time equivalent positions to assist in managing and facilitating the RCO program.

(3) **PROGRAM FUNDS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 for each Regional China Officer to support programs and public diplomacy activities of the Regional China Officer.

SEC. 5206. REPORT ON CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall submit to appropriate committees of Congress a report on the diplomatic presence of the People's Republic of China worldwide, including—

(1) the number of diplomatic posts currently maintained by People's Republic of China in each country; and

(2) the estimated number of diplomatic personnel stationed abroad.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CONSULAR OR DIPLOMATIC POST.**—The term “consular or diplomatic post” does not include a post to which only personnel of agencies other than the Department of State are assigned.

SEC. 5207. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO REDUCE PERSONNEL AT COVERED DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the date on which the Secretary of State carries out a reduction in United States Foreign Service personnel of at least 10 percent at a covered diplomatic post, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a notification of the intent to carry out such a reduction, which shall include a certification by the Secretary that such reduction will not negatively impact the ability of the United States to compete with the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply in the case of a security risk to personnel at a covered diplomatic post.

(c) **COVERED DIPLOMATIC POST DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered diplomatic post” means a United States diplomatic post in a country in which the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation also have a diplomatic post.

SEC. 5208. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL CHANGES.

Section 5318(c)(1) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2021 (22 U.S.C. 2658a) is amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “8 years”.

TITLE LXIII—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

SEC. 5301. SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ANALYTICS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to the Secretary for fiscal year 2026 to carry out the “Bureau Chief Data Officer Program”.

SEC. 5302. POST DATA PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) **POST DATA AND AI PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary is authorized to establish a program, which shall be known as the “Post Data Program” (re-

ferred to in this section as the “Program”), overseen by the Department's Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer.

(2) **GOALS.**—The goals of the Program shall include the following:

(A) Cultivating a data and artificial intelligence culture at diplomatic posts globally, including data fluency and data collaboration.

(B) Promoting data integration with Department of State Headquarters.

(C) Creating operational efficiencies, supporting innovation, and enhancing mission impact.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an implementation plan that outlines strategies for—

(A) advancing the goals described in subsection (a)(2);

(B) hiring data and artificial intelligence officers at United States diplomatic posts; and

(C) allocation of necessary resources to sustain the Program.

(2) **ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the status of the implementation plan required under paragraph (1).

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5303. AUTHORIZATION TO USE COMMERCIAL CLOUD ENCLAVES OVERSEAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of State shall issue internal guidelines that authorize and track the use of enclaves deployed in overseas commercial cloud regions for OCONUS systems categorized at the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) high baseline.

(b) **CONSISTENCY WITH FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY REGULATIONS.**—The enclave deployments shall be consistent with existing Federal cybersecurity regulations as well as best practices established across National Institute of Standards and Technology standards and ISO 27000 security controls.

(c) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of the Act, and before issuing the new internal guidelines required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the proposed new guidelines, including—

(1) relevant risk assessments; and

(2) any security challenges regarding implementation.

(d) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5304. REPORTS ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “technology” includes—

(A) artificial intelligence and machine learning systems;

(B) cybersecurity modernization tools or platforms;

(C) cloud computing services and infrastructure;

(D) enterprise data platforms and analytics tools;

(E) customer experience platforms for public-facing services; and

(F) internal workflow automation or modernization systems.

(3) **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION PROJECT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “technology transformation project” means any new or significantly modified technology deployed by the Department with the purpose of improving diplomatic, consular, administrative, or security operations.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “technology transformation project” does not include a routine software update or version upgrade, a security patch or maintenance of an existing system, a minor configuration change, a business-as-usual information technology operation, a support activity, or a project that costs less than \$1,000,000.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on all technology transformation projects completed during the preceding two fiscal years.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) For each project, the following:

(i) A summary of the objective, scope, and operational context of the project.

(ii) An identification of the primary technologies and vendors used, including artificial intelligence models, cloud providers, cybersecurity platforms, and major software components.

(iii) A report on baseline and post-implementation performance and adoption metrics for the project, including (if applicable) with respect to—

(I) operational efficiency, such as reductions in processing time, staff hours, or error rates;

(II) user impact, such as improvements in end-user satisfaction scores and reliability;

(III) security posture, such as enhancements in threat detection, incident response time;

(IV) cost performance, including budgeted costs versus actual costs and projected cost savings or cost avoidance;

(V) interoperability and integration, including level of integration achieved with existing systems of the Department of State;

(VI) artificial intelligence (if applicable); and

(VII) adoption, including, if applicable—

(aa) an estimate of the percentage of eligible end-users actively using the system within the first 3, 6, and 12 months of deployment;

(bb) the proportion of staff trained to use the system;

(cc) the frequency and duration of use, disaggregated by bureau or geographic region if relevant;

(dd) summarized user feedback, including pain points and satisfaction ratings; and

(ee) a description of the status of deprecation or reduction in use of legacy systems, if applicable.

(iv) A description of key challenges encountered during implementation and any mitigation strategies employed.

(v) A summary of contracting or acquisition strategies used, including information on how the vendor or development team supported change management and adoption, including user testing, stakeholder engagement, and phased rollout.

(B) For any project where adoption metrics fell below 50 percent of estimated usage within 6 months of launch:

(i) A remediation plan with specific steps to improve adoption, including retraining, user experience improvements, or outreach.

(ii) An assessment of whether rollout should be paused or modified.

(iii) Any plans for iterative development based on feedback from employees.

(3) **PUBLIC SUMMARY.**—Not later than 60 days after submitting a report required by paragraph (1) to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary of State shall publish an unclassified summary of the report on the publicly accessible website of the Department of State, consistent with national security interests.

(c) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE EVALUATION.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(1) evaluating—

(A) the extent to which the Department has implemented and reported on technology transformation projects in accordance with the requirements under this section;

(B) the effectiveness and reliability of the Department's performance and adoption metrics for such projects;

(C) whether such projects have met intended goals related to operational efficiency, security, cost-effectiveness, user adoption, and modernization of legacy systems; and

(D) the adequacy of oversight mechanisms in place to ensure the responsible deployment of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies; and

(2) including any recommendations to improve the Department's management, implementation, or evaluation of technology transformation efforts.

SEC. 5305. COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a national security need for the legitimate and responsible procurement and application of cyber intrusion capabilities, including efforts related to counterterrorism, counternarcotics, and countertrafficking;

(2) the growing commercial market for sophisticated cyber intrusion capabilities has enhanced state and non-state actors' abilities to target and track for nefarious purposes individuals, such as journalists, human rights defenders, members of civil society groups, members of ethnic or religious minority groups, and others for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, or the family members of these targeted individuals;

(3) the proliferation of commercial spyware presents significant and growing risks to United States national security, including to the safety and security of United States Government personnel; and

(4) ease of access into and lack of transparency in the commercial spyware market raises the probability of spreading potentially destructive or disruptive cyber capabilities to a wider range of malicious actors.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to oppose the misuse of commercial spyware to target individuals, including journalists, defenders of internationally recognized human rights, and members of civil society groups, members of ethnic or religious minority groups, and others for exercising their internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, or the family members of these targeted individuals;

(2) to coordinate with allies and partners to prevent the export of commercial spyware tools to end-users likely to use them for malicious activities;

(3) to maintain robust information-sharing with trusted allies and partners on commercial spyware proliferation and misuse, including to better identify and track these tools; and

(4) to work with private industry to identify and counter the abuse and misuse of commercial spyware technology; and

(5) to work with allies and partners to establish robust guardrails to ensure that the use of commercial spyware tools are consistent with respect for internationally recognized human rights, and the rule of law.

SEC. 5306. REVIEW OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) **SECURITY REVIEW.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal science agencies and the intelligence community, shall conduct a security review of the United States-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement (STA). The review shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment of the potential risks of maintaining the STA, including the transfer under such agreement of technology or intellectual property capable of harming the national security interests of the United States.

(2) An assessment of the Secretary of State's ability to monitor compliance of the People's Republic of China's commitments established under the STA.

(3) An evaluation of the benefits of the STA agreement to the economy, military, and industrial base of the People's Republic of China and the United States.

(4) An evaluation of the value of the information and data the United States Government receives under the STA related to the People's Republic of China that the United States otherwise would not have access to should it withdraw its participation in the STA.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after completion of the review of the STA required in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the findings of the review. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate committees of Congress whether it is in the national security interest of the United States to maintain its participation in the STA through its current duration.

(d) **GUIDANCE.**—If Secretary certifies that it is no longer in the national security interest of the United States to maintain its participation in the STA, the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days after submitting the certification, and in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, promulgate guidance on United States Federal agency interactions with counterpart agencies in the People's Republic of China.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science and Technology, and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(3) STA.—The term “STA” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed at Washington January 31, 1979, its protocols, and any implementing agreements entered into pursuant to such Agreement on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE LXIV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 5401. FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with other relevant agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive strategy to combat foreign information manipulation and interference, which shall be carried out by the Department.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) Conducting analysis of foreign state and non-state actors’ foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating from United States nation-state adversaries, including the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, North Korea, and Iran.

(2) Working together with allies and partners to expose and counter foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating in the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, North Korea, and Iran.

(3) Supporting non-state actors abroad, including independent media and civil society groups, which are working to expose and counter foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating in the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, North Korea, or Iran.

(4) Coordinating efforts to expose and counter foreign information manipulation and interference across Federal departments and agencies.

(5) Protecting the First Amendment rights of United States citizens.

(6) Creating guardrails to ensure the Department of State does not provide grants to organizations engaging in partisan political activity in the United States.

(c) COORDINATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be led and implemented by the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in coordination with relevant bureaus and offices at the Department of State.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

(1) actions the Department has taken to preserve the institutional capability to counter foreign nation-state influence operations from the People’s Republic of China, Iran, and the Russian Federation since the termination of the Counter Foreign Informa-

tion Manipulation and Interference (R/FIMI) hub;

(2) a list of active and cancelled Countering PRC Influence Fund (CPIF) and Countering Russian Influence Fund (CRIF) projects since January 21, 2025;

(3) actions the Department has taken to improve Department grantmaking processes related to countering foreign influence operations from nation-state adversaries; and

(4) an assessment of recent foreign adversarial information operations and narratives related to United States foreign policy since January 21, 2025, from the People’s Republic of China, Iran, and the Russian Federation.

(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5402. LIFTING THE PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR WORLD’S FAIR PAVILIONS AND EXHIBITS.

Section 204 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b) is hereby repealed.

TITLE LXV—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

SEC. 5501. REPORT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONSULAR OFFICERS JOINING COAST GUARD AND NAVY MISSIONS TO PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Pacific island countries, especially, but not limited to, the Freely Associated States, include close United States partners located across highly strategic waters critical for United States national security; and

(2) it is in the national security interests of the United States to maintain and strengthen relations with the governments and the citizens of Pacific island countries.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, the Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the Chief of Naval Operations, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report analyzing the feasibility of attaching Department of State consular officers to Coast Guard and Navy missions in the Pacific Island countries.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the current demand for consular services from citizens of Pacific Island countries and challenges that these citizens face in obtaining services;

(B) an assessment of the approximate value, including in time and resources saved, such an initiative could save citizens of Pacific Island countries that do not host United States embassies to have their United States visas adjudicated or to receive other services;

(C) an assessment of the cost for the Department of State, United States Coast Guard, United States Indo-Pacific Command, and United States Navy, including potential alternative cost-effective options and recommendations for providing consular services to Pacific Island countries;

(D) an assessment of the frequency and duration of United States Coast Guard and United States Navy deployments to Pacific Island countries, including—

(i) deployment frequency measured against desired number of visits;

(ii) amount of time typically spent in port for such visits; and

(iii) disruption to planned United States Coast Guard and United States Navy missions in order to visit locations needing consular assistance; and

(E) an evaluation of the logistical issues to be addressed including, including—

(i) analysis of spacing requirements to host Department of State personnel and equipment aboard United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels;

(ii) analysis of the information technology and connectivity requirements to conduct consular affairs activities;

(iii) the feasibility of printing visas aboard United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels;

(iv) maintaining physical security of consular officers and relevant adjudication equipment, including computer systems and visa foils, during such missions;

(v) impacts to United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels’ operations and security; and

(vi) the estimated amount of time that consular officers would spend on board United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels between visits to Pacific Island countries.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5502. REPORT ON SECURITY CONDITIONS IN DAMASCUS, SYRIA, REQUIRED FOR THE REOPENING OF THE UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has a national security interest in a stable Syria free from the malign influence of Russia and Iran, and which cannot be used by terrorist organizations to launch attacks against the United States or United States allies or partners in the region.

(2) Permissive security conditions are necessary for the reopening of any diplomatic mission.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the Syrian government’s progress towards meeting the security related benchmarks described in paragraph (2).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) An assessment of the Syrian government’s progress on counterterrorism especially as it relates to United States designated terrorist organizations that threaten to attack the United States or our allies and partners.

(B) An assessment of the security environment of the potential sites for a future building of the United States Embassy in Damascus and the conditions necessary for resuming embassy operations in Damascus.

(C) An analysis of the Syrian government’s progress in identifying and destroying any remnants of the Assad regime’s chemical

weapons program, including any stockpiles, production facilities, or related sites.

(D) An assessment of the Syrian government's destruction of the Assad regime's captagon and other illicit drug stockpiles, to include infrastructure.

(E) An assessment of the Syrian government's relationship with the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, to include access, basing, overflight, economic relationships, and impacts on United States national security objectives.

(F) A description of the Syrian government's cooperation with the United States to locate and repatriate United States citizens.

(C) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5503. EMBASSIES, CONSULATES, AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC INSTALLATIONS RETURN TO STANDARDS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes the impacts of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's initiative known as “Return to Standards” on the security needs of United States embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations outside the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall describe the impacts of the Return to Standards initiative and other reductions in staffing and resources from the beginning of the initiative to the date of enactment of this Act for all embassies, consulates, and other overseas diplomatic installations, including detailed descriptions and explanations of all reductions of personnel or other resources, including their effects on—

- (1) securing facilities and perimeters;
- (2) transporting United States personnel into the foreign country; and
- (3) executing any other relevant operations for which they are responsible.

(C) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5504. VISA OPERATIONS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on visa backlogs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall address—

(1) the status of visa backlogs and wait times, including internal and external recommendations to streamline and improve consular processes, as required by the joint exploratory statement for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), including the rationale and justification for the implementation of each such recommendation;

(2) the impact of reductions in force on improvement of the overall efficiency of con-

sular operations, processing time, and customer experience for applicants;

(3) the extent to which non-consular Department personnel have been used to improve the overall efficiency of consular operations, processing time, and customer experience for applicants during periods of high demand;

(4) the viability of temporarily assigning non-consular Department personnel during periods of high demand; and

(5) in consultation with any other appropriate Department, an evaluation of the impact of the visa backlogs on the United States tourism industry and recommendations for how to remediate those impacts.

(C) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5505. REAUTHORIZATION OF OVERTIME PAY FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

Section 6232(g) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118-31; 5 U.S.C. 5547 note) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2027”.

TITLE LXVI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 5551. SUBMISSION OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 30 days after receiving a report or other written product provided to the Department by federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs) and consultant groups that were supported by funds congressionally appropriated to the Department, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate committees the report or written product, including the original proposal for the report, the amount provided by the Department to the FFRDC, and a detailed description of the value the Department derived from the report.

SEC. 5552. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC POUCH ACCESS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter for the next 3 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) a list of every overseas United States diplomatic post where diplomatic pouch access is restricted or limited by the host government;

(2) an explanation as to why, in each instance where an overseas United States diplomatic post is restricted or limited by the host government, the host government has failed to do so; and

(3) a detailed explanation outlining the steps the Department is taking to gain diplomatic pouch access in each instance where such access has been restricted or limited by the host government.

SEC. 5553. REPORT ON UTILITY OF INSTITUTING A PROCESSING FEE FOR ITAR LICENSE APPLICATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the feasibility and effect of establishing an export licensing fee system for the commercial export of defense items and services to partially or fully finance the licensing costs of the Department, if permitted by statute. The report should consider whether and to what degree such an export license application fee system would be preferable to relying solely on the existing registration fee system and the feasibility of a tiered system of fees, considering such options as volume per applicant over

time and discounted fees for small businesses.

SEC. 5554. HAVANA ACT PAYMENT FIX.

Section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b) is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2016” each place it appears and inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “of a” and inserting “of an”.

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Payments under subsections (a) and (b) in a fiscal year may only be made using amounts appropriated in advance specifically for payments under such paragraph in such fiscal year.

“(B) MATTER OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under subsections (a) and (b) using amounts appropriated for such purpose shall be made on a first come, first serve, or pro rata basis.

“(C) AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS.—The total amount of funding obligated for payments under subsections (a) and (b) may not exceed the amount specifically appropriated for providing payments under such paragraph during its period of availability.”.

SEC. 5555. ESTABLISHING AN INNER MONGOLIA SECTION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BEIJING.

(a) INNER MONGOLIA SECTION IN UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BEIJING, CHINA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary should consider establishing an Inner Mongolian team within the United States Embassy in Beijing, China, to follow political, economic, and social developments in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and other areas designated by the People's Republic of China as autonomous for Mongolians, with due consideration given to hiring Southern Mongolians as Locally Employed Staff.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Responsibilities of a team devoted to Inner Mongolia should include reporting on internationally recognized human rights issues, monitoring developments in critical minerals mining, environmental degradation, and PRC space capabilities, and access to areas designated as autonomous for Mongolians by United States Government officials, journalists, non-governmental organizations, and the Southern Mongolian diaspora.

(3) LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary should ensure that the Department of State has sufficient proficiency in Mongolian language in order to carry out paragraph (1), and that the United States Embassy in Beijing, China, has sufficient resources to hire Local Employed Staff proficient in the Mongolian language, as appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the staffing described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5556. REPORT ON UNITED STATES MISSION AUSTRALIA STAFFING.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Australia is one of the closest allies of the United States and integral to United States national security interests in the Indo-Pacific;

(2) the United States-Australia alliance has seen tremendous growth, including through AUKUS, as part of which, the United States plans to rotate up to four Virginia-class attack submarines out of the Australian port of Perth by 2027; and

(3) current United States staffing and facilities across United States Mission Australia do not appear adequately resourced to

support an expanding mission set and are no longer commensurate with strategic developments, as the United States will need to station many more United States civilian and military personnel in western Australia to support the maintenance and supply of these vessels.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding staffing and facility requirements at United States Mission Australia.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of how many United States civilian and military personnel and their dependents the Department of State expects in the Perth area and across Australia in the next two years;

(B) an assessment of what requirements those United States personnel will have, including housing, schooling, and office space;

(C) a description of how many United States personnel are currently working in the United States Consulate in Perth and their roles;

(D) information regarding the Department of State's actions to transfer United States personnel from elsewhere within Mission Australia to increase staffing in Perth and the tradeoffs of such personnel moves;

(E) a status update on the interagency process begun in 2024 to assess the needs of Mission Australia;

(F) an assessment of the impact of the Department of State reorganization and workforce reduction on the staffing contemplated by that process; and

(G) an estimated total cost of expanding Perth staffing to sufficiently serve the increased presence of United States personnel in the area and to achieve any other United States foreign policy objectives.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5557. FACILITATING REGULATORY EXCHANGES WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, should establish and develop a voluntary program to facilitate and encourage regular dialogues between interested United States Government regulatory and technical agencies and their counterpart organizations in allied and partner countries, both bilaterally and in relevant multilateral institutions and organizations—

(1) to promote best practices in regulatory formation and implementation;

(2) to collaborate to achieve optimal regulatory outcomes based on scientific, technical, and other relevant principles;

(3) to seek better harmonization and alignment of regulations and regulatory practices; and

(4) to build consensus around industry and technical standards in emerging sectors that will drive future global economic growth and commerce.

(b) **PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES.**—In facilitating expert exchanges under subsection (a), the Secretary should prioritize—

(1) bilateral coordination and collaboration with countries where greater regulatory coherence, harmonization of standards, or communication and dialogue between technical agencies is achievable and best advances the economic and national security interests of the United States;

(2) multilateral coordination and collaboration where greater regulatory coherence, harmonization of standards, or dialogue on other relevant regulatory matters is achievable and best advances the economic and national security interests of the United States, including with the members of—

(A) the European Union;

(B) the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation;

(C) the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);

(D) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

(E) the Pacific Alliance; and

(F) multilateral development banks; and

(3) regulatory practices and standards-setting bodies focused on key economic sectors and emerging technologies.

(c) **PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.**—With regard to the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary may facilitate the participation of relevant organizations and individuals with relevant expertise, as appropriate and to the extent that such participation advances the goals of such program.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The authorities provided by this section are intended solely to provide United States embassy and related Department support for dialogues which may occur outside the United States, on a strictly voluntary basis and as agreed to by the relevant United States Federal department or agency with their foreign counterparts, and are not intended to obligate in any way the participation of any other Federal department or agency in such dialogues.

SEC. 5558. PILOT PROGRAM TO AUDIT BARRIERS TO COMMERCE IN DEVELOPING PARTNER COUNTRIES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal departments and agencies as determined by the Secretary, is authorized to establish a pilot program—

(1) to identify and evaluate barriers to commerce in developing countries that are allies and partners of the United States; and

(2) to provide assistance to promote economic development and commerce to those countries.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—Under the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, in partnership with the countries selected under subsection (c)(1)—

(1) seek to identify possible barriers in those countries that limit international commerce with the goal of setting priorities for the efficient use of United States economic assistance;

(2) focus relevant United States economic assistance on building self-sustaining institutional capacity for expanding commerce with those countries, consistent with their international obligations and commitments; and

(3) further the national interests of the United States by—

(A) expanding prosperity through the elimination of foreign barriers to commercial exchange;

(B) assisting such countries to identify and reduce commercial restrictions, including through the deployment of targeted foreign assistance, as appropriate, to increase international commerce and investment;

(C) assisting each selected country in undertaking reforms that will promote eco-

nomie growth, and promote conditions favorable for business and commercial development and job growth in the country; and

(D) assisting, as appropriate, private sector entities in those countries to engage in reform efforts and enhance productive global supply chain partnerships with the United States and allies and partners of the United States.

(c) **SELECTION OF COUNTRIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall select countries for participation in the pilot program established under subsection (a) from among developing countries—

(A) that are allies and partners of the United States;

(B) the governments of which have clearly demonstrated a willingness to make appropriate legal, policy, and regulatory reforms that may stimulate economic growth and job creation, consistent with international trade rules and practices; and

(C) that meet such additional criteria as may be established by the Secretary, in consultation with, as appropriate, the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as determined by the Secretary.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.**—In establishing additional criteria under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and address structural weaknesses, systemic flaws, or other impediments within countries that may be considered for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) that impact the effectiveness of United States assistance to and make recommendations for addressing those weaknesses, flaws, and impediments;

(B) set priorities for commercial development assistance that focus resources on countries where the provision of such assistance can deliver the best value in identifying and eliminating commercial barriers; and

(C) developing appropriate performance measures and establishing annual targets to monitor and assess progress toward achieving those targets, including measures to be used to terminate the provision of assistance determined to be ineffective.

(3) **NUMBER AND DEADLINE FOR SELECTIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary should select countries for participation in the pilot program.

(B) **NUMBER.**—The Secretary should select for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) not fewer than 3 countries during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) **PRIORITIZATION BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHIEFS OF MISSION.**—In selecting countries under paragraph (1) for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall prioritize—

(A) countries recommended by chiefs of mission—

(i) that will be able to substantially benefit from expanded commercial development assistance; and

(ii) the governments of which have demonstrated the political will to effectively and sustainably implement such assistance; or

(B) groups of countries, including groups of geographically contiguous countries, including as recommended by chiefs of mission, that meet the criteria under subparagraph (A) and as a result of expanded United States commercial development assistance, will contribute to greater intra-regional commerce or regional economic integration.

(d) **PLANS OF ACTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall lead in engaging relevant officials of each country selected under subsection (c)(1) to participate in the pilot program under subsection (a) with respect to the development

of a plan of action to identify and evaluate barriers to economic and commercial development that then informs United States assistance.

(2) **ANALYSIS REQUIRED.**—The development of a plan of action under paragraph (1) shall include a comprehensive analysis of relevant legal, policy, and regulatory constraints to economic and job growth in that country.

(3) **ELEMENTS.**—A plan of action developed under paragraph (1) for a country shall include the following:

(A) Priorities for reform.

(B) Clearly defined policy responses, including regulatory and legal reforms, as necessary, to achieve improvement in the business and commercial environment in the country.

(C) Identification of the anticipated costs to establish and implement the plan.

(D) Identification of appropriate sequencing and phasing of implementation of the plan to create cumulative benefits, as appropriate.

(E) Identification of best practices and standards.

(F) Considerations with respect to how to make the policy reform investments under the plan long-lasting.

(G) Appropriate consultation with affected stakeholders in that country and in the United States.

(e) **TERMINATION.**—The pilot program established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5559. STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERSIFICATION.

(a) **STRATEGY.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Secretary, shall develop, implement, and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a diplomatic strategy to support efforts to increase supply chain resiliency and security by promoting and strengthening efforts to incentivize the relocation of supply chains from the People's Republic of China.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be informed by consultations with the governments of allies and partners of the United States;

(2) provide a description of how supply chain diversification can be pursued in a complementary fashion to strengthen the national interests of the United States;

(3) include an assessment of—

(A) the status and effectiveness of current efforts by governments, multilateral development banks, and the private sector to attract investment by private entities who are seeking to diversify from reliance on the People's Republic of China;

(B) major challenges hindering those efforts; and

(C) how the United States can strengthen the effectiveness of those efforts;

(4) identify United States allies and partners with comparative advantages for sourcing and manufacturing critical goods and countries with the greatest opportunities and alignment with United States values;

(5) identify how activities by the International Trade Administration and other relevant Federal agencies, as determined by the Secretary, can effectively be leveraged to strengthen and promote supply chain diversification, including nearshoring to Latin America and the Caribbean as appropriate;

(6) advance diplomatic initiatives to secure specific national commitments by governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to undertake efforts to create favorable conditions for nearshoring in the region, including commitments—

(A) to develop formalized national strategies to attract investment from the United States;

(B) to address corruption and rule of law concerns;

(C) to modernize digital and physical infrastructure of these nations;

(D) to improve ease of doing business; and

(E) to finance and incentivize nearshoring initiatives that transfer supply chains from the People's Republic of China to the nations of the Americas;

(7) advance, in coordination with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, diplomatic initiatives towards mutually beneficial dialogues on standards and regulations; and

(8) in coordination with the International Trade Administration, develop and implement assistance programs to finance, incentivize, or otherwise promote supply chain diversification in accordance with the assessments and identifications made pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), including, at minimum, programs—

(A) to help develop physical and digital infrastructure;

(B) to promote transparency in procurement processes;

(C) to provide technical assistance in implementing national nearshoring strategies;

(D) to help mobilize private investment; and

(E) to pursue commitments by private sector entities to relocate supply chains from the People's Republic of China.

(c) **COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.**—In implementing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Secretary, should, as appropriate, cooperate with the World Bank Group and the regional development banks through the Secretary of the Treasury.

(d) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5560. EXTENSIONS.

(a) **SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND MEMBERS TO EVALUATE THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL TERMS OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACTS.**—Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p et seq.) is amended in section 1630(c) by striking “5-year period” and inserting “10-year period”.

(b) **INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUAL WAIVER.**—The authorities provided under section 1015(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-212; 124 Stat. 2332) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2031.

(c) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXPOS.**—Section 9601(b) of the Department of State Authorizations Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117-263; 136 Stat. 3909) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2023 and 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028”.

SEC. 5561. UPDATING COUNTERTERRORISM REPORTS.

Section 140(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(a)) is amended by striking “April 30” and inserting “October 31”.

SA 3831. Mr. GALLEGO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. INELIGIBILITY OF ASHLI BABBITT FOR MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS.

Ashli Babbitt shall be considered to be ineligible for military funeral honors under section 985 of title 10, United States Code. Her illegal actions of participating in the January 6, 2021 insurrection, including crawling through a broken window of a barricaded door leading to the House Speaker's Lobby, disqualify her from such honors.

SA 3832. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025

SEC. 1270. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

PART I—DEFINITIONS AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS

SEC. 1271. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1402 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (2), (5), (6), and (7), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(1) **ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRY.**—The term ‘advancing income country’, with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country the gross national income per capita of which at the start of such fiscal year is—

“(A) greater than the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development graduation process; and

“(B) is equal to or less than the per capita income threshold for classification as a high-income economy (as defined by the World Bank).”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(3) **COUNTRY OF CONCERN.**—The term ‘country of concern’ means any of the following countries:

“(A) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

“(B) The Republic of Cuba.

“(C) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

“(D) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

“(E) The People's Republic of China.

“(F) The Russian Federation.

“(G) Belarus.

“(4) HIGH-INCOME COUNTRY.—The term ‘high-income country’, with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country with a high-income economy (as defined by the World Bank) at the start of such fiscal year.”; and

(4) by striking paragraph (5), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(5) LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY.—The term ‘less developed country’, with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country the gross national income per capita of which at the start of such fiscal year is equal to or less than the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction Development graduation process.”.

SEC. 1272. LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS.

Section 1412 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9612) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “and countries in transition from nonmarket to market economies” and inserting “countries in transition from nonmarket to market economies, and other eligible foreign countries”; and

(B) by inserting “and national security” after “foreign policy”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

“(1) LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS.—The Corporation shall prioritize the provision of support under title II in less developed countries.

“(2) ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRIES.—The Corporation may provide support for a project under title II in an advancing income country if, before providing such support, the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees, that such support will be provided in accordance with the policy established pursuant to subsection (d)(2). Such certification may be included as an appendix to the report required by section 1446.

“(3) HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation may provide support for a project under title II in a high-income country if, before providing such support, the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such support will be provided in accordance with the policy established pursuant to subsection (d)(3). Such certification may be included as an appendix to the report required by section 1446.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, and annually thereafter, the Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which may be submitted in classified or confidential form, that includes—

“(i) a list of all high-income countries in which the Corporation anticipates providing support in the subsequent fiscal year (and, with respect to the first such report, the then-current fiscal year); and

“(ii) to the extent practicable, a description of the type of projects anticipated to receive such support.

“(C) PROJECTS IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES NOT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IN REPORT.—The Corporation may not provide support for a project in a high-income country in any year for which that high-income country is not included on the list required by subparagraph (B)(i), unless, not later than 15 days before final management approval, the Corporation consults with and submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification describing how the proposed project advances the foreign policy interests of the United States.

“(d) STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS POLICY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish policies, which shall be applied on a project-by-project basis, to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects and investments in advancing income countries and high-income countries.

“(2) INVESTMENT POLICY FOR ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRIES.—Any policy used to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects in an advancing income country shall require that such projects—

“(A) advance—

“(i) the national security interests of the United States in accordance with United States foreign policy, as determined by the Secretary of State; or

“(ii) significant strategic economic competitiveness imperatives;

“(B) are designed in a manner to produce significant developmental outcomes or provide developmental impacts to the poorest populations of such country; and

“(C) are structured in a manner that maximizes private capital mobilization.

“(3) INVESTMENT POLICY FOR HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.—Any policy used to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects in high-income countries shall require that—

“(A) each such project meets the requirements described in paragraph (2);

“(B) with respect to each project in a high-income country—

“(i) private sector entities have been afforded an opportunity to support the project on viable terms in place of support by the Corporation; and

“(ii) such support does not exceed more than 25 percent of the total cost of the project;

“(C) with respect to support for all projects in all high-income countries, the aggregate amount of such support does not exceed 8 percent of the total contingent liability of the Corporation outstanding as of the date on which any such support is provided in a high-income country; and

“(D) the Chief Executive Officer submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which may be submitted as an appendix to a report required by section 1446, that—

“(i) certifies that the Corporation has applied the policy to each supported project in a high-income country; and

“(ii) describes whether such support—

“(I) is a preferred alternative to state-directed investments by a foreign country of concern; or

“(II) otherwise furthers the strategic interest of the United States to counter or limit the influence of foreign countries of concern.

“(e) INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—The Corporation shall not provide support for a project in a country of concern.

“(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the Corporation should continuously operate in a manner that advances its core mission and purposes, as described in this title; and

“(2) resources of the Corporation should not be diverted for domestic or other activities extending beyond the scope of such mission and purpose.”.

PART II—MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION

SEC. 1273. STRUCTURE OF CORPORATION.

Section 1413(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(a)) is amended by inserting “a Chief Strategic Investment Officer,” after “Chief Development Officer.”.

SEC. 1274. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(iii), by striking “5 individuals” each place it appears and inserting “3 individuals”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) SUNSHINE ACT COMPLIANCE.—Meetings of the Board are subject to section 552b of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Government in the Sunshine Act’).”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Board shall—

“(1) hold at least 2 public hearings each year in order to afford an opportunity for any person to present views with respect to whether—

“(A) the Corporation is carrying out its activities in accordance with this division; and

“(B) any support provided by the Corporation under title II in any country should be suspended, expanded, or extended;

“(2) as necessary and appropriate, provide responses to the issues and questions discussed during each such hearing following the conclusion of the hearing;

“(3) post the minutes from each such hearing on a website of the Corporation and, consistent with applicable laws related to privacy and the protection of proprietary business information, the responses to issues and questions discussed in the hearing; and

“(4) implement appropriate procedures to ensure the protection from unlawful disclosure of the proprietary information submitted by private sector applicants marked as business confidential information unless—

“(A) the party submitting the confidential business information waives such protection or consents to the release of the information; or

“(B) to the extent some form of such protected information may be included in official documents of the Corporation, a nonconfidential form of the information may be provided, in which the business confidential information is summarized or deleted in a manner that provides appropriate protections for the owner of the information.”.

SEC. 1275. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Section 1413(d)(3) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(d)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) RELATIONSHIP TO BOARD.—The Chief Executive Officer shall—

“(A) report to and be under the direct authority of the Board; and

“(B) take input from the Board when assessing the performance of the Chief Risk Officer, established pursuant to subsection (f), the Chief Development Officer, established pursuant to subsection (g), and the Chief Strategic Investment Officer, established pursuant to subsection (h).”.

SEC. 1276. CHIEF RISK OFFICER.

Section 1413(f) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “who—” and inserting “who shall be removable only by a majority vote of the Board.”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Risk Officer shall—

“(A) report directly to the Chief Executive Officer;

“(B) support the risk committee of the Board established under section 1441 in carrying out its responsibilities as set forth in subsection (b) of that section, including by—

“(i) developing, implementing, and managing a comprehensive framework and process for identifying, assessing, and monitoring risk;

“(ii) developing a transparent risk management framework designed to evaluate risks to the Corporation’s overall portfolio, giving due consideration to the policy imperatives of ensuring investment and regional diversification of the Corporation’s overall portfolio;

“(iii) assessing the Corporation’s overall risk tolerance, including recommendations for managing and improving the Corporation’s risk tolerance and regularly advising the Board on recommended steps the Corporation may take to responsibly increase risk tolerance; and

“(iv) regularly collaborating with the Chief Development Officer and the Chief Strategic Investments Officer to ensure the Corporation’s overall portfolio is appropriately balancing risk tolerance with development and strategic impact.”.

SEC. 1277. CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

Section 1413(g) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “in development” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through “shall be” subparagraph (B) and inserting “in international development and development finance, who shall be”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “AND RESPONSIBILITIES” after “DUTIES”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), and (I), respectively;

(C) by inserting before subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) advise the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on international development policy matters and report directly to the Chief Executive Officer;

“(B) in addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, represent the Corporation in interagency meetings and processes relating to international development;

“(C) work with other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify projects that advance United States international development interests;”;

(D) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking “United States Government” and all that follows and inserting “Federal departments and agencies, including by directly liaising with the relevant members of United States country teams serving overseas, to ensure that such Federal departments, agencies, and country teams have the training and awareness necessary to fully leverage the Corporation’s development tools overseas;”;

(E) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “under the guidance of the Chief Executive Officer;”;

(ii) by inserting “the development impact of Corporation transactions, including” after “evaluating”; and

(iii) by striking “United States Government” and inserting “Federal”;

(F) by striking subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(F) coordinate implementation of funds or other resources transferred to and from such Federal departments, agencies, or overseas country teams in support of the Corporation’s international development projects or activities;”;

(G) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by inserting “manage the reporting responsibilities of the Corporation under” after “1442(b) and”;;

(H) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(I) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (j)”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(J) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(J) oversee implementation of the Corporation’s development impact strategy and work to ensure development impact at the transaction level and portfolio-wide;

“(K) foster and maintain relationships both within and external to the Corporation that enhance the capacity of the Corporation to achieve its mission to advance United States international development policy and interests;

“(L) coordinate within the Corporation to ensure United States international development policy and interests are considered together with the Corporation’s foreign policy and national security goals; and

“(M) coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies to explore investment opportunities that bring evidence-based, cost effective development innovations to scale in a manner that can be sustained by markets.”.

SEC. 1278. CHIEF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OFFICER.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) CHIEF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OFFICER.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to the approval of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a Chief Strategic Investment Officer, from among individuals with experience in United States national security matters and foreign investment, who shall be removable only by a majority vote of the Board.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Chief Strategic Investment Officer shall—

“(A) advise the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on national security and foreign policy matters and report directly to the Chief Executive Officer;

“(B) in addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, represent the Corporation in interagency meetings and processes relating to United States national security and foreign policy;

“(C) coordinate efforts to develop the Corporation’s strategic investment initiatives—

“(i) to counter predatory state-directed investment and coercive economic practices of adversaries of the United States;

“(ii) to preserve the sovereignty of partner countries; and

“(iii) to advance economic growth and national security through the highest standards of transparency, accessibility, and competition;

“(D) provide input into the establishment of performance measurement frameworks and reporting on development outcomes of strategic investments, consistent with sections 1442 and 1443;

“(E) work with other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify projects that advance United States national security and foreign policy priorities, including by complementing United States domestic in-

vestments in critical and emerging technologies;

“(F) manage employees of the Corporation that are dedicated to ensuring that the Corporation’s activities advance United States national security and foreign policy interests, including through—

“(i) long-term strategic planning;

“(ii) issue and crisis management;

“(iii) the advancement of strategic initiatives; and

“(iv) strategic planning on how the Corporation’s foreign investments may complement United States domestic production of critical and emerging technologies;

“(G) foster and maintain relationships both within and external to the Corporation that enhance the capacity of the Corporation to achieve its mission to advance United States national security and foreign policy interests; and

“(H) collaborate with the Chief Development Officer to ensure United States national security interests are considered together with the Corporation’s development policy goals.”.

SEC. 1279. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Section 1413(i) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(i)), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, officers, employees, and agents shall be selected and appointed by, or under the authority of, the Chief Executive Officer, and shall be vested with such powers and duties as the Chief Executive Officer may determine.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “50” and inserting “70”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and such positions shall be reserved for individuals meeting the expert qualifications established by the Corporation’s qualification review board” after “United States Code”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “, provided that no such officer or employee may be compensated at a rate exceeding level II of the Executive Schedule” after “respectively”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(C) by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (j)”.

SEC. 1280. DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY FINANCE COUNCIL.

Section 1413(j) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(j)), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Development Advisory Finance Council (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Council’) that shall advise the Board and the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group established by subsection (k) on the development priorities and objectives of the Corporation.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Board, on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, and shall be composed of not more than 9 members broadly representative of non-governmental organizations, think tanks, advocacy organizations, foundations, private industry, and other institutions engaged in international development finance, of whom not fewer than 5 members shall be experts from the international development and humanitarian assistance sector.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) BOARD MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet with the Council at least twice each

year and engage directly with the Board on its recommendations to improve the policies and practices of the Corporation to achieve the development priorities and objectives of the Corporation.

“(5) ADMINISTRATION.—The Board shall—

“(A) prioritize maintaining the full membership and composition of the Council;

“(B) inform the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives when a vacancy of the Council occurs, including the date that the vacancy occurred; and

“(C) for any vacancy on the Council that remains for 120 days or more, submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives explaining why a vacancy is not being filled and provide an update on progress made toward filling such vacancy, including a reasonable estimation for when the Board expects to have the vacancy filled.”.

SEC. 1281. STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, there shall be established a Congressional Strategic Advisory Group (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Group’), which shall meet not less frequently than annually, including after the budget of the President submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The Group shall be composed of the following:

“(A) The Chief Executive Officer.

“(B) The Chief Development Officer.

“(C) The Chief Strategic Investment Officer.

“(D) The Strategic Advisors of the Senate, as described in paragraph (3)(A).

“(E) The Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives, as described in paragraph (3)(B).

“(3) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE SENATE.—

“(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a group to be known as the ‘Strategic Advisors of the Senate’.

“(ii) COMPOSITION.—The group established by clause (i) shall be composed of the following:

“(I) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, who shall serve as chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate.

“(II) The ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate.

“(III) Not more than 6 additional individuals who are members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, designated by the chair, with the consent of the ranking member.

“(B) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a group to be known as the ‘Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives’.

“(ii) COMPOSITION.—The group established by clause (i) shall be composed of the following:

“(I) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House.

“(II) The ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of

Representatives, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House.

“(III) Not more than 6 additional individuals who are members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, designated by the chair, with the consent of the ranking member.

“(4) OBJECTIVES.—The Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Development Officer, and the Chief Strategic Investment Officer of the Corporation shall consult with the Strategic Advisors of the Senate and the Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives established under paragraph (3) in order to solicit and receive congressional views and advice on the strategic priorities and investments of the Corporation, including—

“(A) the challenges presented by adversary countries to the national security interests of the United States and strategic objectives of the Corporation’s investments;

“(B) priority regions, countries, and sectors that require focused consideration for strategic investment;

“(C) the priorities and trends pursued by similarly-situated development finance institutions of friendly nations, including opportunities for partnerships, complementarity, or co-investment;

“(D) evolving methods of financing projects, including efforts to partner with public sector and private sector institutional investors;

“(E) institutional or policy changes required to improve efficiencies within the Corporation; and

“(F) potential legislative changes required to improve the Corporation’s performance in meeting strategic and development imperatives.

“(5) MEETINGS.—

“(A) TIMES.—The chair and the vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate and the chair and the vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives shall determine the meeting times of the Group, which may be arranged separately or on a bicameral basis by agreement.

“(B) AGENDA.—Not later than 7 days before each meeting of the Group, the Chief Executive Officer shall submit a proposed agenda for discussion to the chair and the vice-chair of each strategic advisory group referred to in subparagraph (A).

“(C) QUESTIONS.—To ensure a robust flow of information, members of the Group may submit questions for consideration before any meeting. A question submitted orally or in writing shall receive a response not later than 15 days after the conclusion of the first meeting convened wherein such question was asked or submitted in writing.

“(D) CLASSIFIED SETTING.—At the request of the Chief Executive Officer or the chair and vice-chair of a strategic advisory group established under paragraph (3), business of the Group may be conducted in a classified setting, including for the purpose of protecting business confidential information and to discuss sensitive information with respect to foreign competitors.”.

SEC. 1282. FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) BIENNIAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN.—

“(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Based upon guidance received from the Group established pursuant to section 1413(k), the Chief Executive Officer shall develop a Strategic Priorities Plan, which shall provide—

“(A) guidance for the Corporation’s strategic investments portfolio and the identification and engagement of priority stra-

tegic investment sectors and regions of importance to the United States; and

“(B) justifications for the certifications of such investments in accordance with section 1412(c).

“(2) EVALUATIONS.—The Strategic Priorities Plan should determine the objectives and goals of the Corporation’s strategic investment portfolio by evaluating economic, security, and geopolitical dynamics affecting United States strategic interests, including—

“(A) determining priority countries, regions, sectors, and related administrative actions;

“(B) plans for the establishment of regional offices outside of the United States;

“(C) identifying countries where the Corporation’s support—

“(i) is necessary;

“(ii) would be the preferred alternative to state-directed investments by foreign countries of concern; or

“(iii) otherwise furthers the strategic interests of the United States to counter or limit the influence of foreign countries of concern;

“(D) evaluating the interest and willingness of potential private finance institutions and private sector project implementers to partner with the Corporation on strategic investment projects; and

“(E) identifying bilateral and multilateral project finance partnership opportunities for the Corporation to pursue with United States partner and ally countries.

“(3) REVISIONS.—At any time during the relevant period, the Chief Executive Officer may request to convene a meeting of the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group for the purpose of discussing revisions to the Strategic Priorities Plan.

“(4) TRANSPARENCY.—The Chief Executive Officer shall publish, on a website of the Corporation—

“(A) descriptions of entities that may be eligible to apply for support from the Corporation;

“(B) procedures for applying for products offered by the Corporation; and

“(C) any other appropriate guidelines and compliance restrictions with respect to designated strategic priorities.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Corporation, during the 2-year period beginning on October 1, 2025, should consider—

(1) advancing secure supply chains to meet the critical minerals needs of the United States and its allies and partners;

(2) making investments to promote and secure the telecommunications sector, particularly undersea cables; and

(3) establishing, maintaining, and supporting regional offices outside the United States for the purpose of identifying and supporting priority investment opportunities.

SEC. 1283. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE EDUCATION.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DEVELOPMENT FINANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, the Secretary of State, acting through the Director of the Foreign Service Institute and in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, shall conduct a review and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the utility of establishing elective training classes or programs on development finance within the

School of Professional and Area Studies for all levels of the foreign service.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a description of how a proposed class would be structured to ensure an appropriate level of training in development finance, including descriptions of—

“(A) the potential benefits and challenges of development finance as a component of United States foreign policy in promoting development outcomes and in promoting United States interests in advocating for the advancement of free-market principles;

“(B) the operations of the Corporation, generally, and a comparative analysis of similarly situated development finance institutions, both bilateral and multilateral;

“(C) how development finance can further the foreign policies of the United States, generally;

“(D) the anticipated foreign service consumers of any proposed classes on development finance;

“(E) the resources that may be required to establish such training classes, including through the use of detailed staff from the Corporation or temporary fellows brought in from the development finance community; and

“(F) other relevant issues, as determined by the Secretary of State and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation determines appropriate.”.

SEC. 1284. INTERNSHIPS.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) INTERNSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer shall establish the Development Finance Corporation Student Internship Program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Program’) to offer internship opportunities at the Corporation to eligible individuals to provide important professional development and work experience opportunities and raise awareness among future development and international finance professionals of the career opportunities at the Corporation and to supply important human capital for the implementation of the Corporation’s critically important development finance tools.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual is eligible to participate in the Program if the applicant—

“(A) is a United States citizen;

“(B) is enrolled at least half-time at—

“(i) an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a))); or

“(ii) an institution of higher education based outside the United States, as determined by the Secretary of State; and

“(C) satisfies such other qualifications as established by the Chief Executive Officer.

“(3) SELECTION.—The Chief Executive Officer shall establish selection criteria for individuals to be admitted into the Program that includes a demonstrated interest in a career in international relations and international economic development policy.

“(4) COMPENSATION.—

“(A) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—The Chief Executive Officer may provide housing assistance to an eligible individual participating in the Program whose permanent address is within the United States if the location of the internship in which such individual is participating is more than 50 miles away from such individual’s permanent address.

“(B) TRAVEL ASSISTANCE.—The Chief Executive Officer shall provide to an eligible individual participating in the Program, whose permanent address is within the United

States, financial assistance that is sufficient to cover the travel costs of a single round trip by air, train, bus, or other appropriate transportation between the eligible individual’s permanent address and the location of the internship in which such eligible individual is participating if such location is—

“(i) more than 50 miles from the eligible individual’s permanent address; or

“(ii) outside of the United States.

“(5) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to compel any individual who is a participant in an internship program of the Corporation to participate in the collection of the data or divulge any personal information. Such individuals shall be informed that any participation in data collection under this subsection is voluntary.

“(B) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—Any data collected under this subsection shall be subject to the relevant privacy protection statutes and regulations applicable to Federal employees.

“(6) SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, with respect to the number of interns to be hired under this subsection each year, may—

“(A) select, appoint, and employ individuals for up to 1 year through compensated internships in the excepted service; and

“(B) remove any compensated intern employed pursuant to subparagraph (A) without regard to the provisions of law governing appointments in the competitive excepted service.

“(7) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Internships offered and compensated by the Corporation under this subsection shall be funded solely by available amounts appropriated after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025 to the Corporate Capital Account established under section 1434.”.

SEC. 1285. INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM.

Section 1415 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9614) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNCTIONS.—Not later than 90 days after enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, the Board shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees describing any efficiencies that may be gained through the consolidation of functions of the independent accountability mechanism under the authorities of the Office of the Inspector General of the Corporation under section 1414. The report shall include an outline as to how the Inspector General of the Corporation would develop an internal environmental, social, and governance expertise to adequately replace the independent accountability mechanism’s environmental, social, and governance expertise.”.

PART III—AUTHORITIES RELATING TO PROVISION OF SUPPORT

SEC. 1286. EQUITY INVESTMENT.

(a) CORPORATE EQUITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.—Section 1421(c) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) CORPORATE EQUITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the ‘Development Finance Corporate Equity Investment Account’ (referred to in this division as the ‘Equity Investment Account’), which shall be

administered by the Corporation as a revolving account to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(B) PURPOSE.—The Corporation shall—

“(i) manage the Equity Investment Account in ways that demonstrate a commitment to pursuing catalytic investments in less developed countries in accordance with section 1412(c)(1) and paragraph (1); and

“(ii) collect data and information about the use of the Equity Investment Account to inform the Corporation’s record of returns on investments and reevaluation of equity investment subsidy rates prior to the termination of the authorities provided under this title.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Equity Investment Account \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

“(D) OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS AND FUNDS.—Earnings and proceeds from the sale or redemption of, and fees, credits, and other collections from, the equity investments of the Corporation under the Equity Investment Account shall be retained and deposited into the Equity Investment Account and shall remain available to carry out this subsection without fiscal year limitation without further appropriation.

“(E) IMPACT QUOTIENT.—The Corporation shall ensure that at least 25 percent of its obligations from funds authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (C) or otherwise made available for the Fund for Corporation projects are rated as highly impactful on the Impact Quotient assessment developed pursuant to section 1442(b)(1).

“(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall alter the purposes for which the earnings and proceeds from the sale or redemption of, and fees, credits, and other collections from, the equity investments of the Corporation are assessed, collected, or expended under the Corporate Capital Account established by section 1434 or the Equity Investment Account established by subparagraph (A)”.

(b) GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA.—Section 1421(c)(3) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)(3)), is amended in subparagraph (C) by inserting “, localized workforces, and partner country economic security” after “markets”.

(c) LIMITATIONS ON EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—Section 1421(c)(4)(A) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)(4)(A)), by striking “30” and inserting “40”.

SEC. 1287. SPECIAL PROJECTS.

Section 1421 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—The Corporation may administer and manage special projects and programs in support of specific transactions undertaken by the Corporation—

“(1) for the provision of post-investment technical assistance for existing projects of the Corporation, including programs of financial and advisory support that provides private technical, professional, or managerial assistance in the development of Human Resources, skills, technology, or capital savings; or

“(2) subject to the nondelegable review and approval of the Board, to create holding companies or investment funds where the Corporation is the general partner, to provide international support that advance both the development objectives and foreign policy interests outlined in the purposes of this

division if, not later than 30 days prior to entering into an agreement or other arrangement to provide support pursuant to this section, the Chief Executive Officer—

“(A) notifies the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(B) includes in the notification required by subparagraph (A) a certification that such support—

“(i) is designed to meet an exigent need that is critical to the national security interests of the United States; and

“(ii) could not otherwise be secured utilizing the authorities under this section.”.

SEC. 1288. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Section 1422 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) The Corporation shall, with respect to providing any loan guaranty to a project, require the parties to the project to bear a risk of loss on the project in an amount equal to at least 20 percent of the amount of such guaranty. The Corporation shall continue to work with the President to streamline the process for securing waivers that would enable the Corporation to may guarantee up to 100 percent of the amount of a loan, provided that risk of loss in the project borne by the parties to the project is equal to at least 20 percent of the guaranty amount.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT USURIOUS OR ABUSIVE LENDING BY INTERMEDIARIES.—

“(1) The Corporation shall ensure that terms, conditions, penalties, rules for collections practices, and other finance administration policies that govern Corporation-backed lending, guarantees and other financial instruments through intermediaries are consistent with industry best practices and the Corporation’s rules with respect to direct lending to its clients.

“(2) The Corporation shall develop required truth in lending rules, guidelines, and related implementing policies and practices to govern secondary lending through intermediaries and shall report such policies and practices to the appropriate committees not later than 180 days of enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, with annual updates, as needed, thereafter.

“(3) In developing such policies and practices required by paragraph (2), the Corporation shall—

“(A) take into account any particular vulnerabilities faced by potential applicants or recipients of micro-lending and other forms of micro-finance;

“(B) develop and apply, generally, rules and terms to ensure Corporation-backed lending through an intermediary does not carry excessively punitive or disproportionate penalties for customers in default;

“(C) ensure that such policies and practices include effective safeguards to prevent usurious or abusive lending by intermediaries, including in the provision of microfinance; and

“(D) ensure the intermediary includes in any lending contract an appropriate level of financial literacy to the borrower, including—

“(i) disclosures that fully explain to the customer both lender and customer rights and obligations under the contract in language that is accessible to the customer;

“(ii) the specific loan terms and tenure of the contract;

“(iii) any procedures and potential penalties or forfeitures in case of default;

“(iv) information on privacy and personal data protection; and

“(v) any other policies that the Corporation determines will further the goal of an informed borrower.

“(4) The Corporation shall establish appropriate auditing mechanisms to oversee and monitor secondary lending, provided through intermediaries in partner countries in each annual report to Congress required under paragraph (2), a summary of the results of such audits.”.

SEC. 1289. TERMINATION.

Section 1424(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9624) is amended by striking “the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “December 31, 2031”.

PART IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1290. OPERATIONS.

Section 1431 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9631) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the Corporation is obligated to consult with and collect input from current employees, on plans to substantially reorganize the Corporation prior to implementation of such plan; and

“(2) the Corporation should consider preference, experience and, when relevant, seniority, when reassigning existing employees to new areas of work.”.

SEC. 1291. CORPORATE POWERS.

Section 1432(a)(10) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9632(a)(10)) is amended by striking “until the expiration of the current lease under predecessor authority, as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act”.

SEC. 1292. MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.

Section 1433 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9633) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1433. MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The maximum contingent liability of the Corporation outstanding at any one time shall not exceed in the aggregate \$200,000,000,000.

“(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The maximum contingent liability shall apply to all extension of liability by the Corporation regardless of the authority cited thereto.”.

SEC. 1293. PERFORMANCE MEASURES, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING.

Section 1442 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9652) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “to be known as the Corporation’s Impact Quotient, which shall—

“(A) serve as a metrics-based measurement system to assess a project’s expected outcomes and development impact on a country, a region, and populations throughout the sourcing, origination, management, monitoring, and evaluation stages of a project’s lifecycle;

“(B) enable the Corporation to assess development impact at both the project and portfolio level;

“(C) provide guidance on when to take appropriate corrective measures to further development goals throughout a project’s lifecycle; and

“(D) inform congressional notification requirements outlining the Corporation’s project development impacts;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “meth-

od for ensuring, appropriate development performance” and inserting “method for evaluating and documenting the development impacts”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) develop standards for, and a method for ensuring, appropriate monitoring of the Corporation’s compliance with environmental and social standards consistent with the guidance published by the Corporation following broad consultation with appropriate stakeholders to include civil society; and

“(6) develop standards for, and a method for ensuring, appropriate monitoring of the Corporation’s portfolio, including standards for ensuring employees or agents of the Corporation identify and conduct in-person site visits of each high-risk loan, loan guarantee, and equity project, as necessary and appropriate, after the initial disbursement of funds.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(3) by inserting the following after subsection (b):

“(c) REQUIRED PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.—At any meeting of the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group, the Corporation shall be prepared discuss the standards developed in subsection (b) for all ongoing projects.”; and

(4) by inserting at the end the following:

“(f) STAFFING FOR PORTFOLIO OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CAPACITY.—The Corporation shall maintain an adequate number of full-time personnel with appropriate expertise to fulfill its obligations under this section and section 1443, including—

“(A) monitoring and evaluating the financial performance of the Corporation’s portfolio;

“(B) evaluating the development and strategic impact of investments throughout the program lifecycle;

“(C) preparing required annual reporting on the Corporation’s portfolio of investments, including the information set forth in section 1443(a)(6); and

“(D) monitoring for compliance with all applicable laws and ethics requirements.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Personnel assigned to carry out the obligations described in paragraph (1) shall possess demonstrable professional experience in relevant areas, such as development finance, financial analysis, investment portfolio management, monitoring and evaluation, impact measurement, or legal and ethics expertise.

“(3) ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.—The Corporation shall maintain such personnel within 1 or more dedicated units or offices, which shall—

“(A) be functionally independent from investment origination teams;

“(B) be managed by senior staff who report to the Chief Executive Officer or Deputy Chief Executive Officer; and

“(C) be allocated resources sufficient to fulfill the Corporation’s obligations under this section and to support transparency and accountability to Congress and to the public.

“(4) INSULATION FROM REDUCTIONS.—The Corporation may not reduce the staffing, funding, or organizational independence of the units or personnel responsible for fulfilling the obligations under this section unless—

“(A) the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such reductions are necessary due to operational exigency, statutory change, or budgetary shortfall; and

“(B) the Corporation includes in its annual report a detailed explanation of the impact

of any such changes on its capacity to analyze and report on portfolio performance.”.

SEC. 1294. ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 1443 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9653) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

“(5) the United States strategic, foreign policy, and development objectives advanced through projects supported by the Corporation; and

“(6) the health of the Corporation’s portfolio, including an annual overview of funds committed, funds disbursed, default and recovery rates, capital mobilized, equity investments’ year on year returns, and any difference between how investments were modeled at commitment and how they ultimately performed; to include a narrative explanation explaining any changes.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) the desired development impact and strategic outcomes for projects, and whether or not the Corporation is meeting the associated metrics, goals, and development objectives, including, to the extent practicable, in the years after conclusion of projects;

“(B) whether the Corporation’s support for projects that focus on achieving strategic outcomes are achieving such strategic objectives of such investments over the duration of the support and lasting after the Corporation’s support is completed;

“(C) the value of private sector assets brought to bear relative to the amount of support provided by the Corporation and the value of any other public sector support;

“(D) the total private capital projected to be mobilized by projects supported by the Corporation during that year, including an analysis of the lenders and investors involved and investment instruments used;

“(E) the total private capital actually mobilized by projects supported by the Corporation that were fully funded by the end of that year, including—

“(i) an analysis of the lenders and investors involved and investment instruments used; and

“(ii) a comparison with the private capital projected to be mobilized for the projects described in this paragraph;

“(F) a breakdown of—

“(i) the amount and percentage of Corporation support provided to less developed countries, advancing income countries, and high-income countries in the previous fiscal year; and

“(ii) the amount and percentage of Corporation support provided to less developed countries, advancing income countries and high-income countries averaged over the last 5 fiscal years;

“(G) a breakdown of the aggregate amounts and percentage of the maximum contingent liability of the Corporation authorized to be outstanding pursuant to section 1433 in less developed countries, advancing income countries, and high-income countries;

“(H) the risk appetite of the Corporation to undertake projects in less developed countries and in sectors that are critical to development but less likely to deliver substantial financial returns; and

“(I) efforts by the Chief Executive Officer to incentivize calculated risk-taking by transaction teams, including through the conduct of development performance reviews

and provision of development performance rewards;”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) to the extent practicable, recommendations for measures that could enhance the strategic goals of projects to adapt to changing circumstances; and”.

SEC. 1295. PUBLICLY AVAILABLE PROJECT INFORMATION.

Section 1444 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9654) is amended in paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) maintain a user-friendly, publicly available, machine-readable database with detailed project-level information, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, including a description of the support provided by the Corporation under title II, which shall include, to the greatest extent feasible for each project—

“(A) the information included in the report to Congress under section 1443;

“(B) project-level performance metrics; and

“(C) a description of the development impact of the project, including anticipated impact prior to initiation of the project and assessed impact during and after the completion of the project; and”.

SEC. 1296. NOTIFICATIONS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION.

Section 1446 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9656) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “the Corporation’s impact quotient outlining” after “asset and”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) information relating to whether the Corporation has accepted a creditor status that is subordinate to that of other creditors in the project, activity, or asset; and

“(B) for all projects, activities, or assets that the Corporation has accepted a creditor status that is subordinate to that of other creditors the Corporation shall include a description of the substantive policy rationale required by section 1422(b)(12) that influenced the decision to accept such a creditor status.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—For every equity investment above \$10,000,000 that the Corporation enters into, the Corporation shall submit to Congress a notification that includes—

“(1) the information required by section (b); and

“(2) a plan for how the Corporation plans to use any Board seat the Corporation is entitled to as a result of such equity investment, including any individual the Corporation plans to appoint to the Board and how the Corporations plans to use such Board seat to further United States strategic goals.”.

SEC. 1297. LIMITATIONS AND PREFERENCES.

Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9671) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “5 percent” and inserting “2.5 percent”;

(2) in subsection (e)(3) by inserting “, consistent with international financial institution standards,” after “best practices”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES, ANTICOMPETITIVE PRACTICES, AND COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—

“(1) POLICY.—The Corporation shall develop appropriate policies and guidelines for support provided under title II for a project involving a state-owned enterprise, sovereign wealth fund, or a parastatal entity to ensure such support is provided consistent with appropriate principles and practices of competitive neutrality.

“(2) PROHIBITIONS.—

“(A) ANTICOMPETITIVE PRACTICES.—The Corporation may not provide support under title II for a project that involves a private sector entity engaged in anticompetitive practices.

“(B) COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—The Corporation may not provide support under title II for projects—

“(i) that involve partnerships with the government of a country of concern or a state-owned enterprise that belongs to or is under the control of a country of concern; or

“(ii) that would be operated, managed, or controlled by the government of a country of concern or a state-owned enterprise that belongs to or is under the control of a country of concern.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The President may waive the restriction under subparagraph (B)(i) on a project-by-project basis if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(i) a certification, which may be included as a classified or confidential annex to a report required by section 1446, that such support is important to the national security interests of the United States; and

“(ii) a written justification of how such support directly counters or significantly limits the influence of an entity described in such subparagraph.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISE.—The term ‘state-owned enterprise’ means any enterprise established for a commercial or business purpose that is directly owned or controlled by one or more governments, including any agency, instrumentality, subdivision, or other unit of government at any level of jurisdiction.

“(B) CONTROL.—The term ‘control’, with respect to an enterprise, means the power by any means to control the enterprise regardless of—

“(i) the level of ownership; and

“(ii) whether or not the power is exercised.

“(C) OWNED.—The term ‘owned’, with respect to an enterprise, means a majority or controlling interest, whether by value or voting interest, of the shares of that enterprise, including through fiduciaries, agents, or other means.”.

SEC. 1298. REPEAL OF EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY AND DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2019.

The European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019 (title XX of division P of Public Law 116-94; 22 U.S.C. 9501 note) is repealed.

SA 3833. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—INDIAN AFFAIRS**TITLE LI—WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE
MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE****SEC. 5101. WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **RESTRICTED FEE STATUS.**—The term “restricted fee status” means a status in which the Tribal land—

(A) shall continue to be owned by the Tribes;

(B) shall be part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and expressly made subject to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Oglala Sioux Tribe;

(C) shall not be transferred without the consent of Congress and the Tribes;

(D) shall not be subject to taxation by a State or local government; and

(E) shall not be subject to any provision of law providing for the review or approval by the Secretary of the Interior before the Tribes may use the land for any purpose as allowed by the document titled “Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe” and dated October 21, 2022, directly, or through agreement with another party.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **TRIBAL LAND.**—The term “Tribal land” means the approximately 40 acres (including the surface and subsurface estate, and mineral estate, and any and all improvements, structures, and personal property on those acres) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala Lakota County, at Rural County Road 4, Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and generally depicted as “Area of Interest” on the map entitled “Wounded Knee Sacred Site and Memorial Land” and dated October 26, 2022, which is a segment of the December 29, 1890, Wounded Knee Massacre site.

(4) **TRIBES.**—The term “Tribes” means the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, both tribes being among the constituent tribes of the Great Sioux Nation and signatories to the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 between the United States of America and the Great Sioux Nation, 15 Stat. 635.

(b) **LAND HELD IN RESTRICTED FEE STATUS BY THE TRIBES.**—

(1) **ACTION BY SECRETARY.**—Not later than 365 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) complete all actions, including documentation and minor corrections to the survey and legal description of Tribal land, necessary for the Tribal land to be held by the Tribes in restricted fee status; and

(B) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement with regard to the Tribal land.

(2) **CONDITIONS.**—

(A) **FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO INDIAN LAND.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Tribal land shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian country, as defined by section 1151 of title 18, United States Code and protected by the restriction against alienation in section 177 of title 25, United States Code.

(B) **USE OF LAND.**—The Tribal land shall be used for the purposes allowed by the document titled “Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe” and dated October 21, 2022.

(C) **ENCUMBRANCES AND AGREEMENTS.**—The Tribal land shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(D) **GAMING.**—Pursuant to the document titled “Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux

Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe” and dated October 21, 2022, the Tribal land shall not be used for gaming activity under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

TITLE LII—MISSING OR MURDERED INDIANS**SEC. 5201. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) **DEATH INVESTIGATION.**—The term “death investigation” has the meaning determined by the Attorney General.

(2) **DEATH INVESTIGATION OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “death investigation of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

(A) a death investigation into the death of an Indian; or

(B) a death investigation of a person found on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Deputy Bureau Director of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(4) **FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “Federal law enforcement agency” means the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any other Federal law enforcement agency that—

(A) has jurisdiction over crimes in Indian country; or

(B) investigates missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, or unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes.

(5) **INDIAN.**—The term “Indian” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(6) **INDIAN COUNTRY.**—The term “Indian country” has the meaning given the term in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code.

(7) **INDIAN LAND.**—The term “Indian land” has the meaning given the term “Indian lands” in section 3 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4302).

(8) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(9) **MISSING PERSONS CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “missing persons case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

(A) a missing Indian; or

(B) a missing person whose last known location is believed to be on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(10) **NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION DATABASES.**—The term “national crime information databases” has the meaning given the term in section 534(f)(3) of title 28, United States Code.

(11) **RELEVANT TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “relevant Tribal organization” means, as applicable—

(A) a Tribal organization or an urban Indian organization; and

(B) a national or regional organization that—

(i) represents a substantial Indian constituency; and

(ii) has expertise in the fields of—

(I) human trafficking of Indians;

(II) human trafficking on Indian land or in a Village;

(III) violence against Indians;

(IV) missing or murdered Indigenous persons; or

(V) Tribal justice systems.

(12) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(13) **SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “sexual violence case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving an allegation of sexual violence (as defined in section 204(a) of Public Law 90-284 (25 U.S.C. 1304(a))).

(14) **TRIBAL JUSTICE OFFICIAL.**—The term “Tribal justice official” has the meaning given the term “tribal justice official” in section 2 of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2801).

(15) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “Tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(16) **UNCLAIMED HUMAN REMAINS CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “unclaimed human remains case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

(A) unclaimed Indian remains identified by Federal, Tribal, State, or local law enforcement; or

(B) unclaimed human remains found on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(17) **UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “unidentified remains case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

(A) unidentified Indian remains; or

(B) unidentified remains found on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(18) **URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.**—The term “urban Indian organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

(19) **VILLAGE.**—The term “Village” means the Alaska Native Village Statistical Area covering all or any portion of a Native village (as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)), as depicted on the applicable Tribal Statistical Area Program Verification Map of the Bureau of the Census.

Subtitle A—Bridging Agency Data Gaps**SEC. 5211. NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM TRIBAL FACILITATOR.**

(a) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Attorney General shall appoint 1 or more Tribal facilitators for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

(b) **DUTIES.**—The duties of a Tribal facilitator appointed under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) coordinating the reporting of information relating to missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes;

(2) consulting and coordinating with Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations to address the reporting, documentation, and tracking of missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes;

(3) developing working relationships, and maintaining communication, with Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations;

(4) providing technical assistance and training to Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations, victim service advocates, medical examiners, coroners, and Tribal justice officials regarding—

(A) the gathering and reporting of information to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; and

(B) working with non-Tribal law enforcement agencies to encourage missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes are reported to the

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System;

(5) coordinating with the Office of Tribal Justice, the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, State law enforcement agencies, and the National Indian Country Training Initiative, as necessary; and

(6) conducting other training, information gathering, and outreach activities to improve resolution of missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes.

(c) REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—During the 3-year-period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Justice, shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual report describing the activities and accomplishments of the Tribal facilitators appointed under subsection (a) during the 1-year period preceding the date of the report.

(2) PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY.—Annually, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Justice, shall publish on a website publicly accessible information describing the activities and accomplishments of the Tribal facilitators appointed under subsection (a) during the 1-year period preceding the date of the publication.

SEC. 5212. REPORT ON INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL RESOURCES AND NEED.

(a) OFFICE OF JUSTICE SERVICES OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.—Section 3(c)(16) of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2802(c)(16)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) a list of the unmet—

“(i) staffing needs of law enforcement, corrections, and court personnel, including criminal investigators, medical examiners, coroners, forensic technicians, indigent defense staff, crime victim services staff, and prosecution staff, at Tribal and Bureau justice agencies, including the Missing and Murdered Unit of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau;

“(ii) replacement and repair needs of Tribal and Bureau corrections facilities;

“(iii) infrastructure and capital needs for Tribal police and court facilities, including evidence storage and processing; and

“(iv) public safety and emergency communications and technology needs, including equipment and internet capacity needs; and”.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—In this subsection, the term “Department of Justice law enforcement agency” means each of—

(A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(B) the Drug Enforcement Administration;

(C) the United States Marshals Service;

(D) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and

(E) the Offices of the United States Attorneys.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each fiscal year, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report for that fiscal year that includes—

(A) the number of full-time employees of each Department of Justice law enforcement agency that are assigned to work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(B) the percentage of time the full-time employees, as identified under subparagraph (A), spend specifically working in Indian country;

(C) the turnover rate during the 5-year period preceding the report of full-time employees assigned to work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(D) the average years of experience at the Department of Justice of full-time employees assigned to work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(E) the number of vacant positions with responsibilities for criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(F) an identification of expertise and skills necessary to achieve the strategic goals of the Department of Justice relating to public safety in Indian country;

(G) an estimate of the number of employees needed with specific skills and competencies to fulfill responsibilities assigned for criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country; and

(H) a list of measures identified to indicate whether and how the Department of Justice plans to execute its hiring, retention, and training strategies.

(3) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(A) STUDY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the first annual report is submitted under paragraph (2), the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of unmet staffing identified by the Department of Justice law enforcement agencies tasked with work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country.

(ii) REQUIREMENT.—In conducting the study required under clause (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall take into account the results of the most recent report, as of the date of enactment of this Act, relating to Indian country investigations and prosecutions prepared by the Attorney General pursuant to section 10(b) of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2809(b)).

(B) REPORT.—On completion of the review under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the study, including, as appropriate, proposals for methods by which the Department of Justice can better measure its unmet staffing and other needs for Department of Justice law enforcement agencies tasked with work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country.

Subtitle B—Ensuring Safety for Native Communities

SEC. 5221. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration program for the purpose of conducting or adjudicating, in coordination with the Director, personnel background investigations for applicants for law enforcement positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(2) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND SECURITY CLEARANCE DETERMINATIONS.—

(A) BIA INVESTIGATIONS.—As part of the demonstration program established under paragraph (1), the Secretary may carry out a background investigation, security clearance determination, or both a background investigation and a security clearance determination for an applicant for a law enforcement position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(B) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of agreement with a State or local government, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization to develop steps to expedite the process of receiving and obtaining access to information pertinent to background investigation and security clearance determinations for use in the demonstration program.

(3) SUNSET.—The demonstration program established under paragraph (1) shall terminate 5 years after the date of the commencement of the demonstration program.

(b) SUFFICIENCY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a background investigation conducted or adjudicated by the Secretary pursuant to the demonstration program established under subsection (a)(1) that results in the granting of a security clearance to an applicant for a law enforcement position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall be sufficient to meet the applicable requirements of the Office of Personnel Management or other Federal agency for such investigations.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the demonstration program is established under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the demonstration program, which shall include a description of—

(1) the demonstration program and any recommended changes or updates to the demonstration program, including whether the demonstration program should be reauthorized;

(2) the number of background investigations carried out under the demonstration program;

(3) the costs, including any cost savings, associated with the investigation and adjudication process under the demonstration program;

(4) the processing times for the investigation and adjudication processes under the demonstration program; and

(5) any other information that the Secretary determines to be relevant.

SEC. 5222. MISSING OR MURDERED RESPONSE COORDINATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—The Attorney General shall establish within the Office of Justice Programs a grant program under which the Attorney General shall make grants to eligible entities described in subsection (b) to carry out eligible activities described in subsection (c).

(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the grant program established under subsection (a) an entity shall be—

(A) an Indian Tribe;

(B) a relevant Tribal organization;

(C) subject to paragraph (2), a State, in consortium with—

(i) 1 or more Indian Tribes; and

(ii) relevant Tribal organizations, if any;

(D) a consortium of 2 or more Indian Tribes or relevant Tribal organizations; or

(E) subject to paragraph (2), a consortium of 2 or more States in consortium with—

(i) 1 or more Indian Tribes; and

(ii) relevant Tribal organizations, if any.

(2) STATE ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible under subparagraph (C) or (E) of paragraph (1), a

State shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the State—

(A)(i) reports missing persons cases in the State to the national crime information databases; or

(ii) if not, has a plan to do so using a grant received under the grant program established under subsection (a); and

(B) if data sharing between the State and the Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations with which the State is in consortium is part of the intended use of the grant received under the grant program established under subsection (a), has entered into a memorandum of understanding with each applicable Indian Tribe and relevant Tribal organization.

(c) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—An eligible entity receiving a grant under the grant program established under subsection (a) may use the grant—

(1) to establish a statewide or regional center—

(A) to document and track—

(i) missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes;

(ii) sexual violence cases of interest to Indian Tribes; and

(iii) death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes; and

(B) to input information regarding missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and the Missing Persons File in the National Crime Information Center;

(2) to establish a State or regional commission to respond to, and to improve coordination between Federal law enforcement agencies, and Tribal, State, and local law enforcement agencies of the investigation of, missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, sexual violence cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes; and

(3) to document, develop, and disseminate resources for the coordination and improvement of the investigation of missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, sexual violence cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes, including to develop local or statewide rapid notification or communication systems for alerts and other information relating to those cases.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the grant program established under subsection (a)(1) \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

SEC. 5223. GAO STUDY ON FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY EVIDENCE COLLECTION, HANDLING, AND PROCESSING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study—

(1) on the evidence collection, handling, response times, and processing procedures and practices of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in exercising jurisdiction over crimes involving Indians or committed in Indian country;

(2) on barriers to evidence collection, handling, response times, and processing identified by the agencies referred to in paragraph (1);

(3) on the views of law enforcement officials at the agencies referred to in paragraph (1) and their counterparts within the Offices of the United States Attorneys concerning any relationship between—

(A) the barriers identified under paragraph (2); and

(B) United States Attorneys declination rates due to insufficient evidence; and

(4) that includes a description of barriers to evidence collection, handling, response times, and processing identified and faced by—

(A) Tribal law enforcement agencies; and

(B) State and local law enforcement agencies that exercise jurisdiction over Indian country.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 5224. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER COUNSELING RESOURCES INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General shall coordinate with the Director—

(1) to ensure that Federal training materials and culturally appropriate mental health and wellness programs are locally or regionally available to law enforcement officers working for the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or an Indian Tribe; and

(2) to determine whether law enforcement agencies operated by the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Tribes are eligible to receive services under—

(A) the Law Enforcement Assistance Program of Federal Occupational Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; or

(B) any other law enforcement assistance program targeted to meet the needs of law enforcement officers working for law enforcement agencies operated by the Federal Government or an Indian Tribe.

TITLE LIII—TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES OF THE DUCK VALLEY RESERVATION WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT

SEC. 5301. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF ADJUSTED INTEREST ON DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Section 10807(b)(3) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1409) is amended—

(1) by striking “There is” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There is”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **ADJUSTED INTEREST PAYMENTS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for deposit into the Development Fund \$5,124,902.12.”

TITLE LIV—SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN INDIAN LAND DISPUTES IN ILLINOIS

SEC. 5401. SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

(a) **JURISDICTION CONFERRED ON THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States Court of Federal Claims shall have jurisdiction to hear, determine, and render judgment on a land claim of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma under its Treaty with the United States of America signed at Grouseland August 21, 1805 (7 Stat. 91) (commonly known as the “Treaty of Grouseland”), without regard to the statute of limitations, including section 2501 of title 28, United States Code, and any delay-based defense, no matter how characterized.

(2) **JURISDICTION EXPIRATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the jurisdiction conferred to the United States Court of Federal Claims under

paragraph (1) shall expire unless the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma files a land claim under that paragraph.

(b) **EXTINGUISHMENT OF TITLE AND CLAIMS.**—Except for a claim filed under subsection (a)(1), all other claims, including any and all future claims, of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, or any member, descendant, or predecessor in interest to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, to land in the State of Illinois are extinguished.

TITLE LV—NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM GRANT PROGRAMS

SEC. 5501. NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM GRANT PROGRAMS.

The Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (25 U.S.C. 4351 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 6 (25 U.S.C. 4355) as section 7; and

(2) by inserting after section 5 (25 U.S.C. 4354) the following:

“SEC. 6. NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM GRANT PROGRAMS.

“(a) **BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS PROGRAM.**—The Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs may make grants to and enter into agreements with Indian tribes and tribal organizations to carry out the purposes of this Act, as described in section 2.

“(b) **OFFICE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS.**—The Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations may make grants to and enter into agreements with Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out the purposes of this Act, as described in section 2.

“(c) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The heads of other Federal agencies, including the Secretaries of Commerce, Transportation, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Labor, may make grants under this authority to and enter into agreements with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out the purposes of this Act, as described in section 2.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$35,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”

TITLE LVI—VETERINARY SERVICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

SEC. 5601. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Indian Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services is uniquely suited to empower Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to address zoonotic disease threats in the communities they serve by providing public health veterinary services through a One Health approach that recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

SEC. 5602. PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARY SERVICES.

Title II of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is amended by inserting after section 223 (25 U.S.C. 1621v) the following:

“SEC. 224. PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARY SERVICES.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARY SERVICES.**—The term ‘public health veterinary services’ includes any of the following:

“(A) Spaying and neutering services for domestic animals.

“(B) Diagnoses.

“(C) Surveillance.

“(D) Epidemiology.

“(E) Control.

“(F) Prevention.

“(G) Elimination.

“(H) Vaccination.

“(I) Any other related service or activity that reduces the risk of zoonotic disease transmission or antimicrobial resistance in humans, food, or animals.

“(2) ZONOTIC DISEASE.—The term ‘zoonotic disease’ means a disease or infection that may be transmitted naturally from vertebrate animals to humans, or from humans to vertebrate animals.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR VETERINARY SERVICES.—The Secretary, acting through the Service, may expend funds, directly or pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), for public health veterinary services to prevent and control zoonotic disease infection and transmission in Service areas where the risk for disease occurrence in humans and wildlife is endemic.

“(c) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS; COORDINATION.—In providing public health veterinary services under subsection (b), the Secretary may—

“(1) assign or deploy veterinary public health officers from the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service to Service areas; and

“(2) coordinate and implement activities with—

“(A) the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

“(B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

“(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a biennial report on the use of funds, the assignment and deployment of veterinary public health officers from the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, data related to the monitoring and disease surveillance of zoonotic diseases, and related services provided under this section.”.

SEC. 5603. APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES STUDY ON ORAL RABIES VACCINES IN ARCTIC REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a feasibility study—

(1) on the delivery of oral rabies vaccines to wildlife reservoir species that are directly or indirectly connected to the transmission of rabies to Tribal members living in Arctic regions of the United States; and

(2) that—

(A) evaluates the efficacy of the vaccines described in paragraph (1); and

(B) makes recommendations to improve the delivery of those vaccines.

SEC. 5604. ONE HEALTH FRAMEWORK.

Section 2235(b) of the Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, Emerging New Threats, and Pandemics Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-37(b)) is amended by striking “and the Secretary of the Interior” and inserting “, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the Indian Health Service”.

TITLE LVII—REVOCATION OF CHARTER OF INCORPORATION OF THE LOWER SIOUX INDIAN COMMUNITY

SEC. 5701. REVOCATION OF CHARTER OF INCORPORATION OF THE LOWER SIOUX INDIAN COMMUNITY.

The request of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota to surrender the charter of incorporation issued to that community and ratified on July 17, 1937, pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (48 Stat. 988, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5124), is hereby accepted and that charter of incorporation is hereby revoked.

TITLE LVIII—TRANSFER OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND TO THE LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

SEC. 5801. TRANSFER OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND TO THE LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(a)(5) of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act (Public Law 116-255; 134 Stat. 1140) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) does not intend immediately to modify the use of the Federal land.”.

(b) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND.—Section 2 of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act (Public Law 116-255; 134 Stat. 1139) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “means the approximately” and inserting “means—

“(i) the approximately”;

(ii) in clause (i) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) any other land managed by the Secretary, through the Chief of the Forest Service, located in the Chippewa National Forest in Cass County, Minnesota, which records maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs show was sold without the unanimous consent of the rightful landowners.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(i) any land transferred pursuant to an agreement entered into between the Secretary and the Tribe under subsection (c)(2);”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) AGREEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On agreement between the Secretary and the Tribe, the Secretary shall substitute, for purposes of the transfer under paragraph (1), alternative National Forest System land located in Cass County, Minnesota, on an acre-for-acre basis, for those parcels of Federal land to be transferred under that paragraph in a manner that avoids in-holdings and provides a preference for land adjacent to or near existing Leech Lake trust lands and lands of cultural importance to the Tribe, to the maximum extent practicable.

“(B) FREQUENCY OF TRANSFERS.—Pursuant to an agreement entered into under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may transfer land to the Secretary of the Interior on a rolling basis as that land is identified and surveys are completed.”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(i)” after “Federal land”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “submit a map and legal description of the Federal land” and inserting “submit maps and legal descriptions of the Federal land transferred pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c), as applicable.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “map and legal description” and inserting “maps and legal descriptions”; and

(ii) by striking “map or legal description” and inserting “maps or legal descriptions”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “map and legal description” and inserting “maps and legal descriptions”.

(c) REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms the applicability of section 97A.151 of the Minnesota Statutes, including the settlement agreement ratified by that section, for purposes of ensuring that the hunting, fishing, and recreation rights of non-Tribal members remain unchanged by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act (Public Law 116-255; 134 Stat. 1139) and the amendments made to that Act by this section.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the amendments made by this section, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall provide for public engagement and comment in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations).

TITLE LIX—IHS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN RECIPIENTS

SEC. 5901. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN RECIPIENTS.

(a) INDIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIPS.—Section 104(b)(3) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a(b)(3)) is amended by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(3)(A) The active duty service obligation under a written contract with the Secretary under section 338A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 2541) that an individual has entered into under that section shall, if that individual is a recipient of an Indian Health Scholarship—

“(i) be met by full-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) practice—

“(I) in the Service;

“(II) in a program conducted under a contract entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

“(III) in a program assisted under title V; or

“(IV) in the private practice of the applicable profession if, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary, the practice—

“(aa) is situated in a physician or other health professional shortage area; and

“(bb) addresses the health care needs of a substantial number of Indians; or

“(ii) be met by half-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) practice in a program described in any of subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (i) if the individual agrees, in writing—

“(I) to double the period of obligated service that would otherwise be required if the individual were satisfying the period of obligated service through full-time (as so defined) practice; and

“(II) that if the individual fails to begin or complete the period of obligated service described in subclause (I), the procedures described in section 108(1)(2) for determining damages for breach of contract will be used after converting that period of obligated service or service performed into its full-time equivalent.”.

(b) INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(1)(B), by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) to serve for a period of time (referred to in this section as the ‘period of obligated service’) equal to—

“(I) 2 years, or a longer period of time as the individual may agree to serve, in the full-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) clinical practice of the profession of the individual in an Indian health program to which the individual may be assigned by the Secretary;

“(II) 4 years, or a longer period of time as the individual may agree to serve, in the half-time (as defined in that section) clinical practice of the profession of the individual in an Indian health program to which the individual may be assigned by the Secretary, subject to the condition that if the individual has agreed to serve for a period longer than 2 years of full-time (as so defined) service, as described in subclause (I), the half-time (as so defined) service obligation shall be the amount of time required for the individual to complete an equivalent amount of service on a half-time (as so defined) basis; or

“(III) 2 years in the half-time (as so defined) clinical practice of the profession of the individual in an Indian health program to which the individual may be assigned by the Secretary with a loan payment amount equal to 50 percent of the amount that would otherwise be payable for full-time (as so defined) service for that same period of obligated service; and

“(iv) in the case of an individual completing a period of obligated service through half-time (as so defined) clinical practice, that if the individual fails to begin or complete that period of obligated service, the procedures described in subsection (I)(2) for determining damages for breach of contract under this section will be used after converting the period of obligated service or service performed into its full-time (as so defined) equivalent;” and

(2) in subsection (I)(2), in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (D), by inserting the following before “Amounts”: “Periods of obligated service completed in half-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) clinical practice shall be converted to their full-time (as defined in that section) equivalents for purposes of determining damages for breach of contract under this paragraph.”.

TITLE LX—SETTLEMENT FUNDS

SEC. 6001. SETTLEMENT FUNDS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF ADJUSTED INTEREST ON THE NAVAJO NATION WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND.—The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11) is amended—

(1) in section 10701(e)(1)(A)(vii), by striking “10702.” and inserting “10702, except for deposits made pursuant to section 10702(g).”; and

(2) in section 10702—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “subsections (f) and (g).”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) ADJUSTED INTEREST PAYMENTS.—In addition to amounts made available under subsection (f), there is authorized to be appropriated for deposit in the Trust Fund \$6,357,674.46.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF ADJUSTED INTEREST ON THE TAOS PUEBLO WATER DEVELOPMENT FUND.—The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291) is amended by adding after section 513 the following:

“SEC. 514. ADJUSTED INTEREST PAYMENTS.

“In addition to the amounts made available under section 509(c), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for deposit into the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund established by section 505(a) \$7,794,297.52.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF ADJUSTED INTEREST ON THE AAMODT SETTLEMENT PUEBLOS’ FUND.—The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291) is amended by adding after section 626 the following:

“SEC. 627. INTEREST PAYMENTS.

“(a) ADJUSTED INTEREST PAYMENTS.—In addition to amounts made available under section 617, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for deposit into the Aamodt Settlement Pueblos’ Fund established by section 615(a) \$4,314,709.18 for the Pueblos’ share of the costs of operating, maintaining, and replacing the Pueblo Water Facilities and the Regional Water System, as set forth in section 617(c)(1)(B).

“(b) WAIVER OF PAYMENT.—To the extent monies are due or payable to the United States attributable to interest earned on amounts made available under section 617(c)(1)(A) prior to September 15, 2017, the Secretary of the Treasury shall waive payment of such monies.”.

(d) DISCLAIMER.—

(1) SECTION 509 OF CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the previous satisfaction of the conditions precedent in section 509(f)(2) of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291) or to affect the validity of the Secretarial finding published in the Federal Register on October 7, 2016, pursuant to section 509(f)(1) of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291) that such conditions precedent were fully satisfied.

(2) SECTION 623 OF CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the previous satisfaction of the conditions precedent in section 623(a)(2) of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291) or to affect the validity of the Secretarial finding published in the Federal Register on September 15, 2017, pursuant to section 623(a)(1) of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291) that such conditions precedent were fully satisfied.

TITLE LXI—KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY LAND SETTLEMENT

SEC. 6101. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is a federally recognized Indian Tribe residing on the L’Anse Indian Reservation in Baraga County in the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan;

(2) the Community is a successor in interest to the Treaty with the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi and Lake Superior, made and concluded at La Pointe of Lake Superior October 4, 1842 (7 Stat. 591) (referred to in this section as the “1842 Treaty”), which, among other things, guaranteed the usufructuary rights of the Community over a large area of land that was ceded to the United States, until such time that those usufructuary rights were properly and legally extinguished;

(3) the Community is also a successor in interest to the Treaty with the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and the Mississippi, made and concluded at La Pointe September 30, 1854 (10 Stat. 1109) (referred to in this section as the “1854 Treaty”);

(4) article 2, paragraph 1 of the 1854 Treaty created the L’Anse Indian Reservation as a permanent reservation;

(5) pursuant to article 13 of the 1854 Treaty, the 1854 Treaty became “obligatory on the contracting parties” when ratified by the President and the Senate on January 10, 1855;

(6) in 1850, Congress enacted the Act of September 28, 1850 (sections 2479 through 2481 of the Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 982 through 984)) (commonly known and referred to in this section as the “Swamp Land Act”), which authorized the State of Arkansas and

other States, including the State of Michigan, to “construct the necessary levees and drains to reclaim” certain unsold “swamp and overflowed lands, made unfit thereby for cultivation” and stating that those lands “shall remain unsold at the passage of this act”;

(7) following enactment of the Swamp Land Act, the State claimed thousands of acres of swamp land in the State pursuant to that Act;

(8) between 1893 and 1937, the General Land Office patented 2,743 acres of land to the State that were located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation;

(9) the right of the Community to use and occupy the unsold land within the Reservation had not been extinguished when the United States patented the Reservation Swamp Lands to the State;

(10) in 1852, Congress enacted the Act of August 26, 1852 (10 Stat. 35, chapter 92) (referred to in this section as the “Canal Land Act”), to facilitate the building of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal at the Falls of the St. Mary’s River, to connect Lake Superior to Lake Huron;

(11) pursuant to the Canal Land Act, the United States granted the State the right to select 750,000 acres of unsold public land within the State to defray the cost of construction of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal;

(12) the State identified and selected, among other land, a minimum of 1,333.25 and up to 2,720 acres within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation;

(13) the Department of the Interior approved the land selections of the State, including the Reservation Canal Lands, after ratification of the 1854 Treaty;

(14) the Secretary noted that the approval described in paragraph (13) was “subject to any valid interfering rights”;

(15) the 1854 Treaty set apart from the public domain all unsold land within the Reservation to the Community as of September 30, 1854, which preceded the date on which the State established legally effective title to the Reservation Canal Lands;

(16) the Community made claims to the Department of the Interior with respect to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands, providing legal analysis and ethnohistorical support for those claims;

(17) in December 2021, the Department of the Interior stated that “We have carefully reviewed pertinent documents, including the Tribe’s expert reports, and have determined that the Tribe’s claims to the Swamp Lands and Canal Lands have merit”;

(18) the United States, through the actions of the General Land Office, deprived the Community of the exclusive use and occupancy of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands within the Reservation, without just compensation as required under the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(19) the loss of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands without just compensation has—

(A) impacted the exercise by the Community of cultural, religious, and subsistence rights on the land;

(B) caused a harmful disconnect between the Community and its land;

(C) impacted the ability of the Community to fully exercise its economy within the Reservation; and

(D) had a negative economic impact on the development of the economy of the Community;

(20) certain non-Indian individuals, entities, and local governments occupy land within the boundaries of the Reservation—

(A) acquired ownership interests in the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands in good faith; and

(B) have an interest in possessing clear title to that land;

(21) this title allows the United States—

(A) to secure a fair and equitable settlement of past inequities suffered by the Community as a result of the actions of the United States that caused the taking of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands without just compensation; and

(B) to ensure protection of the ownership of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands by non-Indian occupants of the Reservation, through the settlement of the claims of the Community to that land, and through that action, the relief of any clouds on title;

(22) a settlement will allow the Community to receive just compensation and the local landowners to obtain clear title to land, without long and protracted litigation that would be both costly and detrimental to all involved; and

(23) this title achieves both justice for the Community and security for current landowners through a restorative and non-confrontational process.

SEC. 6102. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to acknowledge the uncompensated taking by the Federal Government of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands;

(2) to provide compensation to the Community for the uncompensated taking of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands by the Federal Government;

(3) to extinguish all claims by the Community to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands and to confirm the ownership by the current landowners of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands, who obtained that land in good faith;

(4) to extinguish all potential claims by the Community against the United States, the State, and current landowners concerning title to, use of, or occupancy of the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands; and

(5) to authorize the Secretary—

(A) to compensate the Community; and

(B) to take any other action necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 6103. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COMMUNITY.**—The term “Community” means the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

(2) **COUNTY.**—The term “County” means Baraga County, Michigan.

(3) **RESERVATION.**—The term “Reservation” means the L’Anse Indian Reservation, located in—

(A) T. 51 N., R. 33 W.;

(B) T. 51 N., R. 32 W.;

(C) T. 50 N., R. 33 W., E½;

(D) T. 50 N., R. 32 W., W½; and

(E) that portion of T. 51 N., R. 31 W. lying west of Huron Bay.

(4) **RESERVATION CANAL LANDS.**—The term “Reservation Canal Lands” means the 1,333.25 to 2,720 acres of Community land located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation that the Federal Government conveyed to the State pursuant to the Act of August 26, 1852 (10 Stat. 35, chapter 92).

(5) **RESERVATION SWAMP LANDS.**—The term “Reservation Swamp Lands” means the 2,743 acres of land located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation that the Federal Government conveyed to the State between 1893 and 1937 pursuant to the Act of

September 28, 1850 (sections 2479 through 2481 of the Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 982 through 984)) (commonly known as the “Swamp Land Act”).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Michigan.

SEC. 6104. PAYMENTS.

(a) **TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—As soon as practicable after the date on which the amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (c) is made available to the Secretary, the Secretary shall transfer \$33,900,000 to the Community.

(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Community may use the amount received under subsection (a) for any lawful purpose, including—

(A) governmental services;

(B) economic development;

(C) natural resources protection; and

(D) land acquisition.

(2) **RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—The community may not use the amount received under subsection (a) to acquire land for gaming purposes.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out subsection (a) \$33,900,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 6105. EXTINGUISHMENT OF CLAIMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective on the date on which the Community receives the payment under section 6104(a), all claims of the Community to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands owned by persons or entities other than the Community are extinguished.

(b) **CLEAR TITLE.**—Effective on the date on which the Community receives the payment under section 6104(a), the title of all current owners to the Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands is cleared of all preexisting rights held by the Community and any of the members of the Community.

SEC. 6106. EFFECT.

Nothing in this title authorizes—

(1) the Secretary to take land into trust for the benefit of the Community for gaming purposes; or

(2) the Community to use land acquired using amounts received under this title for gaming purposes.

TITLE LXII—MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA

SEC. 6201. MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA ADDITION.

Section 4(4) of the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act (16 U.S.C. 410 note; Public Law 105-313) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **ADDITIONAL AREA.**—In addition to the land described in subparagraph (B), the term ‘Miccosukee Reserved Area’ or ‘MRA’ includes the portion of the Park that is known as ‘Osceola Camp’ and is depicted on the map entitled ‘Everglades National Park, Proposed Expansion-Miccosukee Reserved Area, Osceola Camp’, numbered 160/188443, and dated July 2023, copies of which shall—

“(i) be kept available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service; and

“(ii) be filed with appropriate officers of Miami-Dade County and the Tribe.”.

SEC. 6202. PROTECTION OF THE OSCEOLA CAMP FROM FLOODING.

Section 8 of the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act (16 U.S.C. 410 note; Public Law 105-313) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **PROTECTION OF OSCEOLA CAMP FROM FLOODING.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the

Secretary, in consultation with the Tribe, shall take appropriate actions to protect structures within the area described in section 4(4)(C) from flooding.”.

TITLE LXIII—TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT

SEC. 6301. TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT OF 2004 AMENDMENTS.

Section 2 of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.**—The term ‘Indian forest land or rangeland’ means—

“(A) land that is held in trust by, or with a restriction against alienation by, the United States for an Indian tribe or a member of an Indian tribe, and—

“(i) is Indian forest land (as defined in section 304 of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));

“(ii) has a cover of grasses, brush, or any similar vegetation; or

“(iii) formerly had a forest cover or vegetative cover that is capable of restoration; and

“(B) land that is in the State of Alaska and held by an Alaska Native Corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “OR RESTORE” after “PROTECT”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “to protect Indian forest land or rangeland” and all that follows through “Indian forest land or rangeland)” and inserting “to protect or restore Indian forest land or rangeland, or to carry out a project to protect or restore Federal land”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “that is—” and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “or Indian forest land or rangeland.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “FOR FEDERAL LAND” after “CRITERIA”;

(B) by striking “an Indian tribe,” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through “Indian tribe—” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) and inserting the following: “Federal land, are whether—

“(1) the Federal land has a special geographic, historical, or cultural significance to the Indian tribe and—”;

(C) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) Indian forest land or rangeland; or”;

and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or watershed” after “land”;

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

(E) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated), by striking “subject” and inserting “Federal”; and

(F) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management” and inserting “Federal”;

(4) in subsection (g), by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.”.

TITLE LXIV—TRIBAL TRUST HOMEOWNERSHIP

SEC. 6401. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPLICABLE BUREAU OFFICE.**—The term “applicable Bureau office” means—

(A) a Regional office of the Bureau;
 (B) an Agency office of the Bureau; or
 (C) a Land Titles and Records Office of the Bureau.

(2) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau.

(4) FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.—The term “first certified title status report” means the title status report needed to verify title status on Indian land.

(5) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land” has the meaning given the term in section 162.003 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(6) LAND MORTGAGE.—The term “land mortgage” means a mortgage obtained by an individual Indian who owns a tract of trust land for the purpose of—

- (A) home acquisition;
- (B) home construction;
- (C) home improvements; or
- (D) economic development.

(7) LEASEHOLD MORTGAGE.—The term “leasehold mortgage” means a mortgage, deed of trust, or other instrument that pledges the leasehold interest of a lessee as security for a debt or other obligation owed by the lessee to a lender or other mortgagee.

(8) MORTGAGE PACKAGE.—The term “mortgage package” means a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document submitted to an applicable Bureau office under section 6402(a)(1).

(9) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “relevant Federal agency” means any of the following Federal agencies that guarantee or make direct mortgage loans on Indian land:

- (A) The Department of Agriculture.
- (B) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(C) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(10) RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENT.—The term “right-of-way document” has the meaning given the term in section 169.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(11) SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.—The term “subsequent certified title status report” means the title status report needed to identify any liens against a residential, business, or land lease on Indian land.

SEC. 6402. MORTGAGE REVIEW AND PROCESSING.

(a) REVIEW AND PROCESSING DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after receiving a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender that the proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, or right-of-way document has been received.

(2) PRELIMINARY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 calendar days after receipt of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall conduct and complete a preliminary review of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document to verify that all required documents are included.

(B) INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTS.—As soon as practicable, but not more than 2 calendar days, after finding that any required documents are missing under subparagraph (A), the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender of the missing documents.

(3) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) LEASEHOLD MORTGAGES.—Not later than 20 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed residential leasehold mort-

gage or business leasehold mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage.

(B) RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed right-of-way document, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the right-of-way document.

(C) LAND MORTGAGES.—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed land mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the land mortgage.

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—The determination of whether to approve or disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage under subparagraph (A), a right-of-way document under subparagraph (B), or a land mortgage under subparagraph (C)—

- (i) shall be in writing; and
- (ii) in the case of a determination to disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, right-of-way document, or land mortgage shall, state the basis for the determination.

(E) APPLICATION.—This paragraph shall not apply to a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage with respect to Indian land in cases in which the applicant for the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage is an Indian tribe (as defined in subsection (d) of the first section of the Act of 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1150; 25 U.S.C. 415(d))) that has been approved for leasing under subsection (h) of that section (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1151; 25 U.S.C. 415(h)).

(4) CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—

(A) COMPLETION OF REPORTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office approves a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (3), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of, as applicable—

(I) a first certified title status report, if a first certified title status report was not completed prior to the approval of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document; and

(II) a subsequent certified title status report.

(ii) REQUESTS FOR FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—Notwithstanding clause (i), not later than 14 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office receives a request for a first certified title status report from an applicant for a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (1), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of the first certified title status report.

(B) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after completion of the processing of, as applicable, a first certified title status report or a subsequent certified title status report under subparagraph (A), but by not later than the applicable deadline described in that subparagraph, the applicable Bureau office shall give notice of the completion to the lender.

(ii) FORM OF NOTICE.—The applicable Bureau office shall give notice under clause (i)—

- (I) electronically through secure, encryption software; and
- (II) through the United States mail.

(iii) OPTION TO OPT OUT.—The lender may opt out of receiving notice electronically under clause (ii)(I).

(b) NOTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the applicable Bureau office does not complete the review and processing of mortgage packages under subsection (a) (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report under paragraph (4) of that subsection) by the applicable deadline described in that subsection, immediately after missing the deadline, the applicable Bureau office shall provide notice of the delay in review and processing to—

(A) the party that submitted the mortgage package or requested the first certified title status report; and

(B) the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested.

(2) REQUESTS FOR UPDATES.—In addition to providing the notices required under paragraph (1), not later than 2 calendar days after receiving a relevant inquiry with respect to a submitted mortgage package from the party that submitted the mortgage package or the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested or an inquiry with respect to a requested first certified title status report from the party that requested the first certified title status report, the applicable Bureau office shall respond to the inquiry.

(c) DELIVERY OF FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any first certified title status report and any subsequent certified title status report, as applicable, shall be delivered directly to—

- (1) the lender;
- (2) any local or regional agency office of the Bureau that requests the first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report;

(3) in the case of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage or land mortgage, the relevant Federal agency that insures or guarantees the loan; and

(4) if requested, any individual or entity described in section 150.303 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(d) ACCESS TO TRUST ASSET AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TAAMS).—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Federal agencies and Indian Tribes shall have read-only access to portals containing the relevant land documents from the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (commonly known as “TAAMS”) maintained by the Bureau.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(A) for the most recent calendar year, the number of requests received to complete residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any requests for corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports), including a detailed description of—

- (i) requests that were and were not successfully completed by the applicable deadline described in subsection (a) by each applicable Bureau office; and

(ii) the reasons for each applicable Bureau office not meeting any applicable deadlines; and

(B) the length of time needed by each applicable Bureau office during the most recent calendar year to provide the notices required under subsection (b)(1).

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—In submitting the report required under paragraph (1), the Director shall maintain the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of the parties involved in requesting the completion of residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports).

(f) **GAO STUDY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the need for residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages of each Indian Tribe to be digitized for the purpose of streamlining and expediting the completion of mortgage packages for residential mortgages on Indian land (including the corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports); and

(2) an estimate of the time and total cost necessary for Indian Tribes to digitize the records described in paragraph (1), in conjunction with assistance in that digitization from the Bureau.

SEC. 6403. ESTABLISHMENT OF REALTY OMBUDSMAN POSITION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall establish within the Division of Real Estate Services of the Bureau the position of Realty Ombudsman, who shall report directly to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Realty Ombudsman shall—

(1) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices are meeting the mortgage review and processing deadlines established by section 6402(a);

(2) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices comply with the notices required under subsections (a) and (b) of section 6402;

(3) serve as a liaison to other Federal agencies, including by—

(A) ensuring the Bureau is responsive to all of the inquiries from the relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) helping to facilitate communications between the relevant Federal agencies and the Bureau on matters relating to mortgages on Indian land;

(4) receive inquiries, questions, and complaints directly from Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders in regard to executed residential leasehold mortgages, business leasehold mortgages, land mortgages, or right-of-way documents; and

(5) serve as the intermediary between the Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders and the Bureau in responding to inquiries and questions and resolving complaints.

TITLE LXV—LYTTON RANCHERIA OF CALIFORNIA LAND REAFFIRMATION

SEC. 6501. LYTTON RANCHERIA OF CALIFORNIA LAND REAFFIRMATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Lytton Rancheria of California is subject to the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (48 Stat. 984, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.), and the Secretary of the

Interior may acquire and take into trust land for the benefit of the Lytton Rancheria of California pursuant to section 5 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5108).

(b) **LAND TO BE MADE PART OF THE RESERVATION.**—Land taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a) shall be—

(1) part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California; and

(2) administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe.

TITLE LXVI—TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES ACT OF 2025

SEC. 6601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2025”.

SEC. 6602. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, including other necessary advisory committees and subcommittees;

(2) to formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Policies, and the systematic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native American peoples;

(3) to develop recommendations for Federal efforts based on the findings of the Commission; and

(4) to promote healing for survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, the descendants of those survivors, and the communities of those survivors.

SEC. 6603. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States established by section 6611(a).

(2) **FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The term “Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee” means the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by section 6622(a).

(3) **INDIAN.**—The term “Indian” has the meaning given the term in section 6151 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7491).

(4) **INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL.**—The term “Indian Boarding School” means—

(A) a site of an institution that—

(i) provided on-site housing or overnight lodging;

(ii) was described in Federal records as providing formal academic or vocational training and instruction to Native Americans;

(iii) received Federal funds or other Federal support; and

(iv) was operational before 1969;

(B) a site of an institution identified by the Department of the Interior in appendices A and B of the report entitled “Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report” and dated May 2022 (or a successor report); or

(C) any other institution that implemented Indian Boarding School Policies, including an Indian day school.

(5) **INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES.**—The term “Indian Boarding School Policies” means Federal laws, policies, and practices purported to “assimilate” and “civilize” Native Americans that included psychological, physical, sexual, and mental abuse, forced removal from home or community, and identity-altering practices intended to terminate Native languages, cultures, religions, social organizations, or connections to traditional land.

(6) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(7) **NATIVE AMERICAN.**—The term “Native American” means an individual who is—

(A) an Indian; or

(B) a Native Hawaiian.

(8) **NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The term “Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee” means the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee established by the Commission under section 6621(a).

(9) **NATIVE HAWAIIAN.**—The term “Native Hawaiian” has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(10) **NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.**—The term “Native Hawaiian organization” means a private nonprofit organization that—

(A) serves and represents the interests of Native Hawaiians;

(B) has as its primary and stated purpose the provision of services to Native Hawaiians;

(C) has Native Hawaiians serving in substantive and policymaking positions; and

(D) has expertise in Native Hawaiian affairs.

(11) **OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.**—The term “Office of Hawaiian Affairs” has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(12) **SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.**—The term “Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee” means the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee established by section 6613(a).

(13) **TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.**—The term “trauma-informed care” means holistic psychological and health care practices that include promoting culturally responsive practices, patient psychological, physical, and emotional safety, and environments of healing, trust, peer support, and recovery.

(14) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “Tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

Subtitle A—Commission and Subcommittee

CHAPTER 1—TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 6611. TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the legislative branch a commission, to be known as the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT.**—Nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A) shall be appointed as members to the Commission as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(D) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(E) 1 member shall be jointly appointed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Commission.

(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 7 days after the submission deadline for nominations described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a list of the individuals nominated under that subparagraph.

(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Nominees to serve on the Commission shall have significant experience in matters relating to—

(I) overseeing or leading complex research initiatives with and for Indian Tribes and Native Americans;

(II) indigenous human rights law and policy;

(III) Tribal court judicial and restorative justice systems and Federal agencies, such as participation as a Tribal judge, researcher, or former presidentially appointed commissioner;

(IV) providing and coordinating trauma-informed care and other health-related services to Indian Tribes and Native Americans; or

(V) traditional and cultural resources and practices in Native communities.

(ii) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.—In addition to the qualifications described in clause (i), each member of the Commission shall be an individual of recognized integrity and empathy, with a demonstrated commitment to the values of truth, reconciliation, healing, and expertise in truth and healing endeavors that are traditionally and culturally appropriate so as to provide balanced points of view and expertise with respect to the duties of the Commission.

(3) DATE.—Members of the Commission under paragraph (1) shall be appointed not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term that is the shorter of—

(i) 6 years; and

(ii) the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—After all initial members of the Commission are appointed and the initial business meeting of the Commission has been convened under subsection (c)(1), a single vacancy in the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Commission only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Commission may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.—90 days after the date on which all of the members of the Commission are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Commission shall hold the initial business meeting of the Commission—

(A) to appoint a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and such other positions as determined necessary by the Commission;

(B) to establish rules for meetings of the Commission; and

(C) to appoint members of—

(i) the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under section 6613(b)(1); and

(ii) the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under section 6621(b)(1).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Commission is held under paragraph (1), the Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) ADVISORY AND SUBCOMMITTEE COMMITTEES DESIGNEES.—Each Commission business meeting shall include participation by 2 non-voting designees from each of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, as appointed in accordance with section 6613(c)(1)(D), section 6621(e)(1)(C), and section 6622(c)(1)(B), as applicable.

(4) FORMAT OF MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Commission may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(5) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Commission may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) RULES.—The Commission may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of Commission business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF COMMISSIONERS.—A member of the Commission shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 5 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 10 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this title, limited to convening meetings, including public or private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Commission and the purposes of this title.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency and at the request of the Commission, may be detailed to the Commission without—

(A) reimbursement to the agency of that employee; and

(B) interruption or loss of civil service status, benefits, or privileges.

(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) CONVENINGS AND INFORMATION.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this title—

(A) hold such convenings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such information, virtually or in-person, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this title;

(B) conduct or request such interdisciplinary research, investigation, or analysis of such information and documents, records, or other data as the Commission may deter-

mine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this title, including—

(i) securing, directly from a Federal agency, such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this title; and

(ii) requesting the head of any relevant Tribal or State agency to provide to the Commission such information as the Commission considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of this title;

(C) request such records, papers, correspondence, memoranda, documents, books, videos, oral histories, recordings, or any other paper or electronic material, as the Commission may determine necessary to accomplish the purposes of this title;

(D) oversee, direct, and collaborate with the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to accomplish the purposes of this title; and

(E) coordinate with Federal and non-Federal entities to preserve and archive, as appropriate, any gifts, documents, or other property received while carrying out the purposes of this title.

(2) CONTRACTING; VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—

(A) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriations Acts, and in accordance with applicable law, enter into contracts and other agreements with public agencies, private organizations, and individuals to enable the Commission to carry out the duties of the Commission under this title.

(B) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines to be necessary.

(C) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide, on request of the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, administrative support and other services for the performance of the functions of the Commission under this title.

(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(4) GIFTS, FUNDRAISING, AND DISBURSEMENT.—

(A) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of any gift, donation, service, property, or other record or recording to accomplish the purposes of this title.

(ii) RETURN OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—On termination of the Commission under subsection (b)(5), any gifts, unsent donations, property, or other record or recording accepted by the Commission under clause (i) shall be—

(I) returned to the donor that made the donation under that clause; or

(II) archived under subparagraph (E).

(B) FUNDRAISING.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Commission, solicit funds to accomplish the purposes of this title.

(C) DISBURSEMENT.—The Commission may, on the affirmative vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Commission, approve a spending plan of funds to accomplish the purposes of this title.

(D) TAX DOCUMENTS.—The Commission (or a designee) shall, on request of a donor under subparagraph (A) or (B), provide tax documentation to that donor for any tax-deductible gift made by that donor under those subparagraphs.

(E) ARCHIVING.—The Commission shall coordinate with the Library of Congress and

the Smithsonian Institution to archive and preserve relevant gifts or donations received under subparagraph (A) or (B).

(h) CONVENING.—

(1) CONVENING PROTOCOL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Commission, 3 designees from the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and 3 designees from the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold a meeting to recommend rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection.

(B) RULES AND PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 45 days after the initial meeting described in subparagraph (A), the Commission shall finalize rules, protocols, and formats for convenings carried out under this subsection by a ¾ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission.

(C) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Commission and designees described in subparagraph (A) may hold additional meetings, as necessary, to amend, by a ¾ majority in attendance at a meeting of the Commission, the rules, protocols, and formats for convenings established under that subparagraph.

(2) ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONVENINGS.—Not later than 30 days before the date of a convening under this subsection, the Commission shall announce the location and details of the convening.

(3) MINIMUM NUMBER OF CONVENINGS.—The Commission shall hold—

(A) not fewer than 1 convening in each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in Hawai'i during the life of the Commission; and

(B) beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, not fewer than 1 convening in each quarter to receive testimony each calendar year until the date on which the Commission submits the final report of the Commission under section 6612(e)(3).

(4) OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY.—No person or entity shall be denied the opportunity to provide relevant testimony or information at a convening held under this subsection, except at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Commission (or a designee).

(i) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Federal Advisory Committee Act"), shall not apply to the Commission.

(j) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.)—

(1) any individual who is an employee of the Commission shall be considered a covered employee under that Act;

(2) the Commission shall be considered an employing office under that Act; and

(3) a member of the Commission shall be considered a covered employee under that Act.

(k) CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the duties of the Commission under section 6612, the Commission shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(l) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 105 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 106-462) and section 403 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1523), \$90,000,000 shall be used to carry out this title.

CHAPTER 2—DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 6612. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) INVESTIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive interdisciplinary investigation of Indian Boarding School Policies, including the social, cultural, economic, emotional, and physical effects of Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States on Native American communities, Indian Tribes, survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, families of those survivors, and their descendants.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INVESTIGATED.—The matters to be investigated by the Commission under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) conducting a comprehensive review of existing research and historical records of Indian Boarding School Policies and any documentation, scholarship, or other resources relevant to the purposes of this title from—

(i) any archive or any other document storage location, notwithstanding the location of that archive or document storage location; and

(ii) any research conducted by private individuals, private entities, and non-Federal Government entities, whether domestic or foreign, including religious institutions;

(B) collaborating with the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to obtain all relevant information from—

(i) the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, other relevant Federal agencies, and institutions or organizations, including religious institutions or organizations, that operated an Indian Boarding School, carried out Indian Boarding School Policies, or have information that the Commission determines to be relevant to the investigation of the Commission; and

(ii) Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations; and

(C) conducting a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of Indian Boarding School Policies on Native American students and alumni, including the impact on cultures, traditions, and languages.

(3) RESEARCH RELATED TO OBJECTS, ARTIFACTS, AND REAL PROPERTY.—If the Commission conducts a comprehensive review of research described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) that focuses on objects, artifacts, or real or personal property that are in the possession or control of private individuals, private entities, or non-Federal Government entities within the United States, the Commission may enter into a contract or agreement to acquire, hold, curate, or maintain those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property until the objects, artifacts, or real or personal property can be properly repatriated or returned, consistent with applicable Federal law, subject to the condition that no Federal funds may be used to purchase those objects, artifacts, or real or personal property.

(b) MEETINGS AND CONVENINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold, with the advice of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, and in coordination with, as relevant, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as part of its investigation under subsection (a), safe, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate public or private meetings or convenings to receive testimony relating to that investigation.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall ensure that meetings and convenings held

under paragraph (1) provide access to adequate trauma-informed care services for participants, attendees, and communities during and following the meetings and convenings where the Commission receives testimony, including ensuring that private space is available for survivors and descendants of survivors, family members, and other community members to receive trauma-informed care services.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make recommendations to Congress relating to the investigation carried out under subsection (a), which shall be included in the final report required under subsection (e)(3).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Recommendations made under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, recommendations relating to—

(A) in light of Tribal and Native Hawaiian law, Tribal customary law, tradition, custom, and practice, how the Federal Government can meaningfully acknowledge the role of the Federal Government in supporting Indian Boarding School Policies in all issue areas that the Commission determines relevant, including appropriate forms of memorialization, preservation of records, objects, artifacts, and burials;

(B) how modification of existing statutes, procedures, regulations, policies, budgets, and practices will, in the determination of the Commission, address the findings of the Commission and ongoing effects of Indian Boarding School Policies;

(C) how the Federal Government can promote public awareness of, and education about, Indian Boarding School Policies and the impacts of those policies, including through coordinating with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, the Smithsonian Institution, and other relevant institutions and organizations; and

(D) the views of religious institutions.

(d) DUTIES RELATED TO BURIALS.—The Commission shall, with respect to burial sites associated with Indian Boarding Schools—

(1) coordinate, as appropriate, with the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Federal agencies, institutions, and organizations to locate and identify, in a culturally appropriate manner, marked and unmarked burial sites, including cemeteries, unmarked graves, and mass burial sites, where students of Indian Boarding Schools were originally or later interred;

(2) locate, document, analyze, and coordinate the preservation or continued preservation of records and information relating to the interment of students, including any records held by Federal, State, international, or local entities or religious institutions or organizations; and

(3) share, to the extent practicable, with affected lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs burial locations and the identities of children who attended Indian Boarding Schools.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than annually until the year before the year in which the Commission terminates, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the activities of the Commission during the previous year, including an accounting of funds and gifts received and expenditures made, the progress made, and any

barriers encountered in carrying out this title.

(2) COMMISSION INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed under section 6611(b)(1), the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, an initial report containing—

(A) a detailed review of existing research, including documentation, scholarship, or other resources shared with the Commission that further the purposes of this title;

(B) a detailed statement of the initial findings and conclusions of the Commission; and

(C) a detailed statement of the initial recommendations of the Commission.

(3) COMMISSION FINAL REPORT.—Before the termination of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the individuals described in paragraph (4), and make publicly available, a final report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission that have been agreed on by the vote of a majority of the members of the Commission and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the members of each of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(4) REPORT RECIPIENTS.—The individuals referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) are—

(A) the President;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior;

(C) the Attorney General;

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States;

(E) the Secretary of Education;

(F) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(G) the Secretary of Defense;

(H) the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(I) the Chairperson and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus;

(K) the Executive Director of the White House Council on Native American Affairs;

(L) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(M) the Archivist of the United States;

(N) the Librarian of Congress; and

(O) the Director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

(5) ADDITIONAL COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE INITIAL AND FINAL REPORTS.—

(A) EVENTS RELATING TO INITIAL REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold not fewer than 2 events in each region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in Hawai'i following publication of the initial report under paragraph (2) to receive comments on the initial report.

(ii) TIMING.—The schedule of events referred to in clause (i) shall be announced not later than 90 days after the date on which the initial report under paragraph (2) is published.

(B) PUBLICATION OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report under paragraph (3), the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall each make the final report publicly available on the website of the applicable agency.

(6) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE TO FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services receive the final report under paragraph (3), the Secretaries shall

each make publicly available a written response to recommendations for future action by those agencies, if any, contained in the final report, and submit the written response to—

(A) the President;

(B) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States.

CHAPTER 3—SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE

SEC. 6613. SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a subcommittee of the Commission, to be known as the “Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee”.

(b) MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE SURVIVORS TRUTH AND HEALING SUBCOMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall include 15 members, to be appointed by the Commission, in consultation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(A) 12 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 1 shall be a representative from Hawai'i;

(B) 9 shall be individuals who attended an Indian Boarding School of whom—

(i) not fewer than 2 shall be individuals who graduated during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act from—

(I) an Indian Boarding School in operation as of that date of the enactment; or

(II) a Bureau of Indian Education-funded school; and

(ii) all shall represent diverse regions of the United States;

(C) 5 shall be descendants of individuals who attended Indian Boarding Schools, who shall represent diverse regions of the United States; and

(D) 1 shall be an educator who, as of the date of the appointment—

(i) is employed at an Indian Boarding School; or

(ii) was employed at an Indian Boarding School during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) NOMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(B) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 6611(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee from among those nominees.

(3) DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 6611(c)(1).

(B) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of

the Senate, shall appoint individuals, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), to all vacant positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 6611(c)(1).

(4) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.—

(A) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may vacate the position at any time and for any reason.

(ii) EFFECT; FILLING OF VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee—

(I) shall not affect the powers of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee if a simple majority of the positions of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are filled; and

(II) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) REMOVAL.—A quorum of members of the Commission may remove a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 6612(e)(3).

(6) LIMITATION.—No member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) BUSINESS MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee are appointed under subsection (b)(1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to appoint—

(i) a Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) a Vice Chairperson, who shall also serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(iii) other positions, as determined necessary by the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee;

(B) to establish, with the advice of the Commission, rules for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee;

(C) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 6611(h)(1)(A); and

(D) to appoint, with the advice of the Commission, 2 members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 6611(c)(3).

(2) SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.—After the initial business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee is held under paragraph (1), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A business meeting of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee may be held only after a quorum,

established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) **QUORUM.**—A simple majority of the members of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) **RULES.**—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, with the advice of the Commission, may establish, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) **DUTIES.**—The Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall—

(1) assist the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating public and private convenings, including providing advice to the Commission on developing criteria and protocols for convenings;

(2) provide advice and evaluate Committee recommendations relating to the commemoration and public education relating to Indian Boarding Schools and Indian Boarding School Policies;

(3) assist the Commission—

(A) in the production of the initial and final reports required under paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 6612(e); and

(B) by providing such other advice, or fulfilling such other requests, as may be required by the Commission; and

(4) coordinate with the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(g) **CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.**—In carrying out the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee under subsection (f), the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act”), shall not apply to the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

(i) **CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.**—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), any individual who is a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be considered a covered employee under that Act.

(j) **PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

(1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 7, step 1, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 10 days per month, for which a member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee is engaged in the performance of their duties under this title limited to convening meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee and the purposes of this title.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or

regular places of business in the performance of services for the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee.

Subtitle B—Advisory Committees

CHAPTER 1—NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEC. 6621. NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Commission shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the “Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 19 members, to be appointed by the Commission from among the nominees submitted under paragraph (2)(A), of whom—

(i) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iii) 1 shall be the Secretary of the Interior, or a designee, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(iv) 12 shall be representatives from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and 1 shall be a representative from Hawaii;

(v) 1 shall represent the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition;

(vi) 1 shall represent the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; and

(vii) 1 shall represent the National Indian Education Association.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—Not fewer than 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall have experience with health care or mental health, traditional healing or cultural practices, counseling, or working with survivors, or descendants of survivors, of Indian Boarding Schools to ensure that the Commission considers culturally responsive support for survivors, families, and communities.

(2) **NOMINATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Americans, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations may submit to the Secretary of the Interior nominations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(B) **SUBMISSION.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide the Commission with nominations submitted under subparagraph (A) at the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 6611(c)(1) and the Commission shall select the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee from among those nominees.

(3) **DATE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee during the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 6611(c)(1).

(B) **FAILURE TO APPOINT.**—If the Commission fails to appoint all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Indian

Affairs of the Senate, shall appoint, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1), individuals to all vacant positions of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 6611(c)(1).

(4) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—

(A) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.**—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be appointed for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(5) **TERMINATION.**—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 6612(e)(3).

(6) **LIMITATION.**—No member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee (other than the member described in paragraph (1)(A)(iii)) may otherwise be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(c) **QUORUM.**—A simple majority of the members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(d) **REMOVAL.**—A quorum of members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may remove another member only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(e) **BUSINESS MEETINGS.**—

(1) **INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are appointed under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) to appoint 3 designees to fulfill the responsibilities described in section 6611(h)(1)(A); and

(C) to appoint 2 members of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 6611(c)(3).

(2) **SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.**—After the initial business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) **FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.**—A meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) **QUORUM REQUIRED.**—A business meeting of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (c), is present.

(f) **RULES.**—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(g) **DUTIES.**—The Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) serve as an advisory body to the Commission;

(2) assist the Commission in organizing and carrying out culturally appropriate public

and private convenings relating to the duties of the Commission;

(3) assist the Commission in determining what documentation from Federal and religious organizations and institutions may be necessary to fulfill the duties of the Commission;

(4) assist the Commission in the production of the initial report and final report required under paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 6612(e);

(5) coordinate with the Commission, the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee; and

(6) provide advice to, or fulfill such other requests by, the Commission as the Commission may require to carry out the purposes described in section 6602.

(h) **CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.**—In carrying out the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (g), the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(i) **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act”), shall not apply to the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(j) **CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT APPLICABILITY.**—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), any individual who is a member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be considered a covered employee under that Act.

(k) **PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

(1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for grade 7, step 1, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day, not to exceed 14 days per month, for which a member is engaged in the performance of their duties under this title, limited to convening meetings, including public and private meetings to receive testimony in furtherance of the duties of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee and the purposes of this title.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

CHAPTER 2—FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEC. 6622. FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within the Department of the Interior an advisory committee, to be known as the “Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT TO THE FEDERAL AND RELIGIOUS TRUTH AND HEALING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall include 20 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Commission, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(B) 1 shall be the Chairperson of the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee, who shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(C) 1 shall be the White House Domestic Policy Advisor, who shall serve as the Secretary of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee;

(D) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (or a designee);

(E) 1 shall be the Archivist of the United States (or a designee);

(F) 1 shall be the Librarian of Congress (or a designee);

(G) 1 shall be the Director of the Department of the Interior Library (or a designee);

(H) 1 shall be the Director of the Indian Health Service (or a designee);

(I) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(J) 1 shall be the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services (or a designee);

(K) 1 shall be the Director of the National Institutes of Health (or a designee);

(L) 1 shall be the Senior Program Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations of the Department of the Interior (or a designee);

(M) 1 shall be the Director of the Office of Indian Education of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(N) 1 shall be the Director of the Rural, In-sular, and Native American Achievement Programs of the Department of Education (or a designee);

(O) 1 shall be the Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (or a designee);

(P) 1 shall be the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (or a designee);

(Q) 1 shall be the Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (or a designee); and

(R) 3 shall be representatives employed by, or representatives of, religious institutions, to be appointed by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in consultation with relevant religious institutions.

(2) **PERIOD OF SERVICE; VACANCIES; REMOVAL.**—

(A) **PERIOD OF SERVICE.**—A member of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall serve for an automatically renewable term of 2 years.

(B) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee if a simple majority of the positions of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee are filled; and

(ii) shall be filled within 90 days in the same manner as was the original appointment.

(C) **REMOVAL.**—A quorum of members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may remove a member of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee only for neglect of duty or malfeasance.

(3) **TERMINATION.**—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under section 6612(e)(3).

(c) **BUSINESS MEETINGS.**—

(1) **INITIAL BUSINESS MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the initial business meeting of the Commission under section 6611(c)(1), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall hold an initial business meeting—

(A) to establish rules for the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee; and

(B) to appoint 2 members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee to serve as non-voting designees on the Commission in accordance with section 6611(c)(3).

(2) **SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS MEETINGS.**—After the initial business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee is held under paragraph (1), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(3) **FORMAT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.**—A business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be conducted in-person or virtually.

(4) **QUORUM REQUIRED.**—A business meeting of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may be held only after a quorum, established in accordance with subsection (d), is present.

(d) **QUORUM.**—A simple majority of the members of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting.

(e) **RULES.**—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee may establish, with the advice of the Commission, by a majority vote, any rules for the conduct of business, in accordance with this section and other applicable law.

(f) **DUTIES.**—The Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall—

(1) ensure the effective and timely coordination among Federal agencies and religious institutions in furtherance of the purposes of this title;

(2) assist the Commission and the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee in coordinating—

(A) meetings and other related public and private convenings; and

(B) the collection, organization, and preservation of information obtained from witnesses and by other Federal agencies and religious institutions;

(3) ensure the timely submission to the Commission of materials, documents, testimony, and such other information as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission; and

(4) coordinate with the Commission, the Native American Truth and Healing Advisory Committee, and the Survivors Truth and Healing Subcommittee to carry out the purposes of this title.

(g) **CONSULTATION OR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.**—In carrying out the duties of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee under subsection (f), the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall meaningfully consult or engage, as appropriate, in a timely manner with Native Americans, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

(h) **NONDISCLOSURE.**—

(1) **PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (b) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”), shall not apply to the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

(2) **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPLICABILITY.**—Records and other communications

in the possession of the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee shall be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Freedom of Information Act").

(3) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Federal Advisory Committee Act"), shall not apply to the Federal and Religious Truth and Healing Advisory Committee.

Subtitle C—General Provisions

SEC. 6631. CLARIFICATION.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) shall apply to cultural items (as defined in section 2 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)) relating to an Indian Boarding School or Indian Boarding School Policies regardless of interpretation of applicability by a Federal agency.

SEC. 6632. BURIAL MANAGEMENT.

Federal agencies shall permit reburial of cultural items relating to an Indian Boarding School or Indian Boarding School Policies that have been repatriated pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), or returned to a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization by any other disinterment process, on any Federal land as agreed to by the relevant parties.

SEC. 6633. CO-STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS.

A Federal agency that carries out activities pursuant to this title or that created or controls a cemetery with remains of an individual who attended an Indian Boarding School or an Indian Boarding School may enter into a co-stewardship agreement for the management of the cemetery or Indian Boarding School.

SEC. 6634. NO RIGHT OF ACTION.

Nothing in this title creates a private right of action to seek administrative or judicial relief.

SA 3834. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. AGENT MEMBERSHIP.

Section 304(b)(2) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1795c(b)(2)) is amended by striking "all those credit unions" and inserting "any such credit unions".

SA 3835. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR ARCTIC AFFAIRS.

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 65. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR ARCTIC AFFAIRS.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized within the Department of State an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs, appointed under subsection (b).

"(b) APPOINTMENT.—The Ambassador shall be appointed by the President, by, and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

"(c) DUTIES.—The Ambassador is authorized to represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to Arctic affairs and shall be responsible to the Secretary of State for all matters, programs, and related activities pertaining to the Arctic region in the conduct of foreign policy by the Department, including, as appropriate, leading the coordination of programs carried out by United States Government agencies abroad, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

"(d) AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.—The Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs is authorized to maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters indicated by the Secretary of State, including those pertaining to energy, environment, trade, and infrastructure development and maintenance, and, in consultation with the heads of other relevant departments and agencies, those pertaining to law enforcement and political-military affairs in the conduct of foreign policy in the Arctic, including programs carried out by other United States Government agencies when such programs pertain to the following matters, to the extent directed by the Secretary of State:

"(1) National security.

"(2) Strengthening cooperation among Arctic countries.

"(3) The promotion of responsible natural resource management and economic development.

"(4) Protecting the Arctic environment and conserving its biological resources.

"(5) Arctic indigenous peoples, including by involving them in decisions that affect them.

"(6) Scientific monitoring and research.

"(e) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In addition to the duties and responsibilities specified in subsections (c) and (d), the Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs shall also carry out such other relevant duties as the Secretary may assign.

"(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ARCTIC REGION.—The term 'Arctic region' means—

"(A) the geographic region north of the 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator;

"(B) all the United States territory north and west of the boundary formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers;

"(C) all contiguous seas, including the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi Seas; and

"(D) the Aleutian Chain.

"(2) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term 'Arctic countries' means the permanent members of the Arctic Council, namely the United States, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia."

SA 3836. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title IX, add the following:

SEC. 923. LIMITATION ON RELOCATION OF COMBATANT COMMANDS.

The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a new strategic basing process before relocating a combatant command that has reached full operational capacity.

SA 3837. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XV, insert the following:

SEC. 15. ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LOGISTICS LAYER FOR GOLDEN DOME MISSILE DEFENSE ARCHITECTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Direct Reporting Program Manager for Golden Dome for America, shall assess the funding needs required to develop a dedicated logistics layer to support sustained, resilient, and effective on-orbit operations for the Golden Dome for America missile defense architecture.

(b) ATTRIBUTES.—In conducting the assessment described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall evaluate options for the development of a dedicated logistics layer that includes the following attributes:

(1) Extends the operational lifespan of Golden Dome assets.

(2) Reduces risk in congested orbital regimes.

(3) Enables the rapid deployment and repositioning of interceptors and sensors.

(4) Supports battlefield clearing operations to address the growing challenge of space debris.

(5) Facilitates cost-effective in-space refueling architecture.

(6) Ensures persistent coverage and operational readiness of the interceptor constellation through in-orbit refueling, servicing, and sustainment.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the findings of the Secretary with respect to the assessment required by subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "Golden Dome for America" means the holistic missile defense architecture described in section 1543.

(2) The term "Direct Reporting Program Manager for Golden Dome for America" means the position established by section 1531(d).

SA 3838. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military

personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. GUIDANCE ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 36 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) GUIDANCE ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) applies.

“(2) REPORT.—The Administrator, in coordination with other Federal agencies, shall—

“(A) collect data on the number of small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans that are denied contracts and the reasons for those denials;

“(B) issue a report on—

“(i) whether there are low rates of applications submitted by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans for contracts;

“(ii) whether small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans are being denied contracts because the concerns lack the necessary skills or capacity to scale resources for Federal contracts; and

“(iii) recommendations to improve outreach or solicitation efforts for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.”.

SA 3839. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10 SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL UNITED STATES COMMISSION.

Section 4 of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-196; 130 Stat. 685; 134 Stat. 3386) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as paragraphs (2) through (5), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) 12 members who shall be appointed by the President.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “(b)(3)” and inserting “(b)(4)”.

SA 3840. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SULIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities

of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. AVAILABILITY OF FULL-SERVICE HOSPITAL OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN EACH STATE AND CONTINUED ACCESS TO COMMUNITY CARE.

(a) ACCESS BY VETERANS TO FULL-SERVICE HOSPITALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1716 the following new section:

“§ 1716A. Access to full-service hospitals in each State

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—With respect to each of the 50 States, the Secretary shall ensure that veterans in the State eligible for hospital care and medical services under section 1710 of this title may receive such care and services at not fewer than one full-service hospital of the Veterans Health Administration located within the geographic boundaries of the State.

“(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to restrict the ability of the Secretary to provide enhanced care to a veteran who resides in one State in a hospital of the Veterans Health Administration in another State.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1716 the following new item:

“1716A. Access to full-service hospitals in each State.”.

(b) CONTINUED ACCESS TO CARE UNDER VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.—Section 1703(d)(1) of such title is amended in subparagraph (B) by inserting “as of the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026” before the semicolon at the end.

(c) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report describing the extent to which the Secretary has complied with the requirement imposed by section 1716A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), including the effect of such requirement on improving the quality and standards of care provided to veterans.

SA 3841. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 881. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH CERTAIN BIOTECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not—

(1) procure or obtain any biotechnology equipment or service produced or provided by a biotechnology company of concern; or

(2) enter into a contract or extend or renew a contract with any entity that—

(A) uses biotechnology equipment or services produced or provided by a biotechnology company of concern and acquired after the applicable effective date in subsection (c) in performance of the contract with the executive agency; or

(B) enters into any contract the performance of which such entity knows or has reason to believe will require, in performance of the contract with the executive agency, the use of biotechnology equipment or services produced or provided by a biotechnology company of concern and acquired after the applicable effective date in subsection (c).

(b) PROHIBITION ON LOAN AND GRANT FUNDS.—The head of an executive agency may not obligate or expend loan or grant funds to, and a loan or grant recipient may not use loan or grant funds to—

(1) procure, obtain, or use any biotechnology equipment or services produced or provided by a biotechnology company of concern; or

(2) enter into a contract or extend or renew a contract with an entity described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) CERTAIN ENTITIES.—With respect to the biotechnology companies of concern covered by subsection (f)(2)(A), the prohibitions under subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect 60 days after the Federal Acquisition Regulation is revised pursuant to subsection (h).

(2) OTHER ENTITIES.—With respect to the biotechnology companies of concern covered by subsection (f)(2)(B), the prohibitions under subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect 180 days after the Federal Acquisition Regulation is revised pursuant to subsection (h).

(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) EXCLUSIONS.—Prior to the date that is 5 years after a revision to the Federal Acquisition Regulation pursuant to subsection (h) that identifies a biotechnology company of concern covered by subsection (f)(2), subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) shall not apply to biotechnology equipment or services produced or provided under a contract or agreement, including previously negotiated contract options, entered into before the effective date under paragraph (2).

(B) SAFE HARBOR.—The term “biotechnology equipment or services produced or provided by a biotechnology company of concern” shall not be construed to refer to any biotechnology equipment or services that were formerly, but are no longer, produced or provided by biotechnology companies of concern.

(d) WAIVER AUTHORITIES.—

(1) SPECIFIC BIOTECHNOLOGY EXCEPTION.—

(A) WAIVER.—The head of the applicable executive agency may waive the prohibition under subsections (a) and (b) on a case-by-case basis—

(i) with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense; and

(ii) if such head submits a notification and justification to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after granting such waiver.

(B) DURATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a waiver granted under subparagraph (A) shall last for a period of not more than 365 days.

(ii) EXTENSION.—The head of the applicable executive agency, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, may extend a waiver granted under subparagraph (A) one time, for a period up to 180 days after the date on

which the waiver would otherwise expire, if such an extension is in the national security interests of the United States and if such head submits a notification and justification to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 10 days after granting such waiver extension.

(2) OVERSEAS HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—The head of an executive agency may waive the prohibitions under subsections (a) and (b) with respect to a contract, subcontract, or transaction for the acquisition or provision of health care services overseas on a case-by-case basis—

(A) if the head of such executive agency determines that the waiver is—

(i) necessary to support the mission or activities of the employees of such executive agency described in subsection (e)(2)(A); and

(ii) in the interest of the United States;

(B) with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense; and

(C) if such head submits a notification and justification to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after granting such waiver.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibitions under subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to—

(1) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States;

(2) the acquisition or provision of health care services overseas for—

(A) employees of the United States, including members of the uniformed services (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code), whose official duty stations are located overseas or are on permissive temporary duty travel overseas; or

(B) employees of contractors or subcontractors of the United States—

(i) who are performing under a contract that directly supports the missions or activities of individuals described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) whose primary duty stations are located overseas or are on permissive temporary duty travel overseas;

(3) the acquisition, use, or distribution of human multiomic data, lawfully compiled, that is commercially or publicly available; or

(4) the procurement of medical countermeasures, medical products, and related supplies, including ancillary medical supplies, in direct response to a public health emergency declared pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

(f) EVALUATION OF CERTAIN BIOTECHNOLOGY ENTITIES.—

(1) ENTITY CONSIDERATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall publish a list of the entities that constitute biotechnology companies of concern based on a list of suggested entities that shall be provided by the Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the National Cyber Director.

(2) BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES OF CONCERN DEFINED.—In this section, the term “biotechnology company of concern” means—

(A) an entity that is identified in the annual list published in the Federal Register by the Department of Defense of Chinese military companies operating in the United States pursuant to section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub-

lic Law 116-283; 134 Stat. 3965; 10 U.S.C. 113 note);

(B) any entity that is determined by the process established in paragraph (1) to meet the following criteria—

(i) is subject to the administrative governance structure, direction, control, or operates on behalf of the government of a foreign adversary;

(ii) is to any extent involved in the manufacturing, distribution, provision, or procurement of a biotechnology equipment or service; and

(iii) poses a risk to the national security of the United States based on—

(I) engaging in joint research with, being supported by, or being affiliated with a foreign adversary’s military, internal security forces, or intelligence agencies;

(II) providing multiomic data obtained via biotechnology equipment or services to the government of a foreign adversary; or

(III) obtaining human multiomic data via the biotechnology equipment or services without express and informed consent; and

(C) any subsidiary, parent, affiliate, or successor of an entity described in subparagraphs (A) or (B), provided it meets the criteria set forth in subparagraph (B)(i).

(3) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after publication of the list pursuant to paragraph (1), and any update to the list pursuant to paragraph (4), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the National Cyber Director, shall establish guidance as necessary to implement the requirements of this section.

(4) UPDATES.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with or based on a recommendation provided by the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the National Cyber Director, shall periodically, though not less than annually, review and, as appropriate, modify the list of biotechnology companies of concern, and notify the appropriate congressional committees of any such modifications.

(5) NOTICE OF A DESIGNATION AND REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A notice of a designation as a biotechnology company of concern under paragraph (2)(B) shall be issued to any biotechnology company of concern named in the designation—

(i) advising that a designation has been made;

(ii) identifying the criteria relied upon under such subparagraph and, to the extent consistent with national security and law enforcement interests, the information that formed the basis for the designation;

(iii) advising that, within 90 days after receipt of notice, the biotechnology company of concern may submit information and arguments in opposition to the designation;

(iv) describing the procedures governing the review and possible issuance of a designation pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(v) where practicable, identifying mitigation steps that could be taken by the biotechnology company of concern that may result in the rescission of the designation.

(B) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) NOTICE OF DESIGNATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit the notice required under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Home-

land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(ii) INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION TO DESIGNATIONS.—Not later than 7 days after receiving any information and arguments in opposition to a designation pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit such information to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(6) NO IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE.—Any designation made under paragraph (1) or paragraph (4) shall not be made publicly available until the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with appropriate agencies, reviews all information submitted under paragraph (5)(A)(iii) and issues a final determination that a company shall remain listed as a biotechnology company of concern.

(g) EVALUATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS POSED BY FOREIGN ADVERSARY ACQUISITION OF AMERICAN MULTIOMIC DATA.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the National Cyber Director, shall complete an assessment of risks to national security posed by human multiomic data from United States citizens that is collected or stored by a foreign adversary from the provision of biotechnology equipment or services.

(2) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the assessment developed under paragraph (1), the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report with such assessment to the appropriate congressional committees.

(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (2) shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(h) REGULATIONS.—Not later than one year after the date of establishment of guidance required under subsection (f)(3), and as necessary for subsequent updates, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall revise the Federal Acquisition Regulation as necessary to implement the requirements of this section.

(i) REPORTING ON INTELLIGENCE ON NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES WITH HUMAN MULTIOMIC DATA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of executive agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any intelligence in possession of such agencies related to nefarious activities conducted by biotechnology companies with human multiomic data. The report shall include information pertaining to potential threats to national security or public safety from the selling, reselling, licensing, trading, transferring, sharing, or otherwise providing or making available to any foreign country of any forms of multiomic data of a United States citizen.

(j) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party of the House of Representatives.

(2) **BIOTECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT OR SERVICE.**—The term “biotechnology equipment or service” means—

(A) equipment, including genetic sequencers, or any other instrument, apparatus, machine, or device, including components and accessories thereof, that is designed for use in the research, development, production, or analysis of biological materials as well as any software, firmware, or other digital components that are specifically designed for use in, and necessary for the operation of, such equipment;

(B) any service for the research, development, production, analysis, detection, or provision of information, including data storage and transmission related to biological materials, including—

(i) advising, consulting, or support services with respect to the use or implementation of an instrument, apparatus, machine, or device described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) disease detection, genealogical information, and related services; and

(C) any other service, instrument, apparatus, machine, component, accessory, device, software, or firmware that is designed for use in the research, development, production, or analysis of biological materials that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the heads of executive agencies, as determined appropriate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, determines appropriate in the interest of national security.

(3) **CONTRACT.**—Except as the term is used under subsection (b)(2) and subsection (c)(3), the term “contract” means any contract subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation issued under section 1303(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code.

(4) **CONTROL.**—The term “control” has the meaning given to that term in section 800.208 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations.

(5) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) **FOREIGN ADVERSARY.**—The term “foreign adversary” has the meaning given the term “covered nation” in section 4872(f) of title 10, United States Code.

(7) **MULTIOMIC.**—The term “multiomic” means data types that include genomics, epigenomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics.

(8) **OVERSEAS.**—The term “overseas” means any area outside of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or possession of the United States.

SA 3842. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 724. MILITARY-CIVILIAN MEDICAL SURGE PROGRAM.

Section 1096 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by adding at the end the following “; **medical surge program**”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **MEDICAL SURGE PROGRAM.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a program of record known as the Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program to—

“(A) support locations that the Secretary of Defense selects under paragraph (3)(B); and

“(B) enhance the interoperability and medical surge capability and capacity of the National Disaster Medical System in response to a declaration or other action described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (4).

“(2)(A) The Secretary of Defense, acting through the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (or such successor center), shall oversee the operation, staffing, and deployment of the Program.

“(B) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall maintain requirements for staffing, specialized training, research, and education regarding patient regulation, movement, definitive care, and other matters the Secretary determines critical to sustaining the health of members of the armed forces.

“(3)(A) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall establish partnerships at locations selected under subparagraph (B) with public, private, and nonprofit health care organizations, health care institutions, health care entities, academic medical centers of institutions of higher education, and hospitals that the Secretary determines—

“(i) are critical in mobilizing a civilian medical response in support of a wartime contingency or other catastrophic event in the United States; and

“(ii) have demonstrated technical proficiency in critical national security domains, including high-consequence infectious disease and special pathogen preparedness, and matters relating to defense, containment, management, care, and transportation.

“(B)(i) The Secretary shall select not fewer than eight locations that are operationally relevant to the missions of the Department of Defense under the National Disaster Medical System and are aeromedical or other transport hubs or logistics centers in the United States for partnerships under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) The Secretary may select more than eight locations under clause (i), including locations outside of the continental United States, if the Secretary determines such additional locations cover areas of strategic and operational relevance to the Department of Defense.

“(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the partnerships under paragraph (3)(A) allow for civilian medical personnel to quickly and effectively mobilize direct support to military medical treatment facilities and provide support to other requirements of the military health system pursuant to the following:

“(A) A declaration of a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

“(B) A public health emergency declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

“(C) A declaration of war by Congress.

“(D) The exercise for the President of executive powers under the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

“(E) Any other emergency or major disaster as declared by the President.

“(5)(A) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the status, readiness, and operational capabilities of the Program.

“(B) Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of personnel readiness, resource availability, interagency coordination efforts, and recommendations for continued improvements to the Program.

“(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the Department of Defense to control, direct, limit, or otherwise affect the authorities of the Secretary of Health and Human Services with respect to leadership and administration of the National Disaster Medical System, public health and medical preparedness and response, staffing levels, or resource allocation.

“(7) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘institution of higher education’ means a four-year institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))).

“(B) The term ‘National Disaster Medical System’ means the system established under section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11).

“(C) The term ‘Program’ means the Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program established under paragraph (1).”.

SA 3843. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1228 and insert the following:

SEC. 1228. INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE.

The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall ensure that the relevant elements of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) provide intelligence support (including information, intelligence, and imagery collection authorized under applicable provisions of law) to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of supporting military operations of the Government of Ukraine that are specifically intended or reasonably expected to defend and retake the territory of Ukraine described in section 1245 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 2847).

SA 3844. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3427 proposed by Ms. ERNST to the amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and

Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EPSTEIN FILES TRANSPARENCY.

(a) RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO JEFFREY EPSTEIN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall make publicly available in a searchable and downloadable format all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in the possession of the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and each United States Attorney's Office, that relate to—

(A) Jeffrey Epstein, including all investigations, prosecutions, or custodial matters;

(B) Ghislaine Maxwell;

(C) any flight logs or travel records, including manifests, itineraries, pilot records, and customs or immigration documentation, for any aircraft, vessel, or vehicle owned, operated, or used by Jeffrey Epstein or any related entity;

(D) any individuals, including government officials, named or referenced in connection with the criminal activities, civil settlements, immunity or plea agreements, or investigatory proceedings of Jeffrey Epstein;

(E) any corporate, nonprofit, academic, or governmental entities with known or alleged ties to the trafficking or financial networks of Jeffrey Epstein;

(F) any immunity deals, non-prosecution agreements, plea bargains, or sealed settlements involving Jeffrey Epstein or his associates;

(G) any internal Department of Justice communications, including emails, memoranda, and meeting notes, concerning decisions to charge, not charge, investigate, or decline to investigate Jeffrey Epstein or his associates;

(H) any communications, memoranda, directives, logs, or metadata concerning the destruction, deletion, alteration, misplacement, or concealment of documents, recordings, or electronic data related to Jeffrey Epstein, his associates, his detention and death, or any investigative files; or

(I) any documentation of the detention or death of Jeffrey Epstein, including incident reports, witness interviews, medical examiner files, autopsy reports, and written records detailing the circumstances and cause of death.

(2) PROHIBITED GROUNDS FOR WITHHOLDING.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Attorney General may not withhold from publication, delay the publication of, or redact any record, document, communication, or investigative material on the basis of embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary.

(3) PERMITTED WITHHOLDINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Attorney General may withhold from publication any record, document, communication, or investigative material, or redact any segregable portion of any record, document, communication, or investigative material, that—

(i) contains personally identifiable information from the personal or medical file of a victim or child witness, including informa-

tion the publication of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(ii) depicts or contains child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code;

(iii) would jeopardize an active Federal investigation or ongoing Federal prosecution, if the withholding or redaction is narrowly tailored and temporary;

(iv) depicts or contains any image of the death, physical abuse, or injury of any person; or

(v) contains information that is specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and is properly classified pursuant to that Executive order.

(B) REDACTIONS.—The Attorney General shall publish in the Federal Register and submit to Congress a written justification for each redaction under subparagraph (A).

(C) DECLASSIFICATION TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall declassify, to the maximum extent possible, any information that the Attorney General would otherwise withhold or redact as classified information under this subsection.

(ii) UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY.—If the Attorney General determines that information described in clause (i) may not be declassified and made available in a manner that protects the national security of the United States, including methods or sources related to national security, the Attorney General shall make publicly available an unclassified summary of the information.

(D) CLASSIFICATION OF COVERED INFORMATION.—The Attorney General shall publish in the Federal Register and submit to Congress each decision made after July 1, 2025, to classify any information that would otherwise be required to be made publicly available under paragraph (1), including the date of classification, the identity of the classifying authority, and an unclassified summary of the justification for classification.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15 days after making publicly available all records, documents, communications, and investigative materials under subsection (a)(1), the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report containing—

(1) a list of each category of records, documents, communications, and investigative materials made publicly available or withheld;

(2) a summary of the redactions made, including the legal basis upon which the redactions were made; and

(3) a list of each government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary named or referenced in the records, documents, communications, and investigative materials made publicly available, without redaction in accordance with subsection (a)(2).

SA 3845. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. ENDING CRYPTO CORRUPTION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “End Crypto Corruption Act of 2025”.

(b) PROHIBITED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER IV—PROHIBITED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

“§ 13151. Definitions

“In this subchapter:

“(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘covered individual’ means—

“(A) the President;

“(B) the Vice President;

“(C) a Member of Congress;

“(D) an individual appointed to a Senate-confirmed position; or

“(E) a special Government employee (as defined in section 202 of title 18) associated with the Executive Office of the President.

“(2) DEPENDENT CHILD; MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The terms ‘dependent child’ and ‘Member of Congress’ have the meanings given those terms in section 13101.

“(3) DIRECTLY.—The term ‘directly’ means by virtue of the ownership or beneficial interest of a covered individual, or the spouse or dependent child of a covered individual, in a financial interest described in paragraph (5)(A).

“(4) INDIRECTLY.—The term ‘indirectly’ means by virtue of the financial interest of a covered individual, or the spouse or dependent 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 dependent child of a covered individual, has an ownership or beneficial interest.

“(5) PROHIBITED FINANCIAL TRANSACTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘prohibited financial transaction’ means—

“(i) any issuance, sponsorship, or endorsement of a cryptocurrency, meme coin, token, non-fungible token, stablecoin, or other digital asset that is sold for remuneration;

“(ii) any financial interest comparable to an interest described in clause (i) that is acquired through synthetic means, such as the use of a derivative, including an option, warrant, or other similar means; or

“(iii) any financial interest comparable to an interest described in clause (i) that is acquired as part of an aggregation or compilation of such interests through a mutual fund, exchange-traded fund, or other similar means.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘prohibited financial transaction’ does not include the mere purchase, sale, holding, or other conduct relating to financial instruments or assets routinely accessible to any member of the public.

“(6) SENATE-CONFIRMED POSITION.—The term ‘Senate-confirmed position’ means a position in a department or agency of the executive branch of the United States for which appointment is required to be made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“§ 13152. Prohibition on certain transactions

“(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a covered individual, or the spouse or dependent child of a covered individual, may not engage directly or indirectly in a prohibited financial transaction—

“(1) during the term of service of the covered individual; or

“(2) during the 1-year period beginning on the date on which the service of the covered individual is terminated.

“(b) LIABILITY AND IMMUNITY.—For purposes of any immunities to civil liability,

any conduct relating to a prohibited financial transaction under this section shall be deemed an unofficial act and beyond the scope of the official duties of the relevant covered individual.

“§ 13153. Civil penalties

“(a) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States against any covered individual who violates section 13152(a).

“(b) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any covered individual who knowingly violates section 13152(a) shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty equal to not more than 10 percent of the value of the financial interest that is the subject of the prohibited conduct, or the amount of financial gain, if any, that the covered individual benefitted from relating to the prohibited conduct, whichever is greater.

“(c) DISGORGEMENT.—A covered individual who is found to have violated section 13152(a) in a civil action under subsection (a) shall disgorge to the Treasury of the United States any profit from the prohibited conduct that is the subject of that civil action.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER IV—PROHIBITED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

“13151. Definitions.

“13152. Prohibition on certain transactions.

“13153. Civil penalties.”.

(c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES RELATING TO PROHIBITED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 227A. Prohibited financial transactions

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘covered individual’ means—

“(A) the President;

“(B) the Vice President;

“(C) a Member of Congress;

“(D) an individual appointed to a Senate-confirmed position; or

“(E) a special Government employee (as defined in section 202) associated with the Executive Office of the President.

“(2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘Member of Congress’ has the meaning given that term in section 13101 of title 5.

“(3) PROHIBITED FINANCIAL TRANSACTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘prohibited financial transaction’ means—

“(i) any issuance, sponsorship, or endorsement of a cryptocurrency, meme coin, token, non-fungible token, stablecoin, or other digital asset that is sold for remuneration; or

“(ii) any financial interest comparable to an interest described in clause (i) that is acquired through synthetic means, such as the use of a derivative, including an option, warrant, or other similar means.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘prohibited financial transaction’ does not include the mere purchase, sale, holding, or other conduct relating to financial instruments or assets routinely accessible to any member of the public.

“(4) SENATE-CONFIRMED POSITION.—The term ‘Senate-confirmed position’ means a position in a department or agency of the executive branch of the United States for which appointment is required to be made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(b) BENEFITTING FROM PROHIBITED FINANCIAL TRANSACTION.—Any covered individual who—

“(1) knowingly violates any provision of section 13152(a) of title 5; and

“(2) through such violation—

“(A) causes an aggregate loss of not less than \$1,000,000 to 1 or more persons in the United States; or

“(B) benefits financially, through profit, gain, or advantage, directly or indirectly through any family member or business associate of the covered individual, from the sale, purchase, or distribution of the financial interest described in subsection (a)(3)(A)(i) issued, sponsored, or endorsed in violation of section 13152(a) of title 5, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

“(c) BRIBERY.—Any covered individual who—

“(1) knowingly violates any provision of section 13152(a) of title 5; and

“(2) directly or indirectly, corruptly demands, seeks, receives, accepts, or agrees to receive or accept any thing of value personally or for any other person or entity, in return for—

“(A) being influenced in the performance of any official act;

“(B) being influenced to commit or aid in committing, or to collude in, or allow, any fraud, or make opportunity for the commission of any fraud, on the United States; or

“(C) being induced to do or omit to do any act in violation of the official duty of such official or person, shall be fined under this title or not more than 2 times the monetary equivalent of the thing of value, whichever is greater, or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, and may be disqualified from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

“(d) INTENT.—To incur criminal liability under this section, it shall not be required that a covered individual intended to create a financial interest described in subsection (a)(3)(A)(i) through the issuance, sponsorship or endorsement of the financial interest described in subsection (a)(3)(A)(i).

“(e) LIABILITY AND IMMUNITY.—For purposes of any immunities to civil and criminal liability, any conduct relating to a prohibited financial transaction under this section shall be deemed an unofficial act and beyond the scope of official duties of the relevant covered individual.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 227 the following:

“227A. Prohibited financial transactions.”.

SA 3846. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1067. ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES.

Notwithstanding any rules, recommendations, or other statements issued by the Department of Health and Human Services or any other provision of law, no individual who requests a COVID-19 vaccine shall be denied such vaccine by a health care provider who is certified to administer vaccines pursuant to Federal and State licensure laws and who provides services in a health care setting that offers such vaccine, nor shall any such

individual be required to meet any criteria to receive such vaccine, except that a health care provider may deny an individual such a vaccine if the provider determines it not to be medically advisable for the individual to receive the vaccine. No Federal department, agency, or office, State, or health insurance issuer may deny full coverage for the COVID-19 vaccine with respect to an individual enrolled in a Federal health care program (as defined in section 1128B(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7b(f))), a State health care program (as defined in section 1128(h) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7(h))), the health insurance program under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, or a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage (as such terms are defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91)).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I have three 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 THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns on the Committee of Agriculture be granted floor privileges through December 12, 2025: Mara Hallcock and Elise Sharp.

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

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Rick Berger and Brad Patout, members of Senator WICKER's committee staff, be granted full floor passes for the remainder of the consideration of Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—MCGRAW NOMINATION

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, as if in executive session. I ask consent to

move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 287 and make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— SINHA NOMINATION

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 288 and make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— WALTZ NOMINATION

Ms. LUMMIS. As if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 308 and make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— WALTZ NOMINATION

Ms. LUMMIS. As if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 309, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— JACOBS NOMINATION

Ms. LUMMIS. As if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 343, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to the committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— ROSE NOMINATION

Ms. LUMMIS. As if in executive session, I ask consent to move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 351, and I make a point of order that the nomination was not properly reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The nomination will be returned to committee.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2748, H.R. 4553

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2748) to establish a program to beautify the District of Columbia and to establish the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Commission, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4553) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 8468(a), as amended by Public Law 118-159, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy: the Honorable ANGELA ALSOBROOKS of Maryland.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, 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 resume consideration of Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, sailors and pilots know to look out for dangerous weather ahead. Politicians can get lost in the moment. We are on the verge of a major economic shock, but Congress is lost in the moment, not paying attention.

Well, when that economic shock hits, I want people to know how and why we failed to protect them. The shock is simple. Climate change makes property insurance unpredictable, so insur-

ance prices soar, insurers withdraw from high-risk regions, and fake or flimsy insurance populates the market. As the insurance market goes, so goes the mortgage market, given the many linkages between insurance and mortgages.

As mortgage markets fail, property values fall since there is way less demand for real estate properties that are unmortgageable. The combination threatens a reprise of the 2008 great recession or worse. It is what economists call systemic rescue, the scariest word in the economic lexicon because it means the damage cascades throughout the entire economy, hitting everyone.

Remember 2008—everybody hurt. This cascade is pretty broadly predicted by insurers, economists, bankers, regulators, even the big, short guy who predicted the great recession. The Economist magazine has warned of a \$25 trillion hit to global real estate values. Yes, I said “trillion.” Even climate-shy Fed Chair Powell predicted whole regions of the United States would soon go without mortgagees.

So why the big fail here? Why aren't we paying attention to the great climate insurance collapse that is looming and predicted? To understand that, you have to understand the four phases of climate denial because fossil fuel-funded climate denial is the root of the danger.

Phase one of climate denial for the fossil fuel industry was simple: Bury the evidence. Decades ago—many decades ago—scientists in the fossil fuel industry warned about climate change. Exxon, Chevron, Shell, American Petroleum Institute all got internal warnings decades ago of the danger ahead. Instead of facing up to the problem and looking for solutions, they buried the evidence and acted as if they had never been told.

Just keep it secret was phase 1.

Phase 2 was to begin actively misleading the public. Two things coincided to kick off phase 2. One was scientists outside the fossil fuel industry beginning to publicly discuss the climate dangers of fossil fuel combustion—and not just fringe scientists either but leading scientists from places like NASA. NASA is pretty good with science—you know, man on the Moon, rovers driving around Mars. Anyway, Congress perked up. Hearings were held, and what Exxon and others knew was brought out into the public daylight.

The second thing that kicked off phase 2 was a Federal court decision against the tobacco industry and its front groups for fraudulently misleading the public about the dangers of tobacco. Federal Judge Gladys Kessler—God rest her soul; she passed away 2 years ago in March—put the tobacco industry and its front groups under court order to stop the lying and knock off the fraud. No more lying? No more fraud? That decision put the tobacco industry's denial operation out of work, at least on tobacco.

But it gave fossil fuel a prefab denial operation to take over. And suddenly, a lot of people and a lot of front group who had been expert in how tobacco smoke wasn't bad for you suddenly became expert in how fossil fuel emissions wouldn't wreck the Earth's climate. So that kicked off phase 2 with public recognition of the dangers and attention of Congress. The tobacco fraud operation became the fossil fuel fraud operation—same entities, same people, same tactics.

For years, the fossil fuel industry used that operation. It actually expanded and multiplied that tobacco operation to sow false doubt about climate science and to fraudulently suggest we would all be worse off if we solved the fossil fuel emissions problem.

One sidebar here. That all seems terribly expensive. Well, yes and no. Yes, in that billions and billions of dollars were spent on the climate denial fraud operation. Just the work to capture the Supreme Court so it would be friendly to fossil fuel polluters has been estimated at roughly \$600 million. And that work was just one aspect of the vast climate denial fraud operation.

On the other hand, you have to understand what the climate denial fraud operation was protecting. The fossil fuel industry floats on the biggest economic subsidy in human history thanks to its free-to-pollute business model. The value to fossil fuel interests of that subsidy from being allowed to pollute for free has been calculated by the International Monetary Fund at north of \$600 billion every year—every single year, \$600-plus billion worth of free pollution that we all pay for in various ways. Honest calculations of what is called the social cost of carbon pollution differ a bit, but they are all in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

So when the fossil fuel industry picked up the tobacco fraud operation and multiplied it, cost was no object. Imagine, for example, if they spent \$6 billion a year on their climate fraud operation. That pays them back over \$100 every year for every single dollar spent. If they spent \$60 billion a year, it is a 10-to-1 payback. It makes the climate fraud operation likely the most lucrative segment of the fossil fuel industry.

So let's just say, phase 2 was robust—over 100 front groups, billions of dollars, stables of fake scientists, massive Madison Avenue propaganda campaigns, even attack goons to go after scientists and reporters. It was and is probably the biggest fraud operation in history. But a fair campaign of lies against truth, even with billions of dollars behind the lies won't guarantee a win for the lies.

So phase 2, even with all of its billions, had its limits. That brings us to phase 3, unleashed by the Citizens United decision, a truly toxic decision delivered by an all-Republican panel of five on the Supreme Court. That deci-

sion did two things. One, as a legal matter, it unleashed infinite special interest money into our political system. Two, as a practical matter, it allowed that money to be anonymous—what is called dark money—flowing into the political system through front groups that obscure the actual donor, keeping citizens in the dark about who is who in the political arena and who is behind what they are being told—basic information to accomplish the office of citizen, in this great Republic, denied to the citizens.

The fossil fuel industry sought that decision, was prepared for that decision, and moved aggressively to flood dark money into elections.

It is a whole separate speech about fossil fuel's role in that Citizens United decision. But the important thing was that they won. Dark money corruption now could buttress climate denial fraud. In the contest between truth and lies, lies now had not only billions, but an enormous new dark money thumb on the political scale.

There is a famous saying that it is hard to get someone to understand something when their salary depends on them not understanding it. Thank you, Upton Sinclair. Well, right away, the Republican Party came to depend on that fossil fuel money. And, no surprise, its understanding of climate change vanished.

It wasn't always like this. It was not always like this, not on corruption, not on climate denial. Super PACs didn't even used to exist. Nondisclosing 501(c)(4)s stayed out of political elections. Entities like DonorsTrust that exist solely to launder off donor identities just were not a thing. Shadowy political front groups and shell corporations weren't even worth setting up until secret political spending could surge into the billions. That whole new corrupting, toxic political ecosystem has developed to enable dark money power. It is all new, and it all stinks.

Climate denial is the same. In the 3 years after I came to the Senate and before the toxic decision in Citizens United, big, beautiful, bipartisan Senate climate bills were common. I can think of four offhand—real ones—that would have really reduced emissions. Republican Presidential candidate John McCain ran in 2008 on a perfectly decent climate platform—no denial, no fraud. Please remember, it once was that way. Then Citizens United was decided in January of 2010, and since that day, there has not been a single serious bipartisan climate bill in the Senate—not one. The echocardiogram of bipartisan Senate climate action blipped and flatlined.

Now, for over 15 years, the combination of the fossil fuel industry's massive climate denial fraud operation and the fossil fuel industry's massive dark money political corruption operation was a deadly combination. It was lethal. Just as the fossil fuel industry intended, these crooked, semicovert operations protected its annual \$600 bil-

lion-plus freedom-to-pollute subsidy, and the pollution spewed and spewed and spewed.

The legendary political wheeler-dealer Mark Hanna said:

There are two things that are important in politics. The first is money, and I can't remember what the second one is.

Historian John Barry observed:

When you mix politics and science, you get politics. Up against that kind of money and politics, science never stood a chance against fossil fuel's lies.

Now we are in phase 4, the phase where an increasingly desperate fossil fuel operation switches from defense to offense—burying the evidence, running the climate denial fraud operation, and corrupting politics with dark money. All were essentially defense at all costs—at all costs. Protect that free-to-pollute \$600 billion-plus annual subsidy. Phase 4 is different. Phase 4 is fossil fuel on offense, using the power of government to crush fossil fuel's clean energy competition.

Phase 4 kicked off with Trump. Fossil fuel may be an evil industry in its politics, but it is not a stupid one. It knows it is losing. It sees the clean energy cost trends. It knows free, clean fuels like the Sun and wind must inevitably win. It knows that a commodity's price set by a foreign cartel will sooner or later blow up in its face. It knows that polluting for free—contrary to moral as well as economic and environmental principles—can only be protected for so long. It knows that last year, 95 percent of new power coming onto the grid in the United States was clean power—wind, solar, and battery storage.

Fossil fuel knows its days are numbered, so it has infiltrated the Trump administration and is running the U.S. Government for its own benefit from the inside. There is a kind of wasp, a wasp that injects its larvae into another bug, and its larvae then take over the command and control systems of that unfortunate bug from the inside. The larvae drive the bug around like you or I might drive a car around except that the larvae are eating it from the inside at the same time.

That is a good image to keep in mind about the corrupt Trump regime and who is driving it. Under Trump, the Government of the United States is being driven by those fossil fuel larvae to attack cheaper, cleaner, less subsidized energy competitors who are winning against polluting fossil fuel.

There was a time when Republicans used to say: Government shouldn't pick winners and losers. Like so many vanishing Republican principles, what a laugh that one now is.

Trump asked this industry for \$1 billion in campaign cash, and who knows what he got, but it was provably hundreds of millions.

The Republican Party is as dependent on fossil fuel dark money as a deep-sea diver is on his air hose. Pinch that flow just a little, and the diver will dance whatever jig he is told to dance

to get his airflow back. So Republicans dance the fossil fuel denial fraud jig. Just the highlights reel is enough to expose the rot.

Trump's energy Executive order denied that solar and wind energy were even energy, violating the very dictionary.

Republicans went to bat using the Congressional Review Act to defend the worst methane leakers—the ones that weren't even meeting their own industry standards. "Keep leaking, guys" was the message.

Senate Republicans even went nuclear in overruling our Parliamentarian to undo the auto emissions standards followed by much of the country—never mind the damage to the auto industry.

Trump illegally shut down nearly finished wind farms whose clean electrons would displace gas-generated electrons as soon as next year. Those clean electrons also save consumers tens of millions—less pollution, more savings. We can't have that, said Republicans. They have even undone the social cost of carbon rules, as if the pollution wasn't real, and are trying to undo the endangerment finding as if the pollution isn't a danger.

It is all a pack of lies and nonsense, but it has a purpose: Crush America's clean energy industry. It is a separate speech, what economic damage that does to America in international competition as the rest of the world moves to clean energy and we get left behind.

So where are we?

Thanks to fossil fuel's massive climate denial fraud and dark money political corruption, storm clouds loom ahead. Florida is our preview of coming attractions: an insurance market in grave distress, mortgage markets beginning to tremble, middle-class families finding it hard to sell homes. The chief economist of Freddie Mac some years ago predicted this cascade—from insurance, to mortgages, to property values, to what he then called a "coastal property values crash" that would hit the entire economy like the 2008 great recession.

Note that word "coastal." Well, it is not just coastal anymore. "Wildfire"

now matches "coastal" as an added threat that can trigger that economic cascade into collapse.

On top of that looms the long-predicted carbon bubble. What is the carbon bubble? That is when the fossil fuel industry collapses in a sudden and disorderly fashion because we were irresponsible about a gradual and reliable energy transition.

By the way, it is not coastal or wildfire or carbon bubble collapse. All three could happen, each collapse making the others faster and more deep and dangerous and painful.

Remember Hemingway's notorious line that you go broke gradually and then all at once? What could provoke this already gradual collapse to suddenly go all at once? Well, there are a lot of ways this could happen.

One is related to OPEC. Say a low-cost oil and gas producer like Saudi Arabia decides to sell fuel at cost rather than at the OPEC cartel price. When they see it is time to make the move for the exits and sell what they can while they still can—when they do that, the American fossil fuel industry rapidly collapses because our fossil fuel industry can no longer compete. It is only profitable at puffed-up OPEC cartel prices, not at the price that Saudi Arabia could bring to the market if it chose to. So instant crash.

Here is another scenario: Fannie and Freddie—the mortgage giants—stop accepting mortgages insured by Florida's flimsy, pop-up property insurance companies, over a dozen of which have already gone bust since Hurricane Irma in 2017. It is a huge taxpayer liability for Freddie and Fannie to assume all that risk without credible insurance. Local Florida banks won't hold those mortgages because the 30-year risk to a bank is not survivable. Florida becomes a region Chairman Powell predicted, where you can't get mortgages anymore. A massive asset repricing then follows. That triggers systemic economic damage, perhaps even cascading globally, as *The Economist* magazine warned.

The trusty sign that I have worked with all these years, through hundreds

of speeches, is "Time to Wake Up." I am not sure we can save ourselves any longer. We have blown so many chances. The remaining pathway to climate safety is steep and narrowing, and the climate chasm deepens by the day. The evil forces that put us in this danger are more powerful, desperate, and malevolent than ever. The massive economic shock so many foresee could come next week, next month, or next year. It may now be too late to prevent it. It may now be too late to wake up. I hope we can pull this off, but our chances have really slimmed.

So I am here because I, for damned sure, want people to know why we got to this dangerous precipice and who is to blame. Chalk it up to a massive, semicovert operation of industrial-scale disinformation and dark money influence run against our country from within by a polluting industry fighting to pollute for free and by the politicians who enabled them for money.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LUMMIS). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:17 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 9, 2025:

THE JUDICIARY

MARIA A. LANAHAN, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ROBERT LAW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

THE JUDICIARY

KYLE CHRISTOPHER DUDEK, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.