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No. 149

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.
Gracious God, high and lifted up, hallowed be Your Name. Lord, as we observe the 24th anniversary of 9/11, we continue to thank You for Your sustaining grace. We give thanks at the remembrance of Your holy Name, for You are our hope for the years to come.
Today, as flags around the Nation fly at half-staff, we mourn the assassination of Charlie Kirk. We ask that You would comfort his family and loved ones and all who appreciated Charlie's love of country. Use our lawmakers today to make our Nation and world better. Lord, teach all of us to number our days, that we may have hearts of wisdom.
We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN,

a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2296, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A 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.

Pending:

Wicker/Reed Amendment Modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

Wicker (for Ernst) Amendment No. 3427 (to Amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs.

Thune Amendment No. 3863 (to Amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3865 (to Amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune Amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date.

Thune Amendment No. 3868 (to Amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 24 years ago, on a bright September day whose blue sky I still remember, terrorists hijacked four planes and flew three of them into the Twin Towers in New York City and into the Pentagon. The fourth plane, possibly headed for this building, was brought down in a field in Pennsylvania after heroic passengers rose up to stop the terrorists.

No one who lived through that day will ever forget the shock, the terror, and the tremendous wave of resolve. We saw the worst of which humanity is capable in the attacks, but we saw the very best of America in the aftermath—the heroic passengers on Flight 93; the firemen who walked up the stairs, into the towers, as civilians were running down; the ordinary Americans who rushed to help; the lines to donate blood; the vast donations raised; the renewed sense of patriotism and national unity.

Twenty-four years on, most of the visible scars of the attacks are gone. The Pentagon and One World Trade Center stand proudly. But my thoughts and prayers on this anniversary remain with those who still bear the invisible scars of that day—with them and with all those in the years since who have stood between our country and terror.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. President, later today, the Senate will move forward on amending the

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



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S6561

Senate rules to restore the Senate precedent of the en bloc confirmation of Presidential nominees.

I have spent plenty of time here on the floor explaining why we are having to take this step. The longtime practice of the Senate was expeditious confirmation of Presidential nominations, often in blocks, using the procedural mechanism of voice vote or unanimous consent. That didn't mean rubberstamping every nominee, but it did mean that the Senate allowed the President to assemble his team so that he could carry out the job for which he was elected.

But over the years, Democrats have steadily eroded that bipartisan tradition—first during President George W. Bush's administration, then dramatically during the first Trump administration, and finally to where we are today. And where we are today is beyond erosion. Democrats have flat-out broken the Senate confirmation process.

We are more than 7 months into President Trump's current term, and the Senate has yet to confirm one single civilian nominee by unanimous consent or voice vote. To put that into perspective, by this point in his administration, President Biden had had 76 civilian nominees confirmed by voice vote—76. President Trump has not had one—the first President on record to be in this position—the first President on record.

Democrats have dragged out the process on every single civilian nominee, including on nominees they ended up supporting on final passage. Sixty-two out of the one hundred thirty-nine nominees we have confirmed have been confirmed with Democrat support. Democrats have refused to voice-vote any of them. Why? Petty partisanship—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

The Democrat leader, of course, would claim that it is because we are dealing with historically bad nominees, but I won't waste time today debunking that. I don't need to. It has been debunked for me by the fact that close to half of President Trump's nominees have received Democrat support on final passage and by the scores of Trump nominees who have emerged from committee with bipartisan support.

No, this isn't about historically bad nominees; this is about petty partisanship. Democrats and their political base cannot deal with the fact that the American people elected President Trump, and so they are dragging out every confirmation in retaliation.

It would be fine if this Democrat temper tantrum didn't affect anyone else, but Democrats' historic obstruction is having serious consequences. In addition to the obvious problem of delays in filling important positions in the administration, having to engage in the time-consuming cloture process on every nominee ties up the Senate floor, preventing us from considering important legislation.

Advice and consent on Presidential nominations is part of our job as Senators, but it is not the only part of our job. The Senate is first and foremost a legislative body, but that primary role is getting crowded out by the need to be constantly considering nominations.

Now, when I became majority leader, I made it clear that one of my priorities was to get the Senate functioning again, and the Senate can't function effectively as a legislative body with the confirmation process in the state that it is in right now. So today, the Senate will move forward on amending the rules to restore the longstanding precedent of confirming Presidential nominees expeditiously.

It would have been nice not to have to go through this process. I think there are a lot of Democrats who are aware that they have created an untenable situation, and it would have been nice to see them acknowledge that and move to return to longtime Senate precedent. But despite extended efforts to engage Democrats, we still haven't gotten to a solution to the problem that they created, and time is about to run out. One way or the other, we are going to fix this today—fix it and restore the longtime Senate precedent of expeditious confirmation and the Senate's role as first and foremost a legislative body. It is not too late for my Democrat colleagues to join us. I invite them to do so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 366.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 366, Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John R. Curtis, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, James E. Risch, David McCormick, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, John Boozman, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Barrasso.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 24 years ago today, September 11, 2001, started off like any other day in New York City. The weather was beautiful. People were out and about. It was primary day, and people were lining up to vote. Then, in an instant, everything changed.

At 8:46 a.m., Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. There was chaos and confusion. Seventeen minutes later, flight 175 crashed into the South Tower. The reality of what was happening became clear: This wasn't a horrific accident. America was under attack. New York City was Ground Zero.

The course of American history was changed forever. Twenty-four years later, not a day has passed that I haven't thought about the people we lost that day, including three friends of mine: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on the way up, a firefighter I did blood drives with around the city. May their memories be a blessing.

I still think about the scenes when I arrived at Ground Zero in the aftermath of the attack the day after. The putrid smell of dead, burned flesh was in the air. I remember the rows upon rows of people holding up makeshift signs with photos of their missing loved ones because no one knew who was alive and who wasn't: Have you seen my brother Bill? Have you seen my daughter Mary? The anguish on their faces stays in my mind to this day. They are the kind of heart-wrenching images that will stay with me for a lifetime.

While 9/11 was America's darkest hour, I also saw New Yorkers in our finest moments. There were countless acts of kindness by strangers to help each other. In the midst of the tragedy that the world saw, the true strength of America and New York came through. The next day, I called on every American to display the flag on their clothes, outside their homes as a sign of solidarity. And ever since that

day, I wear this flag on my lapel. Every time I look at it, I think of those who were lost. It is a small but constant reminder of our sacred promise: Never, never forget.

"Never forget" especially means honoring the countless brave first responders who ran toward danger, not away from it, to save lives. In our darkest hour, these heroes—police officers, firefighters, EMTs, so many others—risked their lives—construction workers—to rescue others. Many of the finest first responders became sick because of the toxins in the air. Many were diagnosed with rare, deadly cancers and diseases, and many—far too many—succumbed to their illnesses, including my great friend Ray Pfeifer. May he rest in peace.

That is why I have fought to secure nearly \$1.71 billion for the World Trade Center Health Program to help sick first responders get the care they need. Sadly—sadly—it has been such a struggle to get that money.

It has been a difficult few months for many 9/11 first responders and others now sick due to exposures at Ground Zero. Cuts to this program are wrong, immoral, and I have fought in a bipartisan way, with fellow Republicans and Democrats, to oppose them.

I have also fiercely opposed the firing of thousands of HHS staffers who support the World Trade Center Health Program. The heroes who rushed to their towers, the families who have lost loved ones and have sick loved ones don't deserve this kind of chaos, uncertainty, and uncaringness. They don't deserve to have their treatment put on hold because of a backlog or because of disorganization.

I repeat. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. Taking care of 9/11 families is an American issue to its core.

One of the best ways to never forget is ensuring the World Trade Center Health Program is fully funded, is fully staffed, and is fully operational.

So may God bless—God bless—the memories of those who perished on 9/11. May God bless all of our first responders and families.

And, now, in memory of the 2,977 people killed on September 11, in honor of their families, and in honor of all those who have sacrificed since then to keep our country safe, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate observe a minute of silence in honor of those who died on 9/11.

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

The Senate will observe a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

May we never, never forget the memories of those whom we lost.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. President, now on another awful subject, I was shocked and horrified to learn about the murder of Charlie Kirk yesterday afternoon. All of us in the

Senate pray for Charlie's family—his wife, his kids. The loss they feel today is incomprehensible.

We thank all of the first responders who were on the scene yesterday, who continue to work until the murderer is brought to justice.

We also pray for all those hurt yesterday in another act of senseless gun violence in Evergreen High School in Colorado, where two students were critically injured at the hands of a lone gunman. We pray for their recovery.

These tragedies—these tragedies—are a constant reminder to all of us of the immense destruction of gun violence and of inaction.

Now, no matter your political views, yesterday's attack was heinous, cowardly and ought to make everyone sick to their stomachs. Political violence is the enemy of democracy, and we have an obligation on all sides to fight it at every turn. We must condemn it whenever it arises, wherever it arises, including this heinous murder of Charlie Kirk, but also the politically motivated shootings of House Members at a baseball practice and the politically motivated murders of Melissa Hortman and her husband earlier this year in Minnesota, as well as the attacks on former Speaker PELOSI and her husband, and the murder of business executives, and the storming of the U.S. Capitol, and so many other incidents of politically motivated barbarity.

These attacks are attacks on all of us—all of us—all of America. If we fail to quell the fires of political violence, regardless of where it comes from, it will become the norm. There should be no finger-pointing because this is an attack on our democracy itself. And if we fail to quell those fires, our democracy will be doomed.

We can disagree with our ideas but not with weapons and bloodshed and killing.

So we mourn the murder of Charlie Kirk and pray for his family. We pray for those injured in Colorado. And we must work together to bring political violence and the scourge of gun violence to a quick end.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, let me finally say a brief word on appropriations, after those two sad, sad subjects. I want to say a brief word on keeping the government open in a bipartisan way.

I just met with House and Senate Democratic leadership to talk about appropriations. House and Senate Democrats are in total agreement: What the Republicans are proposing is not good enough for the American people and not good enough to get our votes.

The American people are hurting with high costs, particularly healthcare, and Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON have an obligation to sit down with us, the Democratic leaders, in bipartisan negotiations if they want our votes.

The American people are hurting. Healthcare is being decimated on all

fronts. People are losing jobs. People are seeing costs go through the roof. People are losing healthcare. People are going to die because of these cuts.

So Democrats' position is clear, and we are united: Republicans have to come to meet with us in a true bipartisan negotiation to satisfy the American people's needs on healthcare and lower people's costs. Without that, they won't get our votes, plain and simple.

INFLATION

Mr. President, on inflation, this morning, the Department of Labor reported inflation in August accelerated 2.9 percent from a year earlier. That is the highest year-to-year number so far this year.

Inflation is getting worse—so much for Donald Trump's promise to lower costs "on day one."

We are well past the point where you can't make it through the day without seeing more evidence that Trump's tariffs are hurting our economy.

Donald Trump, a billionaire, can post on social media there is no inflation to his heart's delight, but Americans know he is lying every time they pay more for coffee and beef and rent. And it is all self-inflicted because of these tariffs.

Soon, Senate Democrats will force action on legislation stopping these destructive tariffs because we need to protect people back home. I urge our Republican colleagues to join us when that time comes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHARLIE KIRK SHOOTING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to begin today by addressing the tragic event that occurred yesterday.

Thirteen years ago, an organization called Turning Point USA was launched to fight back against liberal indoctrination that was occurring on college campuses. It began, as you know, as a little organization. It quickly grew into a dominant force of conservatism on college campuses. It became a national movement.

At the center of this was an 18-year-old young patriot named Charlie Kirk. From students and parents, all the way to President Trump, they all admired Charlie. He was a college dropout who brought debate and dialogue back to our country. For 13 years, Charlie did the most courageous thing in American life: He expressed his beliefs with an open heart. Yes, Charlie had strong political views, and he never feared having those views questioned by anyone, on any topic. In fact, as the Presiding Officer knows, he welcomed it.

Well, the name of yesterday's event was "Prove Me Wrong." It was a fitting testimony to Charlie's fearlessness. For those political convictions, for that personal courage, Charlie became the latest target of political violence.

Many of us knew Charlie personally, as did I. The Presiding Officer and I were with him in October—October 31. We were with him in Phoenix, AZ, during a campaign event with President Trump. He became a beacon for a better, brighter America. Charlie reminded all of us that civil debate makes our arguments sharper, and it makes our society better.

We must live as Charlie lived during his all-too-brief life: with courage and with conviction. God bless Charlie Kirk. May God bless his family, and may he rest in peace.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on a separate matter, Senate Republicans today are prepared to break the Democrat nomination blockade. Senate Republicans are determined to overcome Democrats' confirmation obstruction. Senate Republicans are prepared to restore the Senate to the way it is supposed to work. For two centuries, most Presidential nominees have sailed through this Chamber by voice vote and by unanimous consent. That was the gold standard for "advise and consent." Senator SCHUMER and the Democrats abandoned it. Instead of deliberation, Senate Democrats chose unprecedented delay. That ends now.

This year, Democrats have forced the Senate to waste 210 hours of pointless procedural theatrics. That is 210 hours not used for debating legislation—legislation to fight crime, to secure the border, to unleash American energy, and to grow the economy. Modern Presidents have over 1,000 positions requiring Senate confirmation, and as a result, only 12 percent of President Trump's team is today on the job. And it is because of obstruction; it is because of Democrat delays. They have delayed positions vital to America's safety, vital to our prosperity, and vital to our diplomacy around the world.

These remain empty. Let me name a few. The Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center—that is the person responsible for protecting us from foreign spies—empty; the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security at the Energy Department, the person responsible for safeguarding our Nation's nuclear weapons: empty; Ambassadors to key NATO allies as war rages in Europe: empty; the inspector general at the Central Intelligence Agency: empty; the Deputy Trade Representative, as America negotiates historic trade deals, remains empty.

Empty positions cannot keep our Nation safe. Empty positions invite Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—they invite them to test us. But that is what the Democrats have brought this country. The unquestionable, undeniable,

irrefutable, inescapable facts are that this Democrat obstruction makes America less safe. That is where we are today.

Let me point out what makes Democrat obstruction even more disgraceful. It destroys their own precedent. In May of 2001, 32 nominees from President George W. Bush were confirmed in a single group. A few months later, 55 more were confirmed in the same way. In February of 2010, for President Barack Obama, 77 nominees were confirmed exactly the same way. In 2017, with President Trump then in the office, 65 nominees were confirmed on a single day.

So what have we seen? Republican Presidents, Democrat Presidents, all with nominees confirmed in the same way. The Senate approved those nominees then as a long-established tradition in the Senate. That is the way the confirmation process is supposed to work. Just 4 years ago, with President Biden in the White House, 36 nominees were confirmed the exact same way.

I want to just get back to 4 years ago: 36 nominees confirmed for President Biden. Who personally came to this Senate floor that day to ask for that unanimous consent? Well, it was the current minority leader, CHUCK SCHUMER. He is the one who made the motion. He is the one who sought unanimous consent. And, of course, we agreed, and it was done that way.

All these groups of nominees, from President Bush to President Biden, were confirmed by unanimous consent. But now that Donald Trump is President again, Senator SCHUMER calls the process, in his words, "beyond the pale"—of doing what he just asked to be done when President Biden was in the White House. When the minority leader claims this week Republicans are breaking the Senate norms, he is trying to rewrite history. Who is he trying to fool? For the past 25 years, the Senate has confirmed routine nominees together in groups. It has been done for Republican Presidents, Democrat Presidents; but not anymore—not when President Trump was elected just this past year. Democrats are now trying to deny President Trump the team he needs in place and on the job to govern this Nation. But the American people elected President Trump to lead, not to watch his administration be held hostage by partisan politics.

Today, Senate Republicans are going to return to the very practice that Democrats endorsed and followed until President Trump got elected. Let me remind the colleagues of that practice so they don't say: Well, they are going to speed things along. Every committee hearing and markup will still happen. Every FBI background check will still happen. Every ethics review will still happen. Every nominee will still appear before committees. Every nominee will still answer questions from Senators. And every nominee will still have a vote in a committee. Scrutiny

of each and every nominee is going to continue.

What comes to the end is what is Senator SCHUMER's reign of procedural terror. The Schumer confirmation shutdown ends today. And to my Democratic colleagues, let me say, if you disagree with our effort to get the Senate working again, it is up to you to explain to the American people why you have chosen to paralyze the Senate. You need to explain why you chose to stop doing the work that you were elected to do. Republicans are getting this Senate back to work on behalf of the American people, and beginning next week, the backlog of President Trump's nominees will be confirmed, and they will be put to work to get America back on track.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. Res. 377, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASAN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 513 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—1

Hassan

(Mr. HAGERTY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. TILLIS assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HAGERTY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. TILLIS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask consent for myself and Senator SCHATZ to speak for up to 6 minutes, equally divided time.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. I would ask for Senator SCHATZ and I to speak for up to 10 minutes of time, equally divided.

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

RULES CHANGE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, the Senate is stuck. We have had an enormous number of nominations that have tried to be able to work through this

body. Quite frankly, it is the same number that we have every time when it is the first term for a new President to be able to work its way through the body.

But this time is different. And it is not just accidentally different; it has been intentionally different.

I understand my Democratic colleagues have problems politically with President Trump. I get that. Respectfully, we have differences of opinion on that. But this time it has been different. Every single nominee has been blocked. Every single nominee has required a vote for a motion to proceed, 2 hours of debate, and another vote.

The current status where we are right now to just do the nominees who are backlogged, where we currently sit right now, will take about 900 hours of floor time to be able to just do those. That doesn't include the ones who are coming next for the next nominations. We are stuck.

If every single one of them requires this kind of time, the Senate is no longer functioning. So what we had proposed was a pretty straightforward proposal; that is, that we actually can move nominees in small batches—let's say 15—once they come out of committee. So they have had vetting in committee; they had had a hearing in committee; they have passed out of committee; they are now coming to the floor. In the past, those individuals were then passed by what is called en bloc or by voice vote or unanimous consent.

It is very common to be en bloc. In fact, during President Biden's time, there were 277 nominees who moved en bloc. Do you know why? Because Republicans allowed them to be able to move en bloc.

Do you know what is interesting? During President Trump's first term, more than 500 nominees moved en bloc. Do you know why? Because Democrats allowed them to move en bloc because this was normal to be able to do. But now we are in a new political age where nothing seems to be normal.

So we proposed a very simple thing; that this would be helpful to do in what is called a standing rule. It would take 60 votes to be able to move this, and we would have a standing rule to say here is how this could be done. Up to 15 out of a committee would come to the floor en bloc. We would have a single vote to be able to pass those 15, very similar to how it has been done in the past. It is just structured that way.

This was an idea that percolated around for a while and then began to grow. Then we had multiple of our Democratic Senators who came on board and said that that is a reasonable proposal. In fact, it is similar to something that we proposed a couple of years ago for several Members.

So after a while of discussion, more and more Democrats came on board. And now we have a supermajority of Members of this body right now to be able to vote on it today who are willing

to say let's vote on it. We have a supermajority. We have plenty of folks who are willing to be able to step up and say that is a reasonable thing to be able to do. The problem is, it takes consent to actually bring it to the floor. It is just a simple issue of do we have the ability to be able to vote on this today? If we don't, we are stuck.

Now, it only takes 60. We definitely have 60 votes in this body today to be able to pass it. What we don't have is consent to be able to actually bring it.

We have been asked: Well, what if we just did it next week? The challenge is this body has just broken down trust. So we are not confident there is not going to be a next week and a next week and a next week. In the meantime, we are still not moving nominees. We are still stuck.

So we have asked a very simple thing: Let's move this idea today, where we know we have 60 of our colleagues ready to be able to pass it today, in regular order in the process. We are just asking one thing; that is, consent to be able to do it.

I am planning to bring that request for consent in just a moment, but I would like to be able to yield time to my colleague Senator SCHATZ from Hawaii to be able to speak on this same issue because he has also worked very hard on rules and trying to be able to make this Senate work.

So, with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, he is right. He is asking for unanimous consent, and we don't have unanimous consent. We do not have unanimity.

What we do have, and Senator LANKFORD is right, is now a critical mass of people who are willing to entertain changes to the way that we process nominees. That is a pretty big deal. That is a pretty big deal.

This would be the first major bipartisan rules reform, I think, in a political generation, maybe several political generations. And it is not your usual suspects of moderates who might be able to get you guys to 60 but a pretty wide swath of U.S. Senators on the Democratic side to try to reform the rules on a bipartisan basis. And we are achingly close to doing this like adults.

It is not lost on me on 9/11 and after the terrible political assassination of Mr. Kirk that we have a special obligation to demonstrate that politics is a substitute for violence and not a precursor to violence. We have to demonstrate that we can be adults.

So we were achingly close to a deal, but I am afraid that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have run out of patience.

I understand the overall argument about the number of nominees who are in a backlog. I understand that argument. I am not talking about that. I am talking about they just want to go today. They want to leave today. People have flights today. It is Thursday, and it is not 5 p.m.

So were we to work a weekend to try to land this airplane, that would be beneficial to the country, to the body, to Republicans and Democrats alike. We are actually very close, and Senator LANKFORD knows that. I think he is as frustrated as I am about how achingly close we are to behaving like adults.

I don't know who it is or what the dynamic was, but about an hour ago, everybody just said: Nah, I don't care how close we are. We are just going to do this because we are going to start to lose Members. We are going to start to lose momentum. The weekend is hard. Maybe we are going to get yelled at from the left; you are going to get yelled at from the right; and we can't withstand that so we just have got to go through with it. It is a damn shame.

Maybe this exercise builds a little muscle memory for at least exploring how to have a bipartisan negotiation. Maybe there is some silver lining to this. Maybe there is some understanding that this institution actually matters, especially in this polarized and divided time. But I have to tell you, I am deeply disappointed at the extent to which Members on our side of the aisle and your side of the aisle put themselves in a position of some political peril to try to stabilize the country and be the ballast that everybody needs across America.

We were trending well. We were trending well. I know how negotiations go. They go up and down. They go sideways. They stall a bit. People get a little irritated. But we really were trending well. And I am legitimately shocked that we are like 94 percent of the way there, and somebody just woke up and said: Do you know what? Never mind. We are going to do the thing we were planning on doing originally.

So hope springs eternal, but this is a deep disappointment. And it didn't have to be this way. All we had to do—and I am going to offer this consent later, but I want everybody to understand what this consent means. I am going to ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote upon reconsideration with respect to Executive Calendar No. S. Res. 377 be at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Monday; and that if cloture is invoked upon reconsideration, the postcloture time be deemed expired.

What does that mean? It means that you would have kept your optionality to go nuclear on Monday and not have lost a thing. The leader would have been able to go nuclear on Monday if negotiations never went anywhere, if they went sideways, if they tanked, and no time would have been lost.

So the imperative to kind of get this done on a certain timeframe, we tried to respect and said: Fine. We will just deem the 30 hours expired. We will accommodate your imperative to get this done if you needed to get it done by the end of next week. We said: Sure, keep

negotiations open. And we ran a hotline on that, and it cleared our hotline.

We had some very difficult conversations with Members who hate this idea. But just to keep the aperture open to renegotiate and to preserve the majority's prerogative to move forward with some pace, we accommodated that.

I thought, Great. We are trending well. We are going to wake up in the morning; we are going to get on some conference calls; and we are going to see whether there is a pathway.

I don't know whether there would have been a pathway, but I know today that the majority party in the U.S. Senate decided to foreclose the possibility of bipartisanship, and that is a real disappointment to me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I missed the conversation on the floor—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator needs consent to speak.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent to speak—for 3 minutes for each.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you, and thank you to my colleague from Oklahoma.

The issue we are addressing needs to be addressed. The nomination process is entirely broken. People are sick and tired of bringing their expertise to the Senate and basically being an automaton in a nomination factory. So that is why there is great sympathy for us working together to resolve this.

I put forward a somewhat different version of the world from my colleague from Oklahoma and said: Let's do a block of time where multiple people can be debated simultaneously. That alone speeds things up by six to eight times because it is not 2 hours or 120 minutes per nominee. Let's create a motion where we go directly to that block of time, and because of the block of time, you don't have to have cloture on it in order to vote. Let's speed up how we hold those votes.

I felt we could get to wiping out the backlog through some of the agreements that were done before August and by accelerated consideration and preserve the ability to vote on each nominee.

I had concerns about the en bloc because I think we have a constitutional responsibility, if there is a bad apple, to weigh in on that and be accountable to our constituents on whether we favor or disfavor that individual. So I proposed an amendment.

I do appreciate my colleague working to arrange to have a vote on that amendment that said 10 Members in the minority, or minority-majority, could sign a petition to have someone pulled out of a group of 15 if they felt that person merited more scrutiny or presented particular problems.

I heard about kind of the distrust that that might be used to dismantle an entire block of 15, so I am open to

modifications of that that could address that. But I was one of the people who said, as written initially, I couldn't vote for unanimous consent to just adopt it. But to consider it on this floor—yes, I can vote for it to be considered on this floor because that is what we should be doing. We should be bringing rules ideas to this floor to be wrestled with in order to make this Chamber work better.

And so I appreciate that the plan wasn't to just try to get UC on the proposal but to get UC to consider it. Why shouldn't we all agree to that? So I am not sure where the reservation is, the holdout. I have heard that there are folks who like the idea of a supernova nuclear option and therefore want to blow up normal consideration of a standing order, of a new proposal standing order.

But I just—I guess, having missed the presentation, if I missed it, from the majority leader, I would say maybe we should take an hour and try to resolve that or adopt what my colleague has said, to iron out the details over the weekend—because it is a big deal. It is a big deal to go nuclear. It is a big deal to adopt a new idea that hadn't been widely circulated until the last few days.

So I cast my heart and my vote with the idea of let's try to figure this out.

I thank the President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 384

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to bring a unanimous consent request, but I would say I represent—every single Republican is in agreement to this. Every single Republican was ready today to be able to move on what was an agreed-upon bipartisan agreement—not by all; understanding that. But, again, we have a supermajority of Members of this body that are being blocked by a small group of the minority party saying they don't want to allow consent to vote on it—just to vote on it. So we are stuck.

So, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the Lankford resolution, S. Res. 384, which is at the desk. I further ask that there be up to 30 minutes of debate on the resolution, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; further, that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on an amendment from Senator MERKLEY, if offered, and following disposition of the Merkley amendment, the Senate vote on the resolution, as amended, if amended, with no further intervening action or debate, with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption of the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). Is there an objection?

The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—and I won't belabor the point except to say, if you have 60, 65, 70 votes for something, just

file cloture. Right? That is what you do. If you have got the votes, you just sort of move through the process of taking the vote.

What they are asking for is unanimity, and we don't have it. And so if you are interested in enacting this on a bipartisan basis, there is a process for doing that. It is available to you. But, again, it is more a matter of running out of patience than running out of time. We are leaving probably this evening, and then we have Friday, Saturday, Sunday off—not off. I understand people work weekends. Whatever. But not here, let's say. And then our first vote will be 5:30 on Monday. There is time. There is just no desire to go through the process. Right?

So it is true—I am not actually sure that you would have 60 votes for that, but there is a way to test it, and that is to file cloture on a new standing order or a new resolution or whatever the procedural pathway is.

What Senator LANKFORD is asking us to do is to have unanimity for a rules change to have the Senate not vote on individual nominations. Right? That is 15 at a time, and you have to go yes on all of them or no on all of them. And I don't love that idea, but I was willing to entertain it as a sort of matter of principle to try to sort of stabilize this body. But they have run out of patience, not run out of time. So, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 377

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote, upon reconsideration, with respect to Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377, be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Monday, September 15; further, that if cloture is invoked upon reconsideration, the postcloture time be expired; finally, that it be in order for the majority leader to make a point of order prior to the cloture vote upon reconsideration of Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377.

This would buy us the time we need and not cost the leader anything.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I would just say to my colleagues on the Democratic side: How much time is enough? How much time is enough?

The proposal that we are voting on, or want to vote on, and just asked consent to get on has been around for 2 years—introduced by Democrats. They had a hearing in the Rules Committee. It has been around for 2 years. In fact, what we are supposed to vote on today is less expansive than the bill that was discussed in the Rules Committee, the Democrat Rules Committee—a pro-

posal made by Democrats. We don't include judges in this. Your proposal did.

We are asking you to vote on a Democrat proposal, and you are saying: No, we won't even vote on it; we won't even get on it.

Give me a break. Two years is not long enough? How about 8 months—8 months of this? Eight months of this. Look at that chart. Zero. Every President going back to 41, George H.W. Bush, has had a majority—a supermajority—of their nominees approved here in the Senate by unanimous consent or voice vote. Look at that: 98 percent—98 percent for Bill Clinton, 90 percent for George W. Bush, 90 percent for President Obama, 65 percent for Trump 1, 57 percent for Biden. Not trending in the right direction, which argues for everything that is being said here today about we need to fix a broken process. But that—that is an embarrassment. Zero.

Show the other chart. We have a second chart here. This is what we are talking about. We have to fix this, guys, and we have had plenty of time to do it. Eight months. Eight months. This is what we left on before the August break was this issue. So now we are 6 weeks into it. We have had all week. I have been saying all week: We are going to vote on this on Thursday one way or the other; we are going to change this process in a way that gets us back to what every President prior has had when it comes to the way that these nominees are treated here in the U.S. Senate—by both sides, Republicans and Democrats; both Presidents, Republicans and Democrats. This is the way it has been handled. Look at that. Zero. President Biden had 530 of his nominees confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent.

This, ladies and gentlemen, has to be fixed. We offered you a proposal that had your fingerprints on it. It wasn't even your fingerprints; you initiated it. And all we are saying is: Give us a chance to vote on it. And even some of your own Members—the Senator from Oregon said: I want an amendment. We said: Fine, you can have an amendment vote.

But we need to vote. We need to fix this. And, yeah, we could drag it out over the weekend, and you could start adding more conditions and more ideas. The good idea fairy will start to circulate around here and we will have a whole bunch more conversations and it will drag on and nothing will get done.

It is time to move. It is time to quit stalling. It is time to vote. It is time to fix this place. And the ideal way to fix it would be in a bipartisan way: Democrats and Republicans coming together behind a proposal that makes all the sense in the world and that both sides agree, frankly, is the right solution to do this.

We looked at them all. We looked at all the options. We had some very good people who spent the month of August examining how to fix this process in a way that would get us to an outcome

that preserved the institutional prerogatives of the Senate, that preserves advice and consent of the Constitution, but gets away from that embarrassing statistic and the fact that we are spending all our time.

Do you guys like the fact that we are a personnel department, that the Senate spends two-thirds of its time on nominees? We have cast over 500 votes this year in the Senate, more than any Senate in history at this point in the term of the Senate.

To finish just the nominees in the pipeline today between now and the end of the year, we would have to cast another 600 votes—not to mention all the intervening time periods and filing cloture and everything else. That is what this means: another 600 votes. We have cast over 500 in the first 7 months of this session. We have to cast more than that in the last 3½ months just to get the pipeline cleared, which doesn't mean all the additional noms that are coming through—or judges.

This is a broken process, folks. That is an embarrassment. That is what you gave us.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, would my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. THUNE. No, I won't yield.

We are going to fix this. We are going to start to fix it today, I hope. And I would hope that when we have people in good faith put forward an offer, that you would, at least, let us get on that good offer—a solution, a solution that is bipartisan, initiated by Democrats 2 years ago, which has been talked about ad infinitum, ad nauseam, just this week alone—not to mention in the 6 weeks going back to the end of the July work period.

So, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

VOTE ON MOTION

The question is on agreeing to the motion to reconsider.

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 Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) are necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 514 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Cassidy	Curtis
Barrasso	Collins	Daines
Blackburn	Cornyn	Ernst
Boozman	Cotton	Fischer
Britt	Cramer	Graham
Budd	Crapo	Grassley
Capito	Cruz	Hagerty

Hawley	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Hoeben	McCormick	Scott (SC)
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Thune
Justice	Murkowski	Tillis
Kennedy	Paul	Tuberville
Lankford	Ricketts	Wicker
Lee	Risch	Young
Lummis	Rounds	
Marshall	Schmitt	

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—3

Fetterman	Hassan	Mullin
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I make a point of order that, consistent with the precedent of the Senate established November 21, 2013, the threshold for cloture on an executive resolution for the en bloc consideration of nominations with a calendar number on the Executive Calendar, other than those on level 1 of the executive schedule under 5 U.S.C. 5312 or article III judges, is a simple majority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The precedent set on November 21, 2013, applied only to the consideration of the nomination, not to multiple nominations and not to executive resolutions of any kind. The point of order is not well taken.

APPEALING THE RULING OF THE CHAIR

Mr. THUNE. I appeal the ruling of the chair and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

And the question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Senate?

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) are necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 515 Ex.]

YEAS—45

Alsobrooks	Cortez Masto	Kaine
Baldwin	Duckworth	Kelly
Bennet	Durbin	Kim
Blumenthal	Gallego	King
Blunt Rochester	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Booker	Heinrich	Lujan
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Markey
Coons	Hirono	Merkley

Murphy	Sanders	Van Hollen
Murray	Schatz	Warner
Ossoff	Schiff	Warnock
Padilla	Schumer	Warren
Peters	Shaheen	Welch
Reed	Slotkin	Whitehouse
Rosen	Smith	Wyden

NAYS—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	

NOT VOTING—2

Fetterman	Hassan
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 45, the nays are 53.

The decision of the Chair is not sustained.

VOTE ON CLOTURE MOTION UPON RECONSIDERATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377, upon reconsideration.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 516 Ex.]

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—43

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

Warner	Warren	Whitehouse
Warnock	Welch	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Fetterman	Kelly	Peters
Hassan		

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53. The nays are 43.

Pursuant to the precedent of September 11, 2025, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I just want everyone here and in the country to understand what our Republican colleagues just did.

For the third time this year, Republicans just resorted to the so-called nuclear option in the Senate, weakening the Senate even further and turning this Chamber into a conveyor belt for unqualified Trump nominees—a conveyor belt for unqualified Trump nominees.

Make no mistake. This move by Republicans was not so much about ending obstruction, as they claim; rather, it was another act of genuflection to the executive branch.

Democrats have shown very clearly we are willing to negotiate. We did that at the end of the last work period. We were doing it today. But what Republicans have done is chip away at the Senate even more to give Donald Trump more power and to rubberstamp whomever he wants, whenever he wants them, no questions asked. That is not the Senate's job.

We are supposed to debate and take votes on nominees, especially when the executive branch is grossly breaking norms by sending us woefully unqualified, unscrupulous, and, in some cases, deeply dishonest individuals for powerful and important positions.

By going nuclear today, Republicans are saying: We don't want to do our jobs. They are saying: Whatever Trump wants, we will do it.

Make no mistake. Because of the harmful step Republicans took today, the historically bad nominees Donald Trump has sent to the Senate all year long will get even worse.

Republicans now own even more than they had before: the terrible nominees who are about to sail through this Chamber, the special interests will get even richer, and the American people will be the ones who are hurt the most.

This is a sad, regrettable day for the Senate, and I believe it won't take very long for Republicans to wish they had not pushed the Chamber further down this awful road.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, today is a solemn day in the memory of our Nation. May we pause at the beginning of my remarks to remember those who passed into the light on September 11.

(Moment of silence.)
Amen.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. President, I rise tonight in deep sadness for a nation that is increasingly beset by political violence.

Yesterday, political activist Charlie Kirk was killed while speaking to students on a college campus—a place that is set up for the exchange of ideas.

He was just 31 years old, a husband, a father of young children. I pray for his wife Erika and for his children who must now make their way without him.

And his death comes on the heels of the devastating assassination of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark Hortman of Minnesota, victims of premeditated political violence. This should shock the conscience of every American, and it should cause all of us to rise up and say: Enough.

Let me be clear. I disagreed with Charlie Kirk on just about everything, but I rise tonight not in spite of those differences but, in a real sense, because of those differences. I rise to say that he had a right to speak, to think, to change his mind or not, to engage with others, to participate in the free exchange of ideas, to argue it out.

That is what it means to live in a democracy. That is who we are. We Americans engage in loud, heated, and sometimes rambunctious debates, not as a precursor to violence but to avoid violence. And we must learn to disagree without becoming violently disagreeable.

Let me be clear. There is nothing more anti-democratic than political violence. Democracy is about creating space for competing voices and countervailing visions about who we are as one people, and that debate in the public square is what has made us better over time.

So while pushing back—sometimes hard—against those with whom we vigorously disagree, we must, with the same voice and vigor, defend their right to be—their right to be heard, to be free.

Our American family is held together by these democratic ideals, but I am afraid that what we are seeing increasingly around us is the tearing of those threads that bind us together—“*e pluribus unum*”; out of many, one—the ability to see past our political differences and see in the humanity of the other a glimpse of our own.

So we must condemn what happened to Charlie Kirk, whether we are on the right or on the left, because condemning that heinous crime is not about the difference between right and left; it is the difference between right and wrong. And what happened yesterday was wrong. Whatever the motivation, this we know: It was wrong. And we have to say that clearly and without hesitation.

I serve as pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the spiritual home of Martin Luther King, Jr. We all know that Dr. King was a victim of gun violence.

What fewer people remember or know is that in 1974, his precious mother Alberta Williams King, the wife of the pastor of the church, Martin Luther King, Sr., was shot and killed in our church one Sunday morning while playing “The Lord’s Prayer” on the organ.

Martin Luther King, Sr., was asked what he thought about all of this, and I am struck and inspired by his words. Having lost his precious wife on a Sunday morning, having witnessed his son struck down, Martin Luther King, Sr., said:

I will never let any man pull me down so low as to hate him.

He said:

Hate is too heavy a burden to bear.

He is right, and that is why in this moment, we must condemn political violence. But we must also condemn hate and hate speech. You cannot condemn one without condemning the other.

Hate is itself a kind of violence that kills the spirit and corrupts the soul of a person and of a nation. That vicious cycle of violence and hate, of hate and violence can only lead to the demise of our country and the destruction of our humanity.

So in this defining moment, may we resist the seductive sirens of those who are trying to convince us that we are at war with one another. Amidst our fierce debates, I submit that at the end of the day, we are all we have got—the people. All we really have is one another. And a democracy is the imperfect institutionalization of that moral insight. All we have is one another. You either have a democracy, or you have political violence. You cannot have a democracy awash in political violence.

So every single day, let us choose democracy, choose what the Apostle Paul called the more excellent way—the way of love.

Love comes alive in the complicated story of a diverse people who refuse to give up on one another. It takes strength to love. It takes courage to love. It takes patience and persistence to love.

God grant us strength and courage. God grant us patience and persistence for the facing of this hour and for the living of these days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-60, concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Finland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.07 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-60

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Finland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0.95 billion.
Other \$0.12 billion.
Total \$1.07 billion.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Up to four hundred five (405) AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Eight (8) AIM-120D-3 guidance sections, with precise positioning provided by either the Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module or M-Code.

Non-Major or Defense Equipment:

The following non-MDE items will be included: AMRAAM control sections, containers, and support equipment; Common Munitions Built-in Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 adaptor group test sets; munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapons software and support equipment; classified software delivery and support; classified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation support; site surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (FI-D-YAR).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FI-D-YAK.
 (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 10, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Finland—AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles

The Government of Finland has requested to buy up to four hundred five (405) AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and eight (8) AIM-120D-3 guidance sections, with precise positioning provided by either the Selective Availability AntiSpoofing Module or M-Code. The following non-MDE items will be included: AMRAAM control sections, containers, and support equipment; Common Munitions Built-in Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 adaptor group test sets; munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapons software and support equipment; classified software delivery and support; classified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation support; site surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.07 billion.

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

The proposed sale will improve Finland's capability to meet current and future threats and enhance its interoperability with U.S. and other allied forces. Finland already has AMRAAMs in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-60

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120D-3 series Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and microminiature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. The AIM-120D-3 features a quadrangle target detection device and an electronics unit within

the guidance section that performs all radar signal processing, mid-course and terminal guidance, flight control, target detection, and warhead detonation.

2. The Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results, and upload and download flight software. CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform preflight checks, periodic maintenance checks, loading of Operational Flight Program data, loading of munitions mission planning data, loading of Global Positioning System (GPS) cryptographic keys, and declassification of munitions memory.

3. The ADU-891 adaptor group test set provides the physical and electrical interface between the CMBRE and the missile.

4. This potential sale will include AMRAAM guidance and control section spares.

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

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

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

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

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.

25-0W. 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 18-03 of July 10, 2018.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
 Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0W

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the United Kingdom.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-03, Date: July 10, 2018, Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On July 10, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 18-03 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to two hundred (200) AIM-120D Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM). Also included in this sale were missile containers; weapon system support equipment; support and test equipment; site surveys; transportation; repair and return support; warranties; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; maintenance and personnel training; training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$650 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$600 million of this total.

On March 12, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0C-19, of the addition of MDE items from what was originally notified: one (1) AMRAAM AIM-120D Integrated Test Vehicle (ITV) and ten (10) AMRAAM Instrumented Air Vehicles. Additionally, this transmittal updated the notification of non-MDE to add embedded communication security devices. The addition of these items resulted in a net increase in cost of MDE to \$618 million. The total case value remained \$650 million.

On November 20, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-0V, of the inclusion of the following MDE items: fifty-six (56) AIM-120D Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and four (4) AIM-120 AMRAAM guidance sections. The following non-MDE items were also included: weapons systems support and weapons support equipment. The estimated total value of the new items was \$174 million but did not result in an increase to the estimated total case value of \$650 million. The estimated total MDE value remained at \$618 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: two hundred forty-four (244) AIM-120D Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); four (4) AIM-120D-3 AMRAAM guidance sections; and one (1) AMRAAM Integrated Test Vehicle (ITV). The following non-MDE items will also be included: AMRAAM containers, components, parts, and support equipment; KGV-135 A embedded communications security (COMSEC) device; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$790 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$742 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$48 million to a revised \$80 million. The estimated total cost will increase by \$790 million to a revised \$1.44 billion. MDE will constitute \$1.36 billion 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.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a key NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The KGV-135 A embedded COMSEC device is a high-speed general purpose encryptor and decryptor module used for wideband data encryption.

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 10, 2025.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 451, Motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 95 Joseph Kent, of Washington, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 452, Confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 95, Joseph Kent, of Washington, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 454, On the Motion to Discharge, Motion to Discharge S.J. Res. 41. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 455, On the Motion to Discharge, Motion to Discharge S.J. Res. 34. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 457, On the Cloture Motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Matthew Kozma to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 458, On the Motion to Invoke Cloture, Cheryl Mason to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 461, On the Nomination, Confirmation: Cheryl Mason, of North Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 463, On the Nomination, Confirmation: Matthew Kozma, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 471, On the Cloture Motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Luigi Rinaldi to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. I missed the following votes,

but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 482, On the Nomination, Confirmation: Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 485, On the Cloture Motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Andrew Puzder to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union with the rank of Ambassador. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 486, On the Nomination, Confirmation: Andrew Puzder, of Tennessee, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union with the rank of Ambassador. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 487, On the Cloture Motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Brian Burch to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Holy See. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 488, On the Nomination, Confirmation: Brian Burch, of Illinois, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Holy See. I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 496, On the Nomination, Confirmation: John Arrigo, of Florida, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to Washington, DC.

The Patriarch is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, including many of my constituents who worship at churches like the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore and Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church here in Washington.

Over the course of decades of service and leadership, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has refused to let storms of persecution and violence extinguish the light of his faith and the values he holds dear. From his unique position in Istanbul—the ancient city that bridges Europe and Asia—he has been one of our world's greatest bridge-builders. He promotes religious tolerance, from reconciliation with the Roman Catholic Church to interfaith dialogue among Muslims, Christians, and Jews, and peace between nations. He is also rightly known as the "Green Patriarch" for his pioneering work to protect our environment, the common home we share.

This Sunday, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew arrives in our region to accept the prestigious Templeton Prize for his spiritual leadership, joining the ranks of past prizewinners like

Mother Teresa and the Dalai Llama, and we are glad to have him here. In these dangerous, divisive times—when religious liberty and human rights are under threat around the globe—his presence could not be more timely.

When Congress awarded the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997, he delivered an address that still resonates today. He reminded us that "The greatest lesson about America lies under this magnificent dome . . . The Pentagon embodies might, but the Capitol embodies right. In these halls, different points of view meet and are reconciled. In these halls, narrow interests are compromised for the greater good. And, most important to the Orthodox Church during many dark decades, in these halls, human rights are preserved and human dignity is enhanced."

We must remember those words and his unwavering commitment to peace today. I congratulate the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for the recognition and welcome him to the United States.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome to Washington, DC, next week His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity.

His All-Holiness is a guiding light for the 300 million Orthodox Christians, including many thousands across California, from San Diego to Eureka. More than that, since ascending to his position in 1991, he has reached beyond Orthodox Christianity to be an inspiration to people of all faiths around the world suffering from religious persecution, violence, and displacement.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has fostered dialogue across the world and across religions with Christians, Muslims, and Jews. On today of all days, I note his efforts to combat international terrorism, helping lead the effort to the Brussels Declaration in December 2001 calling on leaders of all religions to condemn violence and forswear the use of religious justification for terrorism and mistreatment.

His All-Holiness is also a true champion of peace, tolerance, and defense of the environment. His coming to Washington will highlight the role that religious leaders play in pursuit of these goals and remind us to be stewards of all people and the planet before pursuing partisan and personal ends.

I congratulate His All-Holiness on the well-deserved and highly impressive honor of being awarded the 2025 Templeton Prize, which recognizes spiritual and scientific advancement. The award puts him in the company of Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, King Abdullah, Jane Goodall, and Francis Collins—men and women from all walks of life who have made contributions to understanding the universe and humanity's place within it.

In awarding the prize, the Templeton Foundation noted Bartholomew's dedication to environmental causes, for which he has earned the nickname of the "Green Patriarch." The foundation said his environmental ministry is "harnessing the power of the sciences to expand our collective understanding of humankind's place and purpose in the world" and that "Bartholomew has also deepened Christians' ideas of what it means to be faithful in the world today. It involves caring for all aspects of God's creation including the people around us and the natural world in which we live."

I join American Orthodox Christians, environmentalists, and peacemakers in welcoming back to Washington and the United States His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Congress will be honored to once again host him in our Halls next week.

I urge my colleagues to listen to his message of peace, environmental stewardship, and the importance of bridging the divides between religions, nations, and all groups who spend more time on the things that divide us than those that should bring us together. We will gain from his return if we have the wisdom to listen.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WISCONSIN REGIONAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP BUILDING INDUSTRY GROUP SKILLED TRADE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, W RTP, Building Industry Group Skilled Trade Employment Program's, BIG STEP. I am delighted to celebrate this impactful organization's 50 years of service to the State of Wisconsin.

Founded in 1975, W RTP BIG STEP was determined to improve the labor force through its efforts in reshaping apprenticeships. The organization envisioned an environment that intertwined diversity, resilience, and creativity to produce an incredible generation of workers. Soon, their vision became a reality as W RTP BIG STEP developed pre-apprenticeship programs and advanced training courses that increased the number of minority workers, ensuring everyone has a pathway to a quality career in the trades.

Over the last 50 years, BIG STEP has been essential to creating Milwaukee landmarks, from our skyscrapers to our sports complexes. After helping tens of thousands of people take their first steps into the trades, BIG STEP has served Wisconsin's workforce by building courage, innovation, and equity.

Today, W RTP BIG STEP creates pre-apprenticeship programs and provides access to specialized training, consistent sponsorship, and support for its clients with targeted curricula for direct career pathways. In addition, W RTP BIG STEP helps industry employers and labor organizations create

career pathways through intercultural workforce learning, the development of a skilled talent pipeline, and through working groups that identify and reduce barriers in real time. As just one example of their work, W RTP BIG STEP recently welcomed 180 high school students to their Milwaukee Summer Trades Academy, introducing them to careers in construction and teaching them about skilled trade jobs and apprenticeship pathways, so they could consider a future career in the skilled trades.

We in Wisconsin are so grateful to W RTP BIG STEP for helping to uplift our workforce and create the next generation of leaders. I am honored to recognize the 50th anniversary of W RTP BIG STEP and look forward to its continued success in Wisconsin for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the centennial celebration of Albertus Magnus College and honor the hard work and dedication of its many faculty and other staff.

Albertus Magnus College was founded in 1925 by the Dominican Sisters of Peace in the Prospect Hill neighborhood of New Haven, CT. Originally a women's college, the institution became coeducational in 1985. During this time, a series of construction projects significantly expanded the campus, including new classroom space and a new athletic center. In 1992 Albertus Magnus began offering its first graduate program, a master of arts in liberal studies.

The college provides a holistic, liberal arts-based education that promotes both the attainment and practical application of knowledge. It is dedicated to providing learning opportunities that respond to the diverse needs of its students and the ethical challenges of society, cultivating an atmosphere of mutual respect and moral behavior. The college places great emphasis on lifelong learning, individual student development, and the advancement of moral and ethical leadership.

Albertus Magnus has approximately 500 full-time traditional undergraduates and 1,000 adult undergraduate and graduate students. The college has significantly advanced the cause of educational equity and diversity; 5 in 10 of its undergraduates are first-generation college students, and over 9 in 10 are eligible for financial aid. The institution currently offers over 50 undergraduate majors, 12 master's degree programs, and 3 postgraduate certifications.

Throughout its existence, Albertus Magnus College has promoted intellectual excellence, cultivated a tight-knit community, encouraged service for the

common good, and advocated for the development of each student as a unique individual. The college's track record and commitment to its ideals is inspiring and sets a strong example for all educational institutions.

Albertus Magnus remains a fixture of the New Haven community with the positive impacts of its educational experience extending worldwide. I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating its centennial celebration and recognizing the invaluable work of its faculty and other staff.●

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Florida Christian University on its most recent anniversary. For 40 years, Florida Christian University has served the citizens of Florida and the world by providing students with a world-class education and acting as a pillar of strength and perseverance for Florida students.

I know firsthand that a great education can be life-changing—it serves as the foundation many students need to reach their goals and live their American dream—and it is incredible to see people from all over the globe pursue their dreams in our State.

Florida Christian University plays a vital role in this laudable pursuit by empowering students of faith to pursue higher education and a career with excellence and integrity while remaining rooted in their religious principles. FCU focuses on the whole of the student, fostering a community that ensures the growth and support of its students' academic goals as well as their spiritual well-being.

I commend the hard work and dedication of FCU president Bruno Portigliatti and all those at FCU who have committed their time and energy to providing students with a world-class education over the last 40 years. Thank you for guiding your community and our State in prayer and education. May this milestone anniversary be followed by many more as FCU continues its great success.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TVA WILSON DAM

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge a special anniversary in Alabama. One hundred years ago, Wilson Dam began commercial operations. Part of the Tennessee Valley Authority's network of hydroelectric dams, Wilson Dam supports TVA's mission of providing low-cost, reliable power and flood control and navigation of the Tennessee River.

Located in Florence, AL, Wilson Dam has 21 generating units, capable of producing up to 663 megawatts of electricity and powering more than 350,000 homes and businesses in north Alabama.

The dam is a National Historic Landmark and an engineering feat. It stretches nearly a mile—more than 4,500 feet—across the Tennessee River. The site plays a crucial role in the movement of goods through our country. The main lock has a maximum lift of 100 feet, making it the highest single-lift lock east of the Rockies. More than 3,700 vessels on average and 11.4 million tons of goods pass through Wilson's locks each year.

The associated Wilson Dam Reservoir includes over 160 miles of shoreline and covers 15,500 acres, providing ample opportunities for recreation. This makes north Alabama a destination for those looking to fish, boat, kayak, and enjoy our beautiful State, driving economic activity and jobs in Alabama.

In a testament to the role Wilson Dam plays in the system, TVA is in the process of extending the life of the plant for decades. As part of the Hydro Life Extension Program, TVA is refurbishing units to improve dam safety and increase hydro generation output.

I hope my fellow Alabamians will join me in celebrating all that Wilson Dam has done for our State—and our Region—for 100 years. Here is to the next 100.●

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-1761. A communication from the Chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's revised Fiscal Year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1762. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-23095" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1723)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1763. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E5 Airspace; Revocation of Class E4 Airspace, Dover, DE" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0767)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1764. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E5 Airspace Over Kinston, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0932)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1765. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes; Amendment 39-23101" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0339)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1766. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-23105" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0908)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1767. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE SYSTEMS (Operations) Limited Airplanes; Amendment 39-23100" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1726)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1768. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP (Type Certificate Previously Held by Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-23091" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0756)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1769. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-23096" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1724)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1770. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lacon, IL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1276)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1771. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31618)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1772. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited

Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-23098" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0454)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1773. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23110" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1733)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1774. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services, Portland, Oregon" (MB Docket No. 25-132) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1775. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services, Henderson, Nevada" (MB Docket No. 25-131) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1776. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delete, Delete, Delete Direct Final Rule" (FCC 25-40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1777. A communication from the Deputy Division Chief, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delete, Delete, Delete; Safeguarding and Securing the Open Internet; Restoring Internet Freedom; Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Interconnection Between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers" (DA 25-613) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1778. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Enhancing National Security Through the Auction of AWS-3 Spectrum Licenses; Applying New Average Annual Gross Revenue Benchmarks for Small Business Bidding Credits; Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 1695-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz, and 2155-2180 MHz Bands" (FCC 25-39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1779. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-38, V-133, and V-144, and Revocation of VOR Federal Airway V-214 in the Vicinity of Zanesville, OH" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2591)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1780. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-23094" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1722)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1781. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes; Amendment 39-23093" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0753)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1782. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Deutsche Aircraft GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by 328 Support Services BmbH; AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Amendment 39-23092" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2667)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1783. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Piaggio Aviation S.p.A. Airplanes; Amendment 39-23097" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1784. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23102" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0626)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1785. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Matador, Texas)" (MB Docket No. 25-135) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1786. A communication from the Legal Advisor, Space Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expediting Initial Processing of Satellite and Earth Station Applications and Space Innovation" (FCC 25-48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1787. A communication from the Program Analyst, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delete, Delete, Delete" (FCC 25-51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1788. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Escape Breathing Apparatus Standards" ((RIN2120-AD01) (Docket No. FRA-2009-0044)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1789. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Mid-Session Review of the Budget of the U.S. Government for Fiscal Year 2026"; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CASSIDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1728. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to expand the membership of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans to include representatives of employee ownership organizations.

S. 2403. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide a clear definition of adequate consideration for certain closely held stock, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEE for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Laura Swett, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2030.

*David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Joshua D. Dunlap, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Eric Chunyee Tung, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

Stephen Chad Meredith, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Arch Capito, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

David Dunavant, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

Matthew Harvey, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

John Heekin, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Leif Olson, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

Adam Sleeper, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years.

David Toepfer, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

Kurt Alme, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, for the term of four years.

Nicholas Chase, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years.

Bart McKay Davis, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of four years.

David Metcalf, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Lesley Murphy, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of four years.

Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.

Kurt Wall, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

David Charles Waterman, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

Erik Siebert, of Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. SCHMITT:

S. 2767. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Gateway Arch Park Foundation to host private events in Gateway Arch National Park buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2768. A bill to deny pretrial release for certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2769. A bill to repeal title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005 in order to safeguard civil liberties and individual privacy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2770. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate cost-sharing for chronic care drugs under Medicare part D; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GALLEGOS, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2771. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education of the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2772. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to conduct a pilot program to provide coupons to junior enlisted members to purchase food at commissaries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2773. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt sports betting from the tax on authorized wagers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 2774. A bill to restrict certain Federal grants for States that grant driver licenses to illegal immigrants and fail to share information about criminal aliens with the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2775. A bill to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish and maintain a database and webpage that is available to the public and contains information on the billion-dollar disasters that occur each year in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 2776. A bill to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to provide rules for payments to Havish Settling Judgment Creditors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2777. A bill to exempt small business concerns from duties imposed pursuant to the national emergency declared on April 2, 2025, by the President and to refund small business concerns the amount of any such duties paid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2778. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a program for the procurement of domestically grown unprocessed fruits and vegetables to provide healthier school meals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2779. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude strike benefits from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

S. 2780. A bill to clarify the treatment of certain tips for purposes of the tax deduction for qualified tips; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2781. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KIM:

S. 2782. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out grant programs to

encourage student participation in local government and volunteer service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KIM:

S. 2783. A bill to provide a direct appropriation of funds for the Learn and Serve America program of the Corporation for National and Community Service and to expand the eligibility of such program to additional entities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2784. A bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Constance Baker Motley, in recognition of her enduring contributions and service to the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KIM:

S. 2785. A bill to expand the financial, health care, and educational benefits received by Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIM:

S. 2786. A bill to expand the opportunities of recent graduates for employment in Executive agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2787. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to ensure that ranchers who have grazing agreements on national grasslands are treated the same as permittees on other Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2788. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from establishing new performance measures or regulatory or program requirements relating to highway safety grant programs, to require the Secretary of Transportation to ease certain requirements relating to those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2789. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the percentage of highway safety program funds required to be spent by political subdivisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2790. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the retreaded tire credit, to require Federal agencies to consider the use of retreaded tires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2791. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow early childhood educators to take the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2792. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supple-

mental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated using the value of the low-cost food plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 2793. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require Medicare Advantage plans to cover items and services furnished by certain essential community providers within a service area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LEE):

S. 2794. A bill to require the heads of agencies to establish a policy with respect to the deactivation of charge cards of employees separating from the agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2795. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure that revenues collected from passengers as aviation security fees are used to help finance the costs of aviation security screening by repealing a requirement that a portion of such fees be credited as offsetting receipts and deposited in the general fund of the Treasury; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2796. A bill to provide for a land exchange in San Bernardino County, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. Res. 384. A resolution authorizing the Majority Leader to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of certain nominations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 385. A resolution recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem and expressing support for the designation of September as "National Suicide Prevention Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to authorize grants to implement school-community partnerships for preventing substance use and misuse among youth.

S. 342

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 342, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize an individual who is awarded the Purple Heart for service in the Armed Forces to transfer unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to a family member, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 418, a bill to prohibit contracts between certain foreign entities and institutions of higher education conducting Department of Defense-funded research and to impose post-employment restrictions for participants in certain research funded by the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 929

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 929, a bill to prohibit National Laboratories from admitting certain foreign nationals, and for other purposes.

S. 1021

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1021, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to establish a dairy nutrition incentive program, and for other purposes.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify and preserve the breadth of the protections under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act.

S. 1435

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1435, a bill to prohibit the use of taxpayer dollars to support animal experimentation in the laboratories of adversarial nations.

S. 1448

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1448, a bill to address mental health issues for youth, particularly youth of color, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1686

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1686, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

S. 1705

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1705, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to issue standards with respect to chip security mechanisms for integrated circuit products, and for other purposes.

S. 1880

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1880, a bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to reauthorize and improve the community development financial institutions bond guarantee program, and for other purposes.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to establish a research and development-intensive small biotech manufacturer exemption from the Medicare drug price negotiation program.

S. 2126

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2126, a bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2225

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2225, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 2252

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to require United States foreign assistance commodities to be made available for their intended purposes before they expire.

S. 2282

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, and for other purposes.

S. 2287

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2287, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, including social work, physician assistant, and chaplaincy edu-

cation programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative and hospice care.

S. 2418

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2418, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave for the spontaneous loss of an unborn child, and for other purposes.

S. 2511

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2511, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 2611

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2611, a bill to safeguard the integrity of the Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, and for other purposes.

S. 2688

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2688, a bill to extend to the Mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the National Guard of the District of Columbia as the Governors of the several States exercise over the National Guard of those States with respect to administration of the National Guard and its use to respond to natural disasters and other civil disturbances, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2689, a bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to repeal the authority of the President to assume emergency control of the police of the District of Columbia.

S.J. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 75, a joint resolution terminating the emergency determined by the President on August 11, 2025, in the Executive Order titled "Declaring a crime emergency in the District of Columbia".

AMENDMENT NO. 2968

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2968 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. 3177

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3177 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. 3210

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors 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. 3330

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3330 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. 3419

At the request of Mr. HUSTED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3419 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 name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3744

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cospon-

sor of amendment No. 3744 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. 3762

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3762 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. 3788

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3788 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. 3825

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3825 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. 3871

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3871 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2781. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2781

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) attempts have been made to prohibit usurious interest rates in America since colonial times;

(2) at the Federal level, in 2006, Congress enacted a Federal 36-percent annualized usury cap for servicemembers and their families for covered credit products, as defined by the Department of Defense, which curbed payday, car title, and tax refund lending around military bases;

(3) notwithstanding such attempts to curb predatory lending, high-cost lending persists in all 50 States due to loopholes in State laws, safe harbor laws for specific forms of credit, and the exportation of unregulated interest rates permitted by preemption;

(4) due to the lack of a comprehensive Federal usury cap, consumers have paid as much as approximately \$12,000,000,000 on high-cost overdraft loans, \$8,600,000,000 on storefront and online payday loans, \$3,800,000,000 on car title loans, and additional amounts in unreported revenues on high-cost online installment loans;

(5) cash-strapped consumers pay on average approximately 400-percent annual interest for payday loans, 300-percent annual interest for car title loans, 17,000 percent for bank overdraft loans, and triple-digit rates for online installment loans;

(6) a national maximum interest rate that includes all forms of fees and closes all loopholes is necessary to eliminate such predatory lending; and

(7) alternatives to predatory lending that encourage small dollar loans with minimal or no fees, installment payment schedules, and affordable repayment periods should be encouraged.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL MAXIMUM INTEREST RATE.

Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 140B. MAXIMUM RATES OF INTEREST.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no creditor may make an extension of credit to a consumer with respect to which the fee and interest rate, as defined in subsection (b), exceeds 36 percent.

"(b) FEE AND INTEREST RATE DEFINED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the fee and interest rate includes all charges payable, directly or indirectly, incident to, ancillary to, or as a condition of the extension of credit, including—

"(A) any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor for—

"(i) an extension of credit or making available a line of credit, such as fees connected with credit extension or availability such as numerical periodic rates, annual fees, cash advance fees, and membership fees; or

"(ii) any fees for default or breach by a borrower of a condition upon which credit was extended, such as late fees, insufficient funds fees, overdraft fees, and over-limit fees;

"(B) all fees which constitute a finance charge, as defined by rules of the Bureau in accordance with this title;

“(C) credit insurance premiums, whether optional or required;

“(D) all charges and costs for ancillary products or optional services offered in connection with or incidental to the credit transaction; and

“(E) any costs payable in connection with products that involve—

“(i) the provision of funds to the consumer in an amount that is based, by estimate or otherwise, on the wages that the consumer has accrued in a given pay cycle; and

“(ii) repayment to the third-party provider via automatic means at or after the end of the pay cycle.

“(2) TOLERANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a credit obligation that is payable in at least 3 fully amortizing installments over at least 90 days, the term ‘fee and interest rate’ does not include—

“(i) application or participation fees that in total do not exceed the greater of \$30 or, if there is a limit to the credit line, 5 percent of the credit limit, up to \$120, if—

“(I) such fees are excludable from the finance charge pursuant to section 106 and regulations issued thereunder;

“(II) such fees cover all credit extended or renewed by the creditor for 12 months; and

“(III) the minimum amount of credit extended or available on a credit line is equal to \$300 or more;

“(ii) a late fee charged as authorized by State law and by the agreement that does not exceed either \$8 per late payment or \$8 per month; or

“(iii) a creditor-imposed insufficient funds fee charged when a borrower tenders payment on a debt with a check drawn on insufficient funds that does not exceed \$15.

“(B) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—The Bureau may adjust the amounts of the tolerances established under this paragraph for inflation over time, consistent with the primary goals of protecting consumers and ensuring that the 36-percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

“(c) CALCULATIONS.—

“(1) OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—For an open end credit plan—

“(A) the fee and interest rate shall be calculated each month, based upon the sum of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b) charged by the creditor during the preceding 1-year period, divided by the average daily balance; and

“(B) if the credit account has been open less than 1 year, the fee and interest rate shall be calculated based upon the total of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b)(1) charged by the creditor since the plan was opened, divided by the average daily balance, and multiplied by the quotient of 12 divided by the number of full months that the credit plan has been in existence.

“(2) OTHER CREDIT PLANS.—For purposes of this section, in calculating the fee and interest rate, the Bureau shall require the method of calculation of annual percentage rate specified in section 107(a)(1), except that the amount referred to in that section 107(a)(1) as the ‘finance charge’ shall include all fees, charges, and payments described in subsection (b)(1) of this section.

“(3) ADJUSTMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Bureau may make adjustments to the calculations in paragraphs (1) and (2), but the primary goals of such adjustment shall be to protect consumers and to ensure that the 36-percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

“(d) DEFINITION OF CREDITOR.—As used in this section, the term ‘creditor’ has the same meaning as in section 702(e) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691a(e)).

“(e) NO EXEMPTIONS PERMITTED.—The exemption authority of the Bureau under section 105 shall not apply to the rates established under this section or the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6).

“(f) DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR CREDIT OTHER THAN OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—In addition to the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6), the Bureau may prescribe regulations requiring disclosure of the fee and interest rate established under this section.

“(g) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preempt any provision of State law that provides greater protection to consumers than is provided in this section.

“(h) CIVIL LIABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT.—In addition to remedies available to the consumer under section 130(a), any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor, to the extent that such payment is a transaction made in violation of this section, shall be null and void, and not enforceable by any party in any court or alternative dispute resolution forum, and the creditor or any subsequent holder of the obligation shall promptly return to the consumer any principal, interest, charges, and fees, and any security interest associated with such transaction. Notwithstanding any statute of limitations or repose, a violation of this section may be raised as a matter of defense by recoupment or setoff to an action to collect such debt or repossess related security at any time.

“(i) VIOLATIONS.—Any person that violates this section, or seeks to enforce an agreement made in violation of this section, shall be subject to, for each such violation, 1 year in prison and a fine in an amount equal to the greater of—

“(1) three times the amount of the total accrued debt associated with the subject transaction; or

“(2) \$50,000.

“(j) STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—An action to enforce this section may be brought by the appropriate State attorney general in any United States district court or any other court of competent jurisdiction within 3 years from the date of the violation, and such attorney general may obtain injunctive relief.”

SEC. 4. DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.

Section 127(b)(6) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)(6)) is amended by striking “the total finance charge expressed” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “the fee and interest rate, displayed as ‘FAIR’, established under section 141.”

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

S. 2787. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to ensure that ranchers who have grazing agreements on national grasslands are treated the same as permittees on other Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2787

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Grasslands Grazing Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS FOR GRAZING LEASES AND PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752(a)) is amended by striking “lands within National Forests” and inserting “National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) land”.

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) modifies or affects—

(1) the applicability to national grasslands of any provision of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) other than section 402 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1752);

(2) title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

(3) section 11 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1907).

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2796. A bill to provide for a land exchange in San Bernardino County, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Land Exchange Act. This bill would transfer 1,475 acres of land from the Forest Service to the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation in fee in exchange for 1,460 acres of fee land the Tribe already owns.

The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, formerly known as the San Manuel Band of Indians, is a federally recognized Native American Tribe of Serrano people. Their reservation is located in San Bernardino County, CA, and their people have lived in the San Bernardino Mountains and surrounding areas for thousands of years. Today, the Tribe is known for its strong commitment to cultural preservation and philanthropy.

For years, the Tribe has been working toward a land exchange with the Forest Service, which would enable them to acquire lands that were once home to Tribal village known today as Arrowhead Springs. The Tribe has gone through the administrative process to transfer this land, but it has been expensive and time-consuming. That is why I am proud to introduce this legislation to facilitate this land transfer and allow the Tribe to manage their ancestral lands.

I want to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this legislation, and I also want to thank Republican Congressman JAY OBERNOLTE for introducing companion legislation in the House. I hope my colleagues will join me in advancing this bill in the Senate.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 384—AUTHORIZING THE MAJORITY LEADER TO MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS

Mr. LANKFORD submitted the following resolution; which was referred

to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 384

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, 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 district court of the United States;

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

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

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—It shall be in order for the Majority Leader to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of not more than 15 covered nominations that were reported to the Senate by the same committee of the Senate and placed on the calendar.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of a motion to proceed under subsection (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 385—RECOGNIZING SUICIDE AS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER AS “NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH”

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 385

Whereas suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death among individuals between 10 and 34 years of age;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the “CDC”), 1 individual in the United States dies by suicide every 11 minutes, resulting in around 49,000 deaths each year in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 6,400 veterans die by suicide annually, the equivalent of nearly 18 veteran suicides per day;

Whereas, between 1999 and 2022, the suicide rate in the United States increased by 36 percent from 10.5 suicides for every 100,000 individuals to 14.2 suicides for every 100,000 individuals;

Whereas it is estimated that there are approximately 1,500,000 suicide attempts each year in the United States;

Whereas more than half of individuals who die by suicide did not have a known mental health condition;

Whereas, according to the CDC, many factors contribute to suicide among individuals with and without known mental health conditions, including challenges related to relationships, substance use, physical health, and stress regarding work, money, legal problems, or housing;

Whereas, according to the CDC, suicide results in an estimated \$70,000,000,000 each year in combined medical and work-loss costs in the United States; and

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality hinders suicide prevention by discouraging at-risk individuals from seeking life-saving help and can further traumatize survivors of suicide loss and individuals with lived experience of suicide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes suicide as a serious and preventable public health problem of the United States and each State;

(2) supports the designation of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month”;

(3) declares suicide prevention as a priority;

(4) acknowledges that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;

(5) promotes awareness that there is no single cause of suicide; and

(6) supports strategies to increase access to high-quality mental health and suicide prevention services and substance-use disorder treatments.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3873. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KIM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) 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.

SA 3874. Mr. SCHUMER 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 3875. 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 3876. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3877. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3878. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3879. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3880. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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 3881. Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mrs. BRITT) 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 3882. Mr. BOOKER 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 3883. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3884. Mr. BOOKER 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 3885. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3886. Mr. MCCORMICK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3887. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3873. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KIM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) 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:

Strike section 706.

SA 3874. Mr. SCHUMER 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 III, add the following:

SEC. 350. PROHIBITION ON DISPLAY OF NAME, IMAGE, OR LIKENESS OF PRESIDENT ON EXTERIOR OF PROPERTY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (b), no property leased, owned, or furnished by the Department of Defense or the National Nuclear Security Administration shall hang or install any exterior signage or banner detailing any name, photo, or likeness of the sitting President.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) does not apply to any signage relating to directories, directional and warning stanchions, security equipment signage, temporary sign systems, entrance door codes, building identifications, lobby signage, business center header signs, interior tenant and agency identification, or the interior display of the Presidential portrait.

SA 3875. 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 D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. DENIAL OF ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES OF CURRENT OR FORMER OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN FORCED REPATRIATION OF UYGHURS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(1) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An official described in subsection (b) is—

(A) inadmissible to the United States; (B) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and (C) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an official described in subsection (b) regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(B) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A visa revocation under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) take effect immediately; and (ii) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the official's possession.

(b) OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—A official described in this subsection is any current or former official of the government of a foreign country who the Secretary of State determines is or was responsible for, or complicit in, the forced departure from the country of last habitual residence and return to the People's Republic of China of—

(1) any Uyghur individual; or

(2) any individual who—

(A) is a member of any other ethnic or religious group; and

(B) is more likely than not to be subject to persecution by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(d) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the application of subsection (a) with respect to an official described in subsection (b) if the Secretary determines that—

(1) such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; or

(2) the circumstances that caused the official to be subject to subsection (a) have changed sufficiently.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a foreign person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (a) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(f) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (g), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes, for the covered period—

(A) information on each official determined to be subject to subsection (a); and

(B) a list of waivers granted under subsection (d) and a justification for each such waiver.

(2) FORM.—Each report submitted under this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(B) COVERED PERIOD.—The term “covered period”, with respect to a report required by paragraph (1), means—

(i) in the case of the first such report, the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the report is submitted; and

(ii) in the case of any subsequent such report, the period beginning on the date on which the preceding such report was submitted and ending on the date on which the subsequent report is submitted.

(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; ETC.—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, “lawfully admitted for permanent residence”, and “national” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SA 3876. Ms. CANTWELL 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPECTRUM AUCTIONS.

Section 40002(b)(2) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14”, approved July 3, 2025 (Public Law 119–21), is amended by striking “, including by completing a system of competitive bidding not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act for not less than 100 megahertz in the band between 3.98 gigahertz and 4.2 gigahertz”.

SA 3877. Ms. CANTWELL 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPECTRUM AUCTIONS.

Section 309(j)(11) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(11)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) between the frequencies of 3.1 gigahertz and 3.45 gigahertz, such authority shall not apply;

“(B) between the frequencies of 3.55 gigahertz and 3.7 gigahertz, such authority shall not apply;

“(C) between the frequencies of 5.925 gigahertz and 7.125 gigahertz, such authority shall not apply; and

“(D) between the frequencies of 7.4 gigahertz and 8.4 gigahertz, such authority shall not apply.”.

SA 3878. Ms. CANTWELL 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CERTIFICATION RELATING TO RE-ALLOCATED FREQUENCIES.

Section 40002(c)(3) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14”, approved July 3, 2025 (Public Law 119–21; 139 Stat. 130), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) CERTIFICATION.—In conducting the analysis under subparagraph (A), the Assistant Secretary shall certify that reallocation of any specific frequencies identified for commercial use would not negatively impact the primary mission of the Federal Aviation Administration.”.

SA 3879. Ms. CANTWELL 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPECTRUM AUCTIONS.

Section 40002(c)(3) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14”, approved July 3, 2025 (Public Law 119-21), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **CERTIFICATION.**—In conducting the analysis under subparagraph (A), the Assistant Secretary shall certify that reallocation of any specific frequencies identified for commercial use would not negatively impact the primary mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”.

SA 3880. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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 C of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 849B. REPORT ON UNITED STATES BOOT INDUSTRIAL BASE AND BERRY AMENDMENT COMPLIANCE.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the United States boot industrial base, including a comprehensive plan for the Department of Defense to fully comply with the requirements under section 4862 of title 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Berry Amendment”) by not later than fiscal year 2028.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A detailed description of current and surge manufacturing capacity for Berry-compliant, government-issued boots, including suppliers of leather, textiles, soles, and components, as well as risks to supply chain resilience and small business participation. Surge manufacturing capacity includes all major domestic manufacturers of boots including those not currently supplying Berry-compliant boots.

(2) A market survey of domestic boot manufacturers regarding interest in producing Berry-compliant boots if there were to be a requirement that all members of the Armed Forces are required to only wear Berry-compliant boots.

(3) A time-phased schedule of actions, milestones, and resources required to achieve full Berry Amendment compliance for combat footwear across all military services by fiscal year 2028.

(4) An assessment of how current policies allowing the wear of “optional combat boots” that are not Berry-compliant undermine the intent of the Berry Amendment and weaken the United States industrial base, and recommendations for coming into compliance.

(5) A plan to implement and enforce narrowly tailored availability and medical exemptions, as authorized under section 4862(c) of title 10, United States Code, with controls to prevent overuse.

(6) Steps to expand industrial capacity for Berry-compliant government-issued boots through multiyear contracting, demand forecasting, inventory planning, and attracting new Berry-compliant suppliers by requiring that optional boots must be Berry-compliant.

SA 3881. Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mrs. BRITT) 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 III, add the following:

SEC. 350. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN AIRCRAFT FROM THE NAVY TO THE U.S. SPACE AND ROCKET CENTER COMMISSION IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Navy (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may transfer (by sale, gift, or otherwise, including by loan) to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center Commission in Huntsville, Alabama (in this section referred to as the “Commission”), all right, title, and interest of the United States in one or more F-14 Tomcat aircraft currently in the custody of the Department of the Navy or the Department of Defense, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate, which may include requirements for demilitarization and indemnification and may restrict further disposition or use.

(b) **AGREEMENTS FOR RESTORATION AND OPERATION.**—The Secretary may authorize the Commission to enter into agreements with qualified nonprofit organizations for the purpose of restoring and operating aircraft transferred under subsection (a) for public display, airshows, and commemorative events to preserve naval aviation heritage.

(c) **CONVEYANCE AT NO COST TO THE UNITED STATES.**—The conveyance of an aircraft under subsection (a) shall be made at no cost to the United States. Any costs associated with such conveyance, costs of determining compliance with terms of the conveyance, and costs of operation and maintenance of the aircraft conveyed shall be borne by the Commission.

SA 3882. Mr. BOOKER 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 D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. DETAINEE TRANSFER NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 24 hours before transferring any person detained in an immigration detention facility to a new detention facility, an appropriate U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer shall notify the attorney or designated family member of such person of such transfer, which notification shall include information about the location of the new facility, including whether such facility is designed to hold people for less than 72 hours.

SA 3883. Mr. BOOKER 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, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ELIMINATION OF INCREASED PENALTIES FOR COCAINE OFFENSES WHERE THE COCAINE INVOLVED IS COCAINE BASE.

(a) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.**—The following provisions of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) are repealed:

(1) Clause (iii) of section 401(b)(1)(A) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(A)).

(2) Clause (iii) of section 401(b)(1)(B) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(B)).

(b) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.**—The following provisions of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) are repealed:

(1) Subparagraph (C) of section 1010(b)(1) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(1)).

(2) Subparagraph (C) of section 1010(b)(2) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(2)).

(c) **APPLICABILITY TO PENDING AND PAST CASES.**—

(1) **PENDING CASES.**—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall apply to any sentence imposed after the date of enactment of this Act, regardless of when the offense was committed.

(2) **PAST CASES.**—In the case of a defendant who, before the date of enactment of this Act, was convicted or sentenced for a Federal offense involving cocaine base, the sentencing court may, on motion of the defendant, the Bureau of Prisons, the attorney for the Government, or on its own motion, impose a reduced sentence after considering the factors set forth in section 3553(a) of title 18, United States Code.

SA 3884. Mr. BOOKER 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 B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. REPORTING ON NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and weekly thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a publicly available report on the cost of all current deployments of the National Guard within the United States.

SA 3885. Mr. BOOKER 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, insert the following:

SEC. _____. UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.

(a) TRANSFER.—Title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating chapter 37 as chapter 59; and

(2) by transferring chapter 59, as so redesignated, from part II to part III so as to appear after chapter 58.

(b) COURT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—Chapter 59, as redesignated by subsection (a), of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 561—

(A) by striking subsections (a) through (d) and inserting the following:

“(a) There is hereby established a United States Marshals Service as a bureau within the judicial branch of the United States. There shall be at the head of the United States Marshals Service (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the ‘Service’) a Director (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the ‘Director’) who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice, in consultation with the Board established under subsection (i) (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the ‘Board’). The Director may be removed by the Board.

“(b) The Chief Justice of the United States shall appoint, in consultation with the Board, a United States marshal for each judicial district of the United States and for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, except that any marshal appointed for the Northern Mariana Islands may at the same time serve as marshal in another judicial district. Each United States marshal shall be an official of the Service and shall serve under the direction of the Director.

“(c) Each marshal shall be appointed for a term of four years. A marshal shall, unless that marshal has resigned or been removed by the Chief Justice of the United States, in consultation with the Board, continue to perform the duties of that office after the end of that 4-year term until a successor is appointed and qualifies.”;

(B) by redesignating subsections (e) through (i) as subsections (d) through (h), respectively; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(i)(1) The activities of the Director shall be supervised by a Board to be composed of—

“(A) the Chief Justice of the United States;

“(B) the Judicial Conference of the United States; and

“(C) the Director, who shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member.

“(2) The Board shall establish general goals and objectives covering the major functions and operations of the Service to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the Service.”;

(2) in section 562, by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“In the case of a vacancy in the office of a United States marshal, the Chief Justice of the United States, shall appoint a United States marshal to serve the remainder of the 4-year term.”;

(3) by striking section 564;

(4) by redesignating sections 565 and 566 as sections 564 and 565, respectively;

(5) in section 564, as so redesignated, by striking “Attorney General” and inserting “Chief Justice of the United States, in consultation with the Board”;

(6) in section 565, as so redesignated—

(A) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) The United States Marshals Service is authorized to provide for the personal protection of Federal jurists, court officers, witnesses, and other threatened persons in the

interests of justice where criminal intimidation impedes on the functioning of the judicial process or any other official proceeding.”;

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “directed by the Attorney General” and inserting “requested by the Attorney General, and approved by the Director”;

(C) in subsection (i), by striking the third sentence;

(7) by inserting after section 565, as so redesignated, the following:

“§ 566. Assistance in other law enforcement matters

“At the request of the Attorney General, and with the approval of the Director, the Service may assist the Department of Justice with the following tasks:

“(1) Investigating such fugitive matters, both within and outside the United States, as directed by the Attorney General.

“(2) Issuing administrative subpoenas in accordance with section 3486 of title 18, solely for the purpose of investigating unregistered sex offenders (as defined in section 3486).

“(3) Assisting State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in locating and recovering missing children.”;

(8) in section 569(b), by striking “President” and inserting “Chief Justice, in consultation with the Board”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of chapters for part III of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“59. United States Marshals Service 561”.

(2) The table of contents for chapter 59, as redesignated by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by read as follows:

“Sec.

“561. United States Marshals Service.

“562. Vacancies.

“563. Oath of office.

“564. Expenses of the Service.

“565. Powers and duties.

“566. Assistance in other law enforcement matters.

“567. Collection of fees; accounting.

“568. Practice of law prohibited.

“569. Reemployment rights.”.

(3) Section 3002(16) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “, a deputy” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “or a deputy marshal.”

(4) Section 210G(k)(3)(C) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(k)(3)(C)(ii)) is amended—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

“(I) personal protection operations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as specified in section 533 of title 28, United States Code;”;

(B) in clause (iii)(III), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) missions authorized to be performed by the judicial branch, including personal protection operations by the United States Marshals Service of Federal jurists, court officers, witnesses, and other threatened persons in the interests of justice, as specified in section 565(e) of title 28, United States Code.”.

(5) Section 142(a) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20941(a)) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “including the United States Marshals Service” and inserting “including at the request of the Attorney General, and with the approval

of the United States Marshals Service Director, the United States Marshals Service may assist the Department of Justice”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence.

SA 3886. Mr. MCCORMICK 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:

Strike section 1012 and insert the following:

SEC. 1012. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND TO PURCHASE CERTAIN USED FOREIGN CONSTRUCTED VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2218 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “(other than an excluded vessel)” after “any used vessel”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “(other than an excluded vessel)” after “a used vessel”;

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph (C):

“(C) The Secretary may only use the authority under this paragraph to purchase more than 10 foreign-constructed vessels if, for each such vessel so purchased after the tenth vessel, the Secretary purchases one vessel under paragraph (4).”;

(iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking “subparagraph (A)” and inserting “this paragraph”; and

(v) by striking subparagraphs (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (4):

“(4) A vessel purchased under this paragraph is a vessel—

“(A) purchased using funds in the National Defense Sealift Fund;

“(B) constructed in a ship yard located in the United States; and

“(C) the construction of which is managed by a commercial vessel construction manager.”; and

(2) in subsection (k), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) The term ‘excluded vessel’ means a vessel that was—

“(A) constructed or substantially modified by an entity located in the People’s Republic of China; or

“(B) constructed by a Chinese military company, as such term is defined in section 1260H(d)(1) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 2218 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)(D), by striking “section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. 4405)” and inserting “section 57100 of title 46”;

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “section 1424(b) of Public Law 101-510 (104 Stat. 1683)” and inserting “section 1424(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 8661 note)”;

(3) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “section 1424 of Public Law 101-510 (104 Stat.

1683)" and inserting "section 1424 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 8661 note)"; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking "section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. 4405)" and inserting "section 57100 of title 46".

SA 3887. Mr. BOOKER 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR REALIGNMENT OF THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FUNCTION FOR ARMY AMMUNITION.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to realign the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition away from the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition or Joint Capabilities Portfolio Executive Ammunition construct as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act until a period of 180 days has elapsed following the date on which the report required under subsection (b) is submitted to the congressional defense committees.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than November 1, 2026, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following with respect to the proposed realignment of functions described in subsection (a):

(1) An explanation of whether Army personnel, including contractors, would be required to relocate to a new location and if so an estimate of how many personnel would relocate and to what locations.

(2) An explanation of whether the Army expects to build new facilities and infrastructure at new locations to accomplish the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition and, if so, identification of—

(A) what new facilities and infrastructure would have to be constructed; and

(B) where such facilities and infrastructure would be constructed.

(3) A detailed estimate of the costs of relocating personnel and equipment and constructing new facilities and infrastructure.

(4) A detailed explanation of the efficiencies, if any, that the Army expects to realize by realigning the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition to Capabilities Portfolio Executive Fires.

(5) In consultation with the with the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force, a determination as to whether realigning the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition to Capabilities Portfolio Executive Fires will hinder or impede the joint construct that Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition has traditionally maintained with the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations directly following the business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377; and notwithstanding rule XXII, at 5:30 p.m., all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on adoption of the resolution; and, further, following disposition of the resolution, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 366, Stephan Miran.

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

Mr. COTTON. For the information of all Senators, Senators should expect two votes at 5:30 p.m. and further votes at approximately 8 p.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COTTON. 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 CANTWELL.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

HANFORD SITE CLEANUP

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to remind everyone in the United States of America that we have a cleanup obligation at the Hanford Site in the State of Washington and to remind the Secretary of Energy and the Trump administration of a commitment to that part of the United States, to our Nation, and to the cleanup of the most contaminated nuclear site in our Nation. We have an agreement between the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy, and that is to clean up this site.

Right now, there are 56 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste being stored underground in World War II era tanks. These 177 waste storage tanks are over 80 years old, so definitely beyond their life design. Some of these tanks are leaking over 1,000 gallons of waste in a year into the ground. So this waste is making its way to the Columbia River, which supplies drinking water to nearly 30,000 residents in the Tri-Cities.

The Federal Government, as I mentioned, is legally and morally obligated to clean up the dangerous mess it left on the sprawling Hanford Site. We know this part of our U.S. history and the effort that men and women made during World War II in an unbelievable timeframe, but it also left us with a huge obligation to clean up the nuclear waste. The Tri-Party Agreement guides the Hanford Cleanup schedule and the goals that need to be met to complete this mission. Our current Energy Secretary, if he is thinking about ignoring these commitments to science or the Tri-Party Agreement, he needs to rethink that.

This couldn't come at a worse time. In just 6 weeks, for the first time, the removal and treatment of radioactive waste that has been stored in these tanks and in the ground for 80 years will begin to be processed. This process, called vitrification—a process that other countries, like France and Japan and Germany have all successfully achieved—is basically taking the radioactive sludge and turning it into a stable, storable glass. That is what the skilled workers at the Hanford Site have been working on for years—years, years—really—literally 23 years and about \$24 billion in taxpayer money to build a vitrification plant that supports 3,000 jobs in the Tri-Cities to get this post-World War II job done.

When Secretary Wright testified in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he said, "Senator," speaking to me, "I can't overstate how critical I think it is to finish the job, finish the cleanup at Hanford. Hanford gave a lot to this country, and we left a mess that needs to be cleaned up." He went on to say, "I am firmly committed to continuing our obligations and our moral obligations to clean up the mess that was left behind in your state."

So I had a chance to ask the Secretary about this, and that is why news this week that somehow, maybe in October, we are not going to start the vitrification plan—we are not, after 23 years and \$24 billion going to actually start the process of taking the radioactive waste and turning it into this glassification process, so we can once and for all dispose of it.

I know that the people in the Tri-Cities are very anxious about this situation because the vitrification plant, as I said, was supposed to start on October 15. You don't have to go far back—well, actually, maybe you do have to go far back several Energy Secretaries—to look at what happens when it comes to Hanford cleanup. Every time a new administration comes in, somebody looks at the amount of money that it takes to clean up nuclear waste that has been stored in tanks and says, "This costs too much. We ought to be able to do it cheaper."

So I would say to our current colleagues over at the Department of Energy, you need to look at history and think twice. Secretary Abraham, Energy Secretary, formerly U.S. Senator from Michigan, said that he was going to fundamentally transform cleanup with an accelerated cleanup plan in 2002. This represented the most dramatic shift in a cleanup strategy since the original Tri-Party Agreement between the U.S. Government and those agencies that I mentioned. He claimed that he would save \$50 billion on cleanup. Guess what? It didn't work. It just delayed the cleanup and cost taxpayers more money.

Secretary Bodman, he inherited Secretary Abraham's unrealistic promise,

and he failed to address the fundamental technical problems emerging at the waste treatment plant—problems with hydrogen gas build-up, pulse jet mixing, nuclear critical risk, and identified during his tenure, but not adequately addressed—creating a legacy of, really, technical debt that would cost billions of dollars to resolve.

I can say to my colleagues, I got to a point that I said, I am for an Energy Secretary for life, or until they clean up Hanford, because that is how technical the job is and leaving it every few years to a new Energy Secretary and administrators, to me, was part of the challenge. Also during the Bush administration, when Secretary Bodman was there, they tried to shortcut the cleanup process by saying we could just grout the waste.

So, obviously, you can't just pour concrete on high level nuclear waste, on a toxic brew, and then just leave it in the ground—so many, many challenges there. Despite Secretary Chu's Nobel Prize-winning credentials and genuine commitment to scientific rigor, he failed to overcome the systematic problems at Hanford.

Secretary Moniz, a physicist Secretary, attempted to work around the waste treatment plant's technical problems. His framework for tank waste cleanup—including sending some waste to New Mexico and a partial treatment within the tanks—were approaches that essentially abandoned the original cleanup strategy without demonstrating the alternatives would be faster and cheaper. I am sure there were people over at OMB that probably egged on these ideas, thinking that somehow they were going to save money. They didn't. They didn't even work.

Secretary Perry achieved no significant breakthrough in addressing Hanford's cost or schedule problems. The single shell tanks continued to deteriorate, with Tank B-109 actively leaking during his tenure. That is radioactive waste leaking. The waste treatment plant remained plagued by technical problems and schedule delays with low

activity waste facilities not operational, despite being nearly complete.

Energy Secretary Brouillette probably did the best job I have seen in my tenure. He—this was in the last Trump administration—he and his Deputy Secretary Dabbar really focused on project management and got the low activity waste facility finally dialed in and on track—so literally created the facility to treat the waste.

This facility that is set to be open—apparently now, someone is calling into question, "Maybe let's not open it"—after 23 years and \$24 billion and all these problems and all these mishaps of every Energy Secretary listening to probably a lower staffer, saying, "There's a way to do it differently," somehow, somebody is following in the same apparent wrong-headed idea that somehow you don't have to turn on this plant and we shouldn't move forward. I know that we must continue our obligations at the facility.

I know that we can't walk away from this commitment. I know that the vitrification process has been proven scientifically, and unless there is a problem at this plant, we need to move forward with the production of waste to glass that people have been counting on for years. We cannot put another generation of Washingtonians or Tri-Citians or U.S. citizens, leaving this kind of waste without a solution—we can't change course.

We need to stay the course and get this project done. I hope we will be having an opening and that we can finally say, "We have treated this waste and are ready to remove the rest of the waste in the tanks."

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, September 15, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:08 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 15, 2025, at 3 p.m.