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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Most gracious Father, remind us that we never drift out of Your love and care. Faces may change, and conditions may alter, but You are always there just when we need You most. Thank You for protecting us from seen and unseen dangers, for being our refuge and strength.

Today, lead our Senators to do Your will. May their actions spring from thoughts that are pure, just, true, honest, and good.

And, Lord, we pray for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 259

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first a little housekeeping business, and then we will get to the statement.

First, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 259) to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to begin by offering my prayers to everyone affected by the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Over 6,000 have been reported dead. It is just awful—awful. You see the pictures, and you ache. We stand ready to help however we can.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Tonight, President Biden will come before a joint session of Congress and deliver his State of the Union to the American people. It is a chance for all of us to hear directly from the Commander in Chief about the tremendous progress we have made as a nation, the challenges we have overcome in recent years, and how Democrats are keeping our promises to make the lives of the American people better.

I expect the President will make the case clearly and convincingly that today the United States is far better off than it was a year ago. Inflation is coming down; wages are going up; gas prices have eased at last; unemployment is near record lows; and the pandemic, after causing so much suffering, so much destruction, no longer dominates our lives. Our work is not finished, but today we can confidently say America is headed in the right direction thanks to President Biden's leadership and thanks to the work of a strong, unified Democratic Party in Congress.

As Americans listen to President Biden, I am confident they will see the glaring contrast between Democratic unity on the one hand and Republican chaos on the other. Democrats remain laser-focused on delivering our people-first agenda. Every bill Democrats passed last Congress was written with average Americans in mind, from the American Rescue Plan to the infrastructure bill, to the Inflation Reduction Act, to gun safety, marriage equality, and so, so much more.

Let's just take one example out of many. It is an important example but just one. Senate Democrats worked very hard to deliver a \$35 insulin cap for every American on Medicare, but, of course, we want to go further. We tried to get it for everybody before reconciliation, but the reconciliation bill only allowed us to pass, in the IRA, an insulin cap for some Americans. When

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



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an amendment was offered to add everybody in, unfortunately we did not get enough Republicans to vote for it. But this idea deserves new life and bipartisan cooperation in this Congress, and I look forward to hearing more from the President tonight.

Very soon, Americans are going to feel the benefits of our agenda in their daily lives. Implementation is going to be a top priority for Senate Democrats in the months to come. Not everyone has the time to follow what happens in Congress day by day, but when we actually start doing things, implementing the bills, oh, it gets out.

Just look at my home State of New York. After we passed infrastructure, many people didn't hear about it. To others, it was a line in the newspaper—oh, they have a bipartisan infrastructure bill. But last week, when the President came to New York to celebrate Gateway, you could feel the exaltation and excitement in the city. That is going to start happening again and again everywhere, in every State, in every community, as these large bills that helped American families are implemented and people see the actual results in their communities.

So let me say it again. Democrats are proud we stuck together and delivered on an agenda that lowered costs, lifted America out of crisis, and helped lay a foundation for future prosperity. Our MAGA Republicans cannot claim the same. On the very first day in the new majority, House Republicans passed a bill not to help average Americans but, rather, that helps the ultrarich so they can avoid paying their fair share in taxes. The bottom line is, these people who are going to be added to the IRS are going to focus on all of those who are much richer than the average American but pay at a much lower rate. But the Republicans couldn't go for that. Those are the people they want to represent. Then they hardly stopped there. In just 1 month, the MAGA House majority has doubled down on their war on women, tripled down on their asinine national sales tax proposal, and Republicans continue to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage to their radical agenda.

In the coming months, nothing will require more cooperation and serious-mindedness than lifting the debt ceiling. I was glad to work with both Presidents Biden and Trump to lift the debt ceiling over the past couple of years. We did it without political blackmail, without brinkmanship. But Speaker MCCARTHY and many of his House MAGA Republicans are taking the debt ceiling hostage and basically saying: Our way or the highway. Agree to cuts or we won't lift the debt ceiling.

That is not going to work, plain and simple. History shows that those who try to threaten their way to an agreement end up losing.

If Speaker MCCARTHY is insistent on spending cuts, which we Democrats will strongly oppose, he has an obliga-

tion to take the next step and actually say what those cuts are for. We will oppose tying the debt ceiling to these types of cuts. The debt ceiling is debts we have already incurred and should be paid without brinkmanship, without adding things to the agenda, which risks a great deal for the American people.

So what are the Republicans asking for? They say they want cuts. What are they? Are Republicans going to ax Social Security or Medicare? We think it is not enough for the Speaker to just say he doesn't want to make those cuts, because Members of his own party, including some of the very MAGA Republicans he followed in the first week of his session, are saying otherwise, and they have shown—some of them—that they can get their way in the new majority. Speaker MCCARTHY needs to prove he won't cut Social Security and Medicare by showing us the plan, his plan.

What about funding for national defense? Our military just shot down the Chinese spy balloon. Are Republicans seriously thinking about cutting defense on some bogus claims of fighting a "woke agenda"? What the heck does that mean?

Republicans, show us the specific cuts. Show us the plan.

What about families and children who rely on nutrition aid? The chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee recently said they are still looking at cuts to SNAP benefits at a time when children are hungry and groceries are far too expensive. This is from the party that cut taxes for billionaires and mega corporations back in 2017. If making sure hungry children have enough to eat is part of the "woke agenda," then we sure don't have the same definition.

Look, I know it is not easy for this new majority. The 20 or so extremists who dictated the House rules package can now thwart whatever proposal the Speaker wants to come up with if they feel the cuts don't go far enough. So I am gravely concerned that things will be very, very hard for the Speaker to manage, if he can come up with a plan at all.

All this brings us back to what Democrats have been insisting on from the very beginning: No brinkmanship. No hostage-taking. Let's lift the debt ceiling together. Let's pay the debts that Democrats and Republicans, including Donald Trump, already incurred without ultimatums.

Tonight, I expect the President will make this very clear to the American people, and it will be the responsibility of House Republicans to show that they take the debt ceiling seriously before they create an unprecedented crisis that will wreak havoc on every single American.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the Chinese surveillance balloon, I

strongly—very strongly—condemn President Xi's brazen incursion into American airspace with the Chinese surveillance balloon, and I commend President Biden for being calm, calculated, and effective in taking down the balloon over water to ensure the safety of Americans on the ground and to ensure we maximize our intelligence gains as we examine this balloon, which is far less likely to burn and crash into a million pieces in water than over land.

Instead of criticizing China, I was shocked to hear MAGA Republicans—before they even knew what was happening, before they even knew the whole story—direct their criticism toward the President, saying that we should have shot down the balloon the moment we saw it. So it is clear that the MAGA Republican criticism was at best premature and at worst political.

This is one area where we don't need politics. We need Democrats and Republicans to come together to condemn China and be a unified front against the CCP.

President Biden and his team did the right thing. They waited and took down the balloon carefully, precisely, and with what both the military and intelligence experts urged them to do. Had the President not gone along with what the military said, I can imagine that some of these same Republicans, so highly political in their criticism, would have then criticized the President for not listening to the military leaders. But now we can recover most of the equipment and begin to analyze the technology in the way it was done.

Again, I applaud President Biden for his leadership. And on Thursday, all Senators—all Senators—we have upgraded this. Because so many Senators wanted a briefing, I asked the administration to do it as an all-Senators briefing instead of the Gang of 8, and that is what is going to happen. So all Senators will receive a classified briefing from administration officials on the surveillance balloon.

NOMINATION OF DEANDREA GIST BENJAMIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, finally, on the Fourth Circuit, before Senators join with our House colleagues for the State of the Union, the Senate will take its first judicial nomination vote of the Congress by advancing DeAndrea Benjamin to serve as a circuit court judge—a circuit court judge—for the Fourth Circuit. If confirmed, Judge Benjamin would make history as only the second woman of color to sit on that court, a long overdue step in making sure the bench reflects the vibrancy of the Fourth Circuit. Judge Benjamin's credentials are unassailable, and I thank my Republican colleagues in the Judiciary Committee who supported her.

The Senate is going to continue prioritizing judicial confirmations on the floor of this Congress. We have a

lot of outstanding men and women coming out of the Judiciary very soon, and we will work quickly to move them out of this Chamber and onto the bench.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this evening, President Biden will begin the back half of his term with his State of the Union address to Congress and to the American people. But the White House's attempts to script the message for this week have been upset by recent events. Over the last several days, the country learned that on President Biden's watch, the state of our Union is apparently under Chinese surveillance from our own skies.

It is ludicrous to suggest that Canada and the United States had no choice but to let this thing traipse across the continent from coast to coast. President Obama's own Defense Secretary, Leon Panetta, says, "We should have acted earlier."

The administration's handwringing and indecision, finally downing the balloon only after it had toured the length of our country, was typical of how President Biden and his team have conducted our foreign affairs.

Our top military commanders and civilian experts all say that our broader strategic competition with China is our most serious challenge. But this President's last budget request tried to cut funding for our military after inflation, while Beijing keeps investing in their own capabilities.

The commander of our U.S. Strategic Command just told Congress that China now has more land-based intercontinental ballistic missile launchers than we do. The administration's reckless retreat from Afghanistan blew past the expert warnings, cost the lives of 13 American servicemembers, let thousands of terrorists waltz out of prison, and incentivize others to challenge an America that looked cowardly.

Its hesitating, indecisive, self-deferred approach to helping Ukraine before Putin invaded and in the earliest days right afterwards left freedom's friends flat-footed and are making the substantive fight more difficult than it ever had to be.

And now the Biden administration apparently has pivoted from chasing another bad nuclear deal with Iran to trying to let terrorists out of Guantanamo Bay.

These are just some of the reasons why 41 percent of Americans say the state of our union is weak—weak—and only 13 percent say it is strong.

Of course, this administration has also created problems for American families closer to home. A nationwide poll published last week revealed that just 16 percent of Americans say they are in a better financial situation today than they were 2 years ago when the President and his party assumed total control of government.

For 84 percent of Americans, one-party Democratic control of Washington either failed to live up to its promises or actively made life worse. Two years ago, over the objections of their own party's top economists, Washington Democrats misinterpreted a narrow election victory as a mandate for an unprecedented spending spree.

When President Biden took office, inflation was at 1.4 percent. From Inauguration Day to today, inflation is over 13 percent.

Working families have seen grocery prices jump 18.6 percent, used car prices rise 26.2 percent, and energy prices soar by 33.9 percent. Millions—millions—of Americans have earned pay raises at work, but runaway inflation has left them with less purchasing power than before.

Our southern border is in crisis, shattering all-time records for illegal immigrant apprehensions. Streets and neighborhoods are being swallowed up by violent crime—after local Democrats have cut police budgets, liberal prosecutors have turned jails into revolving doors, and national Democrats spent years amplifying the kinds of anti-police rhetoric that result in more crime.

And President Biden is helping the radical left go on offense and bring a culture war to the doorsteps of normal American families—trying to squeeze Catholic hospitals and faith-based daycares out of business; trying to take school choice and curriculum transparency away from parents—and on and on and on.

President Biden campaigned on being the adult in the room. But he is not even calling the shots in his own party. Over and over on issue after issue, this President hands the car keys to the radical left and turned himself into a passenger. That is why working families across the country have voted for change.

They elected a Republican majority in the House of Representatives to put the emergency brakes on runaway liberal spending. They reelected all-star Republican governors in places like Texas, Georgia, and Florida. And they elevated a talented new generation of leaders, including the youngest serving governor in America—Governor Sanders of Arkansas—whom the American people will hear from tonight.

Our country may still be struggling to understand what on earth Washington Democrats think they have actually accomplished in the past 2 years. But they can be absolutely sure where Republicans stand.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

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

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. 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.

COVID

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, when the COVID pandemic hit, small businesses were shut down; millions of Americans lost their jobs; schools were shut down; flights were canceled; and traveling ground to a halt. The sick and the elderly were forced to die in hospitals and nursing homes, tragically alone, without the comforting embrace of loved ones.

The corporate media told us there was no way that this virus could have escaped from a Chinese Government lab, and Big Tech companies banned and censored posts laying out the evidence that it had escaped from a Chinese lab, labeling that evidence a "conspiracy theory." Masks were mandated everywhere.

And when the COVID vaccines came out, those were mandated too. Doctors, nurses, and our brave service men and women who chose not to get the vaccine were fired, discharged, sent home.

The corrupt corporate media's reaction to COVID devastated our economy and led directly to massive inflation, to weakening and even destroying faith in public health institutions, and resulted in learning loss that millions of American children may never recover from.

The pandemic is over. President Biden has even admitted that. The vast majority of America has moved on with their lives. But, sadly, the Biden

White House and too many Senate Democrats want to cling to power. During the pandemic, we saw abuses of power at every level of government but especially the Federal Government. Over the past 2 years, I have been proud to lead the fight in the Senate to stop these abuses by introducing targeted pieces of legislation that I have reintroduced in this new Congress.

Five of these bills would get rid of mandates. If passed into law, they would mean no more mask mandates, no vaccine mandates, no vaccine passports, no vaccine mandates for minors, and no vaccine mandates for kids to go back to school in Washington, DC.

Two other bills concern vital healthcare. The GIVE LIFE Act, or Doss's bill, is named after a teenager in Texas who was denied a kidney transplant because he hadn't been vaccinated against COVID. No American should be denied a lifesaving medical treatment such as an organ transplant because of their COVID vaccine status. That is wrong.

Unfortunately, we have seen this kind of discrimination over and over again. We saw it happen to a teenager in Texas. It also happened to a 31-year-old man in Boston who was denied a heart transplant, to a 38-year-old veteran who had already had COVID twice who was denied a kidney transplant in North Carolina, and a man in South Carolina who was also denied a kidney transplant because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID. Just in December, yet another teenager was denied a kidney transplant, this time in North Carolina, because she wasn't vaccinated against COVID. The GIVE LIFE Act would stop the Federal Government from enabling this discrimination when it comes to organ donation.

Another bill, the Ending Discrimination in COVID-19 Treatments Act, would mandate the Department of Health and Human Services to require that providers not engage in discriminatory practices when treating COVID. I filed this bill in response to reports that States across the country have used race and ethnicity as a factor in determining whether someone is eligible to receive COVID treatments, particularly monoclonal antibodies when they were first introduced. This bill now applies to all COVID funding and treatments, not just monoclonal antibodies.

This kind of discrimination and treatment has happened in the past year. In January 2022, a man in New York who had both COVID and pneumonia was denied monoclonal antibodies. He told CBS News:

The doctor just shut me down and said this is the criteria: You're not of age, which is 65, and you're not a minority.

As part of its response, the New York Department of Health told CBS:

This guidance is based on CDC guidelines that show COVID mortality rates are higher among certain demographic groups, including senior citizens, immunocompromised individuals, and nonwhite/Hispanic communities.

So what New York said is they were following CDC guidelines in determining how this COVID treatment would be distributed. As New York, itself, admitted, the CDC guidelines are encouraging racial discrimination in the distribution of healthcare, and that is immoral and wrong. My bill would stop this discrimination. Let's be very clear here. Race, religion, ethnicity should not be a factor—zero—in determining anyone's medical treatment. Doing so is unconstitutional; it is wrong; and it is abhorrent.

These are battles worth fighting.

For those of us who have been standing up against these abusive mandates, we recently won a big victory in December of last year on COVID vaccines in the military. I have fought hard to end President Biden's military vaccine mandate and last month, December, we succeeded. We passed into law a provision to end the mandate, finally, but, sadly, that provision was prospective. The Democrats in Congress would only agree to it going forward if it applied in the future, but provided zero relief to the thousands or even tens of thousands of service men and women who were terminated because they declined to get the vaccine.

To fix this, I have introduced legislation called the AMERICANS Act, which would allow those service men and women who were terminated to be reinstated if they want to go back into the military. And if they do, they could go back to their original rank and receive the benefits to which they were entitled and which they have earned.

If those servicemembers choose not to go back in the military, my bill would ensure that they receive an honorable discharge—not merely a general discharge, as too many of them have received—which will ensure that they can receive the benefits they earned by fighting to defend this country.

I am committed to fighting for every soldier, every sailor, every airman, every marine, every coastguardsman who was wrongfully terminated or wrongfully demoted because of the COVID vaccine mandate. And I give my word: I am going to keep fighting for them until they see justice.

That is why tonight, we are going to be at the State of the Union Address on the other side of the Capitol, and my guest tonight for the State of the Union is LT Levi Beard, a naval surface warfare officer. Lieutenant Beard is a Texas resident and a top-rated officer. In March of 2022, he faced a separation board because he made the personal decision to decline to get the COVID vaccine. But before the Biden administration could kick him out, a Federal judge entered an injunction preventing the Navy from terminating Lieutenant Beard. However, the Navy is, right now, trying to recoup from him \$75,000 that they already paid him in anticipation of Lieutenant Beard's becoming a department head because he wasn't named a department head. Well, the reason he wasn't named a de-

partment head is because he made the personal decision not to get the COVID vaccine due to his own sincere religious objection.

I am proud to be welcoming Lieutenant Beard to the State of the Union tonight. I hope that his being there will cause those in the media to tell his story because it really underscores how grotesquely unfair the Biden administration's policies have been and how they punish those American heroes. So Lieutenant Beard will be in the audience tonight as Joe Biden, no doubt, will congratulate himself and try to avoid accountability for the problems his administration has caused.

When it comes to COVID, the pandemic we endured as a nation was an enormous challenge. The policies that were put in place across this country in response to the pandemic, many of them have caused enormous damage. I believe, as a nation, we will look back on these policies, in the years and decades to come, and wonder what collective insanity came over this country; what insanity led to the judgment that it is a good idea to shut down schools for tens of millions of children across this country for more than a year; that it is a good idea for young children, elementary school children, not to learn reading and writing and math. That policy has resulted in massive learning loss, and that learning loss has been all the greater among the economically disadvantaged, among Hispanic and African-American kids.

The result of these shutdowns is a generation of kids who have been harmed, perhaps, irreparably.

In our military, the results of firing thousands upon thousands of service men and women—and we don't know how many. I would note, I asked the Biden administration over and over again: How many of our heroes have you fired? The administration refuses to answer. It is, in the minimum, thousands; it may be in the tens of thousands. But I can tell you, I have spoken with Navy SEALs, heroes who spent their lives training and defending this Nation, and they are being fired—some of the youngest, healthiest people we have in our country are being fired because they didn't comply with an arbitrary decree.

And now, the President and the administration have admitted that decree should no longer be enforced, but the Navy Seals they fired last year or the year before are still out of the military. All the while, we have massive recruiting shortfalls, and America is in greater jeopardy.

Mr. President, you are new on this side of the aisle but not new to Congress. There was a time in this body when Republicans and Democrats could come together and reason together, where not everything we did was a shirts-and-skins partisan battle: Good morning. No, it is not.

In less vituperative times, these shouldn't be difficult questions. When I forced a vote on the Senate floor that

the DC Public Schools should not throw out of school every student who hasn't received the COVID vaccine—and, mind you, that is 20 percent of the students in DC Public Schools, and, in the African-American community, it is 40 percent of the African-American students in the DC Public Schools. I am sorry to say, but when we voted on that on the Senate floor, every single Democrat—all of them—voted to throw out of public schools 40 percent of the Black kids in DC. You are talking about a 13-, 14-, 15-year-old kid who Senate Democrats were willing to make a high-school dropout involuntarily because that child or that child's parents made the decision not to receive the vaccine.

In ordinary sane times, that should be a 100-to-nothing vote. You would think it was almost satirical that someone would stand up and say: We are debating whether or not to throw out of DC Public Schools 40 percent of the African-American children.

If you and I go home and talk to our citizens at home, to a person, they would think that was nuts, unless they happened to work in this building.

On the question of service men and women, we saw, in the preceding year, that President Biden called to congratulate a coastguardsman who showed incredible heroism rescuing people at a time of natural disaster. That coastguardsman, within the week, was notified that he was being terminated because he hadn't gotten the COVID vaccine. This shouldn't be divisive.

We want our soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines and coastguardsmen to be ready, to be trained, to be serving, and, if the administration agrees the mandate makes no sense today, why would we sit by and let thousands upon thousands of them remain fired, terminated, and denied the benefits they have earned?

So I call upon this body: Let's have a return to sanity. Let's fight for the men and women we are elected to represent. And I give you my word that I am going to continue to fight against these mandates that are wrong, that are unjust, that are harmful, and I hope and pray this body can come together and embrace sanity once again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this evening, President Biden will deliver his second State of the Union Address.

Presidents, of course, typically use the speech as an opportunity to claim credit for all the ways Americans' lives

have improved under their leadership. Former Presidents have touted everything from economic growth to progress battling the opioid epidemic.

In this case, President Biden hasn't given his speech writers much material to work with. Families in Texas and across the country are still being battered by inflation. I know there are hopes for inflation to abate, but yet the Federal Reserve has shown no indication that they will fail to increase the discount rate—in other words, interest rate—meaning that, more and more, they are concerned still about the impact of inflation.

Inflation, as we have seen, means that people's standard of living is decreased because their earned income does not go as far as it used to, and we know high prices have wiped out wage gains, giving most workers a pay cut.

We also know that public safety remains a matter of serious public concern, and starting from the impact of the "defund the police" movement to now the difficulty law enforcement has actually recruiting and retaining an adequate number of officers, we know crime continues to be a matter of widespread public concern.

Then there are the failed policies at the border, which have led to a humanitarian and public health crisis.

The humanitarian part is evidenced, obviously, by the millions of people who show up at the border with every expectation they will be admitted to the United States.

The public health crisis comes from the 108,000 Americans who died from drug overdoses, where those drugs almost exclusively transited the U.S.-Mexican border into the United States. We know the chaos of mass migration has helped make the drug runners' job easier, and we know of the devastating impact it is having across the country.

I don't know how much of this the President will actually talk about, whether it is inflation, whether it is crime, or whether it is the border, but these are the kitchen-table issues most American families care deeply about—the cost of groceries, the ability to put gas in your tank, and living in a safe neighborhood and raising your family.

I don't know whether the President will dwell on any of those topics at all, but just to recapitulate, inflation now is the highest it has been in 40 years. We know that many cities have broken their alltime homicide records, and we are still in the midst of a completely unprecedented crisis on the southern border.

We have seen some pretty big missteps on the world stage too. For example, the Biden administration led a deadly and disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan that resulted in the loss of 13 servicemembers and countless Americans stranded in Taliban territory.

The administration continues to try to revive the failed Iran nuclear deal and to give Tehran even more resources to pursue its nuclear ambitions.

Just last week, the administration hit an embarrassing new low when the People's Republic of China flew a surveillance balloon across the United States, spying on the U.S. military and on all civilians. It took 7 days before the administration finally gave the green light to shoot it down off the coast of South Carolina. To be specific, it wasn't just the administration; it was the President of the United States who gave that instruction 7 days after it began its transit across U.S. territory.

During his first 2 years in office, President Biden had a pretty big advantage: His party held the majority in both Houses of Congress. He had the golden opportunity to enact his agenda and address the biggest problems facing American families. Unfortunately, there wasn't a lot of overlap between the Biden agenda and the American agenda.

While people were struggling to keep up with high gas prices, the administration waged war on American energy. While parents questioned what was being taught in their kids' classrooms, the administration threatened to unleash the FBI on concerned parents who spoke out at the school board meetings. While inflation raged, Democrats poured even more fuel on the fire by spending an additional \$2½-plus trillion on purely partisan spending bills; namely, the American Recovery Act and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act—all passed without a single Republican vote but which added easily \$2.5 trillion to our national debt. So it doesn't come as a surprise, I guess, that voters decided to change the direction of the country in the last election by electing a Republican majority in the House.

Tonight, for the first time, President Biden will deliver his State of the Union Address before a divided Congress—a Democrat-controlled Senate, a Republican-controlled House, and a President who ran on the promise of governing from the middle and bringing us together but who hasn't shown a willingness to do that so far.

I think we are all eager to know how President Biden will broach all of these topics this evening. Will he simply try to gloss over his claimed successes and ignore his failures? Will he try to blame Republicans for the current state of our country even though Democrats controlled all the levers of government for the last 2 years? Or will he finally acknowledge the many problems that proliferated under his leadership and get serious about solutions?

One of the most critical areas where we need to see real leadership is the current border crisis, which has been raging since President Biden took office 2 years ago. Day after day, month after month, migrants have crossed our border in unprecedented numbers. Over the years, we have seen plenty of migration surges but nothing like this.

Last fiscal year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection logged nearly 2.4

million border crossings, shattering the previous record. In December, Customs and Border Protection encountered more than a quarter of a million migrants at the southern border—a quarter of a million people in a single month, which is a new record.

The President has not offered a single serious plan to address this crisis. Secretary Mayorkas keeps saying: Well, this is something Congress needs to weigh in on. But they have engaged in zero outreach or any visible indication that they actually do want a congressionally passed solution to this problem, one that the President would have to sign into law.

The only policy changes that the President has offered will do nothing to stop people from coming because they just parole them faster. In other words, they show up at the border, and they are given a piece of paper and told: Go to the closest Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in wherever it is you are locating in the interior of the United States—with no followup and no real assurance that they will actually go to an ICE office and ultimately end up in front of an immigration judge.

We know that is part of the game, too, because if the human smugglers flood the zone with people, they can overwhelm the capacity of our immigration court system to actually deal with these asylum cases. Those who ultimately end up before an immigration judge are only successful in roughly 10 to 15 percent of the cases, but if you flood the zone with enough people, you can overwhelm the capacity of the court system, and you can basically succeed in living permanently in the United States even though you have not complied with our immigration laws to do so.

We know that for 2 years, the men and women on the frontline of the border have been pleading with the administration to do something. Law enforcement are understaffed and overwhelmed by the workload they are expected to shoulder.

Nonprofit organizations and local governments are trying to mitigate the humanitarian crisis that has landed on their doorstep, and legitimate trade and travel have taken a big hit. Mexico was our single largest trading partner. Yet legitimate trade and travel are hampered by this flood of humanity coming across the border as well.

So I hope the President will be candid with the American people tonight and acknowledge not only what he views as his successes but where more work needs to be done. Now that he no longer enjoys a majority in the House and the Senate but now has a divided Congress, I hope he is candid enough to acknowledge that the only way we are going to be able to solve some of these problems is to finally work together to do so.

We know that what the President shouldn't say is that he will somehow use his Executive powers to create new

categories of immigrants or microscopic pilot programs. It needs to center on the basic idea of enforcing our immigration laws and reforming our asylum system. That is the only way to restore order and get this crisis under control.

Legal immigration has, to my mind, been one of the greatest successes America has to show to the rest of the world—legal immigration, orderly, humane, and legal—but what we are seeing now is the antithesis of orderly, humane, or legal. It is just the opposite.

We know our country is facing a diverse set of challenges in our homes, schools, workplaces, and along the border, and on the world stage, democracy itself continues to be under attack by hostile autocrats and dictators. The American people deserve to hear the President explain his plan to address each of these looming challenges, and I hope he does so tonight.

Once the State of the Union concludes, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders will deliver the Republican address. She is a champion for workers and families who have been left behind. I look forward to hearing her response to President Biden's speech, and I expect to see a stark contrast between the cloistered unrealities of the Biden administration and the reality that American families are facing.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

DEBT CEILING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, as my colleague from Texas said, people are looking forward to hearing what the President will say and what he will not say tonight.

As I have been home over the weekend, one of the things I have heard from Tennesseans about is the out-of-control Federal spending.

Now, we know what the Democrats have done in plussing up the budget for the last couple of years, but one number kind of stuck with me, and it is about \$3.6 trillion—that is taxpayer dollars—that has been spent on Democratic wish-list items. A lot of this is the Green New Deal. A lot of this is the reckless spending agenda they are pushing.

Now, they forced through, in 2021, \$1.85 trillion in spending. Then they came back around, and they wanted to talk about inflation. Joe Biden had 1.4 percent inflation when he took office, and because of this out-of-control spending and spending more and more and more and hundreds of billions of dollars, we saw inflation in June of 2022 hit 9.1 percent. People are frustrated about this.

But one of the things that got Tennesseans was the fact that this President didn't say: Well, it is because we put all this money—Federal spending—your dollars—we are putting these back out there. No, he blamed Vladimir Putin. It was Putin's fault. To Tennesseans, this was outrageous. It was the "go blame somebody else" game.

The Biden administration's neglect of the economy and their complete disregard for the destructive effects of their spending is something that has caught the attention of Tennesseans. This term for this President wasn't even halfway over, and already his policies are making everyday life too expensive to afford.

To be clear, Tennesseans talk to me about being worried about the basics of life: food security, food for the table, clothes for the kids, gas for the car. They feel like this agenda, this set of priorities that this administration has, is just peeling away a lot of their life, their living, their enjoyment, because there is no extra money left over. It is all going into necessities.

They are struggling to manage 6.5 percent inflation. They are looking at the cost of food that is up 13 percent from where it was a year ago. Keeping the heat on in this cold winter is 15 percent more. And it is the same story when you talk about school supplies and when you talk about clothes for the kids.

It is the same story here in Washington, where it seems that Joe Biden and this administration and the Democrats are once again poised and ready to spend more money. They are wanting to raise the debt ceiling without even a conversation about spending cuts. To Tennesseans, that is outrageous.

Now, my Democratic colleagues have spent a lot of time talking about what will happen if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling, and I don't think anyone here denies that the country has some serious discussions that need to be had. But I would ask my colleagues to remember that raising the debt ceiling is not a green light to keep spending money until we crash into another debt ceiling.

Tennesseans understand this. They spent 2 years cutting costs because common sense told them that you just can't keep spending with reckless abandon, and they want to know why the Democrats in Washington don't get this. Yes, indeed, everybody spends too much up here; but why are my Democratic colleagues unwilling to talk about making any cuts?

Now there are some things that we could do to start this process. There are three bills that I file every single year. When the Presiding Officer and I were across the dome in the House, I would file these bills every single year, because it is common sense. They would make a 1-percent or a 2-percent or a 5-percent across-the-board spending cut. Every Federal Agency ought to be able to do that. The American people do that. Making that one penny out of a dollar reduction in spending would save us money.

There again, you do this in the discretionary spending to get things rolling. Start it there—a penny in a dollar. How about two pennies in a dollar? If you take a penny out of a dollar, that would save you \$5.2 billion. If you did

that just in discretionary—didn't do it in the military, didn't do it in mandatory spending—just discretionary—2 cents out of the dollar, then you are going to get more than \$10 billion in savings. These are small, little steps. But, you know what? In the end, if you do that, if you cut a nickel out, it saves \$26 billion. Do it every year. Do it so we are not wasting taxpayers' money.

This is not government money. It is not your money. It is not my money. It is not the money of this Chamber or the House. It is the money of the people of this country, and we are charged with spending that carefully, accountably, and transparently to the people.

Tennesseans cannot take and they will not accept another year of this reckless spending. They are demanding change, and this is the barest minimum of what they would accept—tiny little cuts like that, just in the right direction, and then holding to it. Don't come back in 2 years and say: We have to raise the debt. They want to see some structural change.

Now, unfortunately, the President has said that he has no plans to negotiate his spending levels. It will be interesting to see what he has to say about this tonight, because to Tennesseans, it is almost, unfortunately—somebody said this weekend—it is laughable. It is shameful that he does not want to negotiate, that he is not going to talk about spending less, that he only wants to talk about spending more.

Senate Democrats cannot keep putting off this debate in order to save the President's failed agenda. Our job is not to serve the White House. It is to serve the American people. And they are saying: Do something about the wasteful, out-of-control spending.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 5.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 5, Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 9, Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Luján, Tammy Duckworth, John W.

Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 7, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 3, DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Luján, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, 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 Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Cortez Masto	Kaine
Bennet	Duckworth	Kelly
Blumenthal	Durbin	King
Booker	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Cantwell	Fetterman	Luján
Cardin	Gillibrand	Manchin
Carper	Hassan	Markey
Casey	Heinrich	Menendez
Collins	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Coons	Hirono	Murkowski

Murphy	Schatz	Tillis
Murray	Schumer	Van Hollen
Ossoff	Scott (SC)	Warner
Padilla	Shaheen	Warnock
Peters	Sinema	Warren
Reed	Smith	Welch
Rosen	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Sanders	Tester	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Cramer	Lummis	Vance
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Moran	
Ernst	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—3

Brown	Graham	Sullivan
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(Mr. MENENDEZ assumed the Chair.)
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The yeas are 54; the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.
The Senator from Virginia.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Senate Budget Committee is charged with the enforcement of budgetary levels and associated budgetary laws. This duty entails the review of measures through all stages of the legislative process. Consistent with the practice of previous chairs and ranking members of the committee, I have instructed my staff to review all bills and resolutions for which unanimous consent for passage is requested for any budgetary and programmatic effects.

To help my staff perform their duties and avoid unnecessary delays during the unanimous consent process, Members are encouraged to provide Budget Committee staff with legislative text and corresponding budgetary information from either the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation. I will use this information to weigh the budgetary and policy implications of each matter.

If after considering this information I decide to object to legislation, I will file notice of that decision publicly.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following be printed in the RECORD.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE RULES—118TH CONGRESS

JURISDICTION

Per Rule XXV(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate:

(1) Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the Small Business Administration;

(2) Any proposed legislation reported by such committee which relates to matters other than the functions of the Small Business Administration shall, at the request of the chairman of any standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter extraneous to the functions of the Small Business Administration, be considered and reported by such standing committee prior to its consideration by the Senate; and likewise measures reported by other committees directly relating to the Small Business Administration shall, at the request of the Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, be referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship for its consideration of any portion of the measure dealing with the Small Business Administration and be reported by this committee prior to its consideration by the Senate.

(3) Such committee shall also study and survey by means of research and investigation all problems of American small business enterprises, and report thereon from time to time.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

General

All applicable provisions of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Senate Resolutions, and the Legislative Reorganization Acts of 1946 and of 1970 (as amended), shall govern the Committee.

Meetings

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the first Wednesday of each month unless otherwise directed by the Chair. All other meetings may be called by the Chair as he or she deems necessary, on 5 business days notice where practicable. If at least three Members of the Committee desire the Chair to call a special meeting, they may file in the office of the Committee a written request therefore, addressed to the Chair. Immediately thereafter, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chair of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chair fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of such request, a majority of the Committee Members may file in the Office of the Committee their written notice that a special Committee meeting will be held, specifying the date, hour and place thereof, and the Committee shall meet at that time and place. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify all Committee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date, hour and place. If the Chair is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting, such member of the Committee as the Chair shall designate shall preside. For

any meeting or hearing of the Committee, the Ranking Member may delegate to any Minority Member the authority to serve as Ranking Member, and that Minority Member shall be afforded all the rights and responsibilities of the Ranking Member for the duration of that meeting or hearing. Notice of any designation shall be provided to the Chief Clerk as early as practicable.

(b) It shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless an electronic copy of such amendment has been delivered to the Clerk of the Committee at least 2 business days prior to the meeting. Following receipt of all amendments, the Clerk shall disseminate the amendments to all Members of the Committee. This subsection may be waived by agreement of the Chair and Ranking Member or by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

Quorums

(a)(1) A majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for reporting any legislative measure or nomination.

(2) One-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Minority Member is present. The term "routine business" includes, but is not limited to, the consideration of legislation pending before the Committee and any amendments thereto, and voting on such amendments, and steps in an investigation including, but not limited to, authorizing the issuance of a subpoena.

(3) In hearings, whether in public or closed session, a quorum for the asking of testimony, including sworn testimony, shall consist of one Member of the Committee.

(b) Proxies will be permitted in voting upon the business of the Committee. A Member who is unable to attend a business meeting may submit a proxy vote on any matter, in writing, or through oral or written personal instructions to a Member of the Committee or staff. Proxies shall in no case be counted for establishing a quorum.

Nominations

In considering a nomination, the Committee shall conduct an investigation or review of the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. In any hearings on the nomination, the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to his or her nomination for office. To aid in such investigation or review, each nominee may be required to submit a sworn detailed statement including biographical, financial, policy, and other information which the Committee may request. The Committee may specify which items in such statement are to be received on a confidential basis.

Hearings, Subpoenas, & Legal Counsel

(a)(1) The Chair of the Committee may initiate a hearing of the Committee on his or her authority or upon his or her approval of a request by any Member of the Committee. If such request is by the Ranking Member, a decision shall be communicated to the Ranking Member within 7 business days. Written notice of all hearings, including the title, a description of the hearing, and a tentative witness list shall be given at least 5 business days in advance, where practicable, to all Members of the Committee.

(2) Hearings of the Committee shall not be scheduled outside the District of Columbia unless specifically authorized by the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or by consent of a majority of the Committee. Such consent may be given informally, without a meeting, but must be in writing.

(b)(1) Any Member of the Committee shall be empowered to administer the oath to any witness testifying as to fact.

(2) The Chair and Ranking Member shall be empowered to call an equal number of witnesses to a Committee hearing. Subject to Senate Standing Rule 26(4)(d), such number shall exclude any Administration witness unless such witness would be the sole hearing witness, in which case the Ranking Member shall be entitled to invite one witness. The preceding two sentences shall not apply when a witness appears as the nominee. Interrogation of witnesses at hearings shall be conducted on behalf of the Committee by Members of the Committee or such Committee staff as is authorized by the Chair or Ranking Minority Member.

(3) Witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file with the Clerk of the Committee a written statement of the prepared testimony at least two business days in advance of the hearing at which the witness is to appear unless this requirement is waived by the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

(c) Any witness summoned to a public or closed hearing may be accompanied by counsel of his or her own choosing, who shall be permitted while the witness is testifying to advise the witness of his or her legal rights. Failure to obtain counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(d) Subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials may be authorized by the Chair with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member or by the consent of a majority of the Members of the Committee. Such consent may be given informally, without a meeting, but must be in writing. The Chair may subpoena attendance or production without the consent of the Ranking Minority Member when the Chair has not received notification from the Ranking Minority Member of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours of being notified of the intended subpoena, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Subpoenas shall be issued by the Chair or by the Member of the Committee designated by him or her. A subpoena for the attendance of a witness shall state briefly the purpose of the hearing and the matter or matters to which the witness is expected to testify. A subpoena for the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials shall identify the papers or materials required to be produced with as much particularity as is practicable.

(e) The Chair shall rule on any objections or assertions of privilege as to testimony or evidence in response to subpoenas or questions of Committee Members and staff in hearings.

(f) Testimony may be submitted to the formal record for a period not less than two weeks following a hearing or roundtable, unless otherwise agreed to by Chair and Ranking Member.

Confidential Information

(a) No confidential testimony taken by, or confidential material presented to, the Committee in executive session, or any report of the proceedings of a closed hearing, or confidential testimony or material submitted pursuant to a subpoena, shall be made public, either in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the Members. Other confidential material or testimony submitted to the Committee may be disclosed if authorized by the Chair with the consent of the Ranking Member.

(b) Persons asserting confidentiality of documents or materials submitted to the Committee offices shall clearly designate them as such on their face. Designation of

submissions as confidential does not prevent their use in furtherance of Committee business.

Media & Broadcasting

(a) At the discretion of the Chair, public meetings of the Committee may be televised, broadcasted, or recorded in whole or in part by a member of the Senate Press Gallery or an employee of the Senate. Any such person wishing to televise, broadcast, or record a Committee meeting must request approval of the Chair by submitting a written request to the Committee Office by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting. Notice of televised or broadcasted hearings shall be provided to the Ranking Minority Member as soon as practicable.

(b) During public meetings of the Committee, any person using a camera, microphone, or other electronic equipment may not position or use the equipment in a way that interferes with the seating, vision, or hearing of Committee members or staff on the dais, or with the orderly process of the meeting.

Subcommittees

The Committee shall not have standing subcommittees.

Amendment of Rules

The foregoing rules may be added to, modified or amended; provided, however, that not less than a majority of the entire Membership so determined at a regular meeting with due notice, or at a meeting specifically called for that purpose.

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging, having adopted rules governing its procedures for the 118th Congress, have a copy of their rules printed in the RECORD, pursuant to XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING COMMITTEE RULES—118TH CONGRESS JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

A.

There is established a Special Committee on Aging (hereafter in this section referred to as the "special committee") which shall consist of nineteen Members. The Members and chairman of the special committee shall be appointed in the same manner and at the same time as the Members and chairman of a standing committee of the Senate. After the date on which the majority and minority Members of the special committee are initially appointed on or affect the effective date of title I of the Committee System Reorganization Amendments of 1977, each time a vacancy occurs in the Membership of the special committee, the number of Members of the special committee shall be reduced by one until the number of Members of the special committee consists of nine Senators.

For the purposes of paragraph 1 of rule XXV; paragraphs 1, 7(a)(1)–(2), 9, and 10(a) of rule XXVI; and paragraphs 1(a)–(d), and 2(a) and 1(d) of rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and the purposes of section 202(1) and (j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the special committee shall be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

B.

It shall be the duty of the special committee to conduct a continuing study of any

and all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of older people, including, but not limited to, problems and opportunities of maintaining health, of assuring adequate income, of finding employment, of engaging in productive and rewarding activity, of securing proper housing, and when necessary, of obtaining care or assistance. No proposed legislation shall be referred to such committee, and such committee shall not have power to report by bill, or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

The special committee shall, from time to time (but not less than once year), report to the Senate the results of the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), together with such recommendation as it considers appropriate.

C.

For the purposes of this section, the special committee is authorized, in its discretion, (A) to make investigations into any matter within its jurisdiction, (B) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (C) to employ personnel, (D) to hold hearings, (E) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate, (F) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence books, papers, and documents, (G) to take depositions and other testimony, (H) to procure the serve of individual consultants or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(I) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended) and (I) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

The chairman of the special committee or any Member thereof may administer oaths to witnesses.

Subpoenas authorized by the special committee may be issued over the signature of the chairman, or any Member of the special committee designated by the chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or the Member signing the subpoena.

D.

All records and papers of the temporary Special Committee on Aging established by Senate Resolution 33, Eighty-seventh Congress, are transferred to the special committee.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. Convening of Meetings

Meetings. The Committee shall meet to conduct Committee business at the call of the Chairman. The Members of the Committee may call additional meetings as provided in Senate Rule XXVI (3).

Notice and Agenda:

(a) Written or Electronic Notice. The Chairman shall give the Members written or electronic notice of any Committee meeting, accompanied by an agenda enumerating the items of business to be considered, at least 5 days in advance of such meeting.

(b) Shortened Notice. A meeting may be called on not less than 24 hours notice if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting on shortened notice. An agenda will be furnished prior to such a meeting.

Presiding Officer. The Chairman shall preside when present. If the Chairman is not present at any meeting, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside.

II. Convening of Hearings

Notice. The Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject

matter of any hearing at least one week before its commencement. A hearing may be called on not less than 24 hours notice if the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing on shortened notice.

Presiding Officer. The Chairman shall preside over the conduct of a hearing when present, or, whether present or not, may delegate authority to preside to any Member of the Committee.

Witnesses. Witnesses called before the Committee shall be given, absent extraordinary circumstances, at least 48 hours notice, and all witnesses called shall be furnished with a copy of these rules upon request.

Oath. All witnesses who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn unless the Committee waives the oath. The Chairman, or any Member, may request and administer the oath.

Testimony. At least 48 hours in advance of a hearing, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall submit his or her testimony by way of electronic mail, in a format determined by the Committee and sent to an electronic mail address specified by the Committee, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member determine that there is good cause for a witness's failure to do so. A witness shall be allowed no more than five minutes to orally summarize his or her prepared statement. Officials of the federal government shall file 40 copies of such statement with the clerk of the Committee 48 hours in advance of their appearance, unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member determine there is good cause for noncompliance.

Counsel. A witness's counsel shall be permitted to be present during his testimony at any public or closed hearing or depositions or staff interview to advise such witness of his or her rights, provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chairman may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness shall be represented by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association.

Transcript. An accurate electronic or stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in closed sessions and public hearings. Any witness shall be afforded, upon request, the right to review that portion of such record, and for this purpose, a copy of a witness's testimony in public or closed session shall be provided to the witness. Upon inspecting his or her transcript, within a time limit set by the committee clerk, a witness may request changes in testimony to correct errors of transcription, grammatical errors, and obvious errors of fact. The Chairman or a staff officer designated by him shall rule on such request.

Impugned Persons. Any person who believes that evidence presented, or comment made by a Member or staff, at a public hearing or at a closed hearing concerning which there have been public reports, tends to impugn his or her character or adversely affect his or her reputation may:

(a) file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the evidence or comment, which shall be placed in the hearing record; and

(b) request the opportunity to appear personally before the Committee to testify in his or her own behalf.

Minority Witnesses. Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee, the Ranking Member shall be entitled to call at least one witness to testify or produce documents with respect to the measure or matter under consideration at the hearing. Such request must

be made before the completion of the hearing or, if subpoenas are required to call the minority witnesses, no later than three days before the hearing.

Conduct of Witnesses, Counsel and Members of the Audience. If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, his or her counsel, or any spectator conducts him or herself in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing the Chairman or presiding Member of the Committee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, his representative or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

III. Closed Sessions and Confidential Materials

Procedure. All meetings and hearings shall be open to the public unless closed. To close a meeting or hearing or portion thereof, a motion shall be made and seconded to go into closed discussion of whether the meeting or hearing will concern Committee investigations or matters enumerated in Senate Rule XXVI(5)(b). Immediately after such discussion, the meeting or hearing or portion thereof may be closed by a vote in open session of a majority of the Members of the Committee present.

Witness Request. Any witness called for a hearing may submit a written or an electronic request to the Chairman no later than twenty-four hours in advance for his or her examination to be in closed or open session. The Chairman shall inform the Committee of any such request.

Confidential Matter. No record made of a closed session, or material declared confidential by a majority of the Committee, or report of the proceedings of a closed session, shall be made public, in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member.

IV. Broadcasting

Control. Any meeting or hearing open to the public may be covered by television, radio, or still photography. Such coverage must be conducted in an orderly and unobtrusive manner, and the Chairman may for good cause terminate such coverage in whole or in part, or take such other action to control it as the circumstances may warrant.

Request. A witness may request of the Chairman, on grounds of distraction, harassment, personal safety, or physical discomfort, that during his or her testimony cameras, media microphones, and lights shall not be directed at him or her.

V. Quorums and Voting

Reporting. A majority shall constitute a quorum for reporting a resolution, recommendation or report to the Senate.

Committee Business. A third shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of Committee business, other than a final vote on reporting, providing a minority Member is present.

Hearings. One Member shall constitute a quorum for the receipt of evidence, the swearing of witnesses, and the taking of testimony at hearings.

Polling:

(a) **Subjects.** The Committee may poll (1) internal Committee matters including those concerning the Committee's staff, records, and budget; (2) Committee rules changes and (3) other Committee business which has been designated for polling at a meeting.

(b) **Procedure.** The Chairman shall circulate polling sheets to each Member specifying the matter being polled and the time limit for completion of the poll. If any Member so requests in advance of the meeting, the matter shall be held for meeting rather than being polled. The clerk shall keep a

record of polls. If the Chairman determines that the polled matter is one of the areas enumerated in Rule III(1), the record of the poll shall be confidential. Any Member may request a Committee meeting following a poll for a vote on the polled decision.

VI. Investigations

Authorization for Investigations. All investigations shall be conducted on a bipartisan basis by Committee staff. Investigations may be initiated by the Committee staff upon the approval of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member. Staff shall keep the Committee fully informed of the progress of continuing investigations, except where the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member agree that there exists temporary cause for more limited knowledge.

Subpoenas. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, acting together, shall authorize a subpoena. Subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials shall be issued by the Chairman, or by any other Member of the Committee designated by him. Prior to the issuance of each subpoena, the Ranking Minority Member, and any other Member so requesting, shall be notified regarding the identity of the person to whom the subpoena will be issued and the nature of the information sought, and its relationship to the investigation.

Investigative Reports. All reports containing findings or recommendations stemming from Committee investigations shall be printed only with the approval of a majority of the Members of the Committee.

VII. Depositions and Commissions

Notice. Notices for the taking of depositions in an investigation authorized by the Committee shall be authorized and issued by the Chairman or by a staff officer designated by him. Such notices shall specify a time and place for examination, and the name of the staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. Unless otherwise specified, the deposition shall be in private. The Committee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness's failure to appear unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a Committee subpoena.

Counsel. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights, subject to the provisions of Rule II(6).

Procedure. Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by Committee staff. Objections by the witnesses as to the form of questions shall be noted by the record. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify on the basis of relevance or privilege, the Committee staff may proceed with the deposition, or may at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from a Member of the Committee. If the Member overrules the objection, he or she may refer the matter to the Committee or the Member may order and direct the witness to answer the question, but the Committee shall not initiate the procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify after he or she has been ordered and directed to answer by a Member of the Committee.

Filing. The Committee staff shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded.

Commissions. The Committee may authorize the staff, by issuance of commissions, to fill in prepared subpoenas, conduct field hearings, inspect locations, facilities, or systems of records, or otherwise act on behalf of

the Committee. Commissions shall be accompanied by instructions from the Committee regulating their use.

VIII. Subcommittees

Establishment. The Committee will operate as a Committee of the Whole, reserving to itself the right to establish temporary subcommittees at any time by majority vote. The Chairman of the full Committee and the Ranking Minority Member shall be ex officio Members of all subcommittees.

Jurisdiction. Within its jurisdiction as described in the Standing Rules of the Senate, each subcommittee is authorized to conduct investigations, including use of subpoenas, depositions, and commissions.

Rules. A subcommittee shall be governed by the Committee rules, except that its quorum for all business shall be one-third of the subcommittee Membership, and for hearings shall be one Member.

IX. Reports

Committee reports incorporating Committee findings and recommendations shall be printed only with the prior approval of a majority of the Committee, after an adequate period for review and comment. The printing, as Committee documents, of materials prepared by staff for informational purposes, or the printing of materials not originating with the Committee or staff, shall require prior consultation with the minority staff; these publications shall have the following language printed on the cover of the document: "Note: This document has been printed for informational purposes. It does not represent either findings or recommendations formally adopted by the Committee."

X. Amendment of Rules

The rules of the Committee may be amended or revised at any time, provided that not less than a majority of the Committee present so determine at a Committee meeting preceded by at least 3 days notice of the amendments or revisions proposed or via polling, subject to Rule V (4).

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ, 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 available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such 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. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
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. 23-10, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$10 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-10

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: Republic of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$8 billion.
Other \$2 billion.
Total \$10 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Eighteen (18) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers.

Four hundred sixty-eight (468) HIMARS Launcher Loader Module Kits.

Forty-five (45) M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS).

Four hundred sixty-one (461) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-AW) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS).

Five hundred twenty-one (521) M31A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Unitary (GMLRS-U) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS).

Five hundred thirty-two (532) XM403 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Extended Range Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-ER AW) Pods.

Non-MDE: Also included are Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rockets; support equipment; communications equipment; spare and repair parts; test sets; batteries; laptop computers; publications and technical data; facility design; personnel training and equipment; systems integration support; Quality Assurance Teams and a Technical Assistance Fielding Team; United States Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services; training; sensors; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL-B-UEA, PL-B-UEB, PL-B-UEF, PL-B-UEG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-B-UDJ.

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

(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: February 7, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)

The Republic of Poland has requested to buy eighteen (18) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers; four hundred sixty-eight (468) HIMARS Launcher Loader Module kits; forty-five (45) M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS); four hundred sixty-one (461) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-AW) pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); five hundred twenty-one (521) M31A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Sys-

tem Unitary (GMLRS-U) pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); and five hundred thirty-two (532) XM403 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Extended Range Alternative Warhead (GMLRS-ER AW) pods. Also included are Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rockets; support equipment; communications equipment; spare and repair parts; test sets; batteries; laptop computers; publications and technical data; facility design; personnel training and equipment; systems integration support; Quality Assurance Teams and a Technical Assistance Fielding Team; United States Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services; training; sensors; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$10 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals 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 Poland's military goals of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Poland intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment 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 Lockheed Martin, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any future offset agreement would be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to Poland for program management reviews to support the program. Travel is expected to occur approximately twice per year as needed to support equipment fielding and training.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-10

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 M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher and can fire all of the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM) including Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) variants and the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Utilizing the MLRS FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with GPS-aided precision accuracy.

2. The HIMARS Launcher Loader Module (LM) is mounted to the vehicle chassis and provides the necessary structure and mechanisms for the loading, launching, and unloading of all the MFOM rocket and missile munitions. The LM consists of a platform, a turret, and a base assembly. The base assembly interfaces with the carrier vehicle. The turret system sits on top of the base and allows for the aiming of the LM assembly in azimuth. The platform, on which one rocket pod is mounted, allows for the aiming of the LM in elevation.

3. The M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)—Unitary is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile that utilizes a 500-pound high explosive warhead. It has an effective range of between 70 and 300 kilometers, and has increased lethality and accuracy over previous versions of the ATACMS due to a GPS/Precise Position System (PPS) aided navigation system.

4. The M31A2 GMLRS Unitary is the Army's primary munition for units fielding the M142 HIMARS and M270A1 Multiple Launcher Rocket System (MLRS) Launchers. The M31 Unitary is a solid propellant artillery rocket that uses Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)-aided inertial guidance to accurately and quickly deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets at ranges from 15–70 kilometers. The rockets are fired from a launch pod container that also serves as the storage and transportation container for the rockets. Each rocket pod holds six (6) total rockets.

5. The M30A2 GMLRS Alternative Warhead shares a greater than 90% commonality with the M31A1 Unitary. The primary difference between the GMLRS-U and GMLRS-AW is the replacement of the Unitary's high explosive warhead with a 200 pound fragmentation warhead of pre-formed tungsten penetrators which is optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The munitions otherwise share a common motor, GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance and control system, fuzing mechanism, multi-option height of burst capability, and effective range of 15–70km.

6. The Extended Range (ER) GMLRS provides a persistent, responsive, all-weather, rapidly deployed, long range, surface-to-surface, area- and point-precision strike capability. The XM403 Alternative Warhead (AW) carries a 200-pound fragmentation assembly filled with high explosives which, upon detonation, accelerates two layers of preformed penetrators optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The ER GMLRS maintains the accuracy and effectiveness demonstrated by the baseline GMLRS out to an increased range of 150 km and includes a modernized Height of Burst (HOB) capability.

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

8. 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 weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

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

10. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Poland.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELMARVA CHICKEN INDUSTRY

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I stand today on behalf of Delaware's congressional delegation to recognize the 100th anniversary of the broiler chicken in-

dustry and its contributions to the region's economy, our Nation's food supply, and its innovations in farming practices over the last century. Raising broiler chickens is a way of life for the more than 1,300 farm families on Delmarva whose hard work provides food for hundreds of thousands of people in our country and around the world.

The industry all started with an accidental delivery. In 1923, Ocean View, DE, resident Cecile Steele ordered 50 chickens, but instead she received 500. This led Cecile and her husband, Wilmer, to start the first broiler chicken farm on Delmarva. Within 3 years, their new business grew exponentially, and the Steele family built enough coops to house 10,000 chickens. This new kind of farm—one dedicated to raising chickens for meat instead of laying eggs—paved the way for the modern U.S. broiler chicken industry we know today.

The industry may have started with an accidental delivery, but we can look back on it now as an amazing economic opportunity for Delmarva and the thousands of families it supports. Farms in our region now produce 567 million chickens a year; 200 million of those chickens are raised in Delaware. The poultry industry has \$13.6 billion in economic impact and supports more than 51,900 jobs. It also purchases \$1.3 billion worth of crops like corn, soybeans, and wheat annually, making this industry a major purchaser for hundreds of other farmers.

I have long known that many farmers are among our best environmental stewards since my days as Governor of Delaware when my administration worked with farmers to create common-sense, effective environmental strategies like the farmer-led Nutrient Management Commission. Today, the adverse impacts of chicken farming on our environment has greatly decreased. Compared to 1960, it now takes 75 percent fewer resources to produce the same amount of chicken than it did back then, and more than 95 percent of poultry litter is recycled and reused as organic, locally produced fertilizer for crops like corn, soybeans, wheat, and mushrooms.

It is with great pleasure that I rise on behalf of U.S. Senator CHRIS COONS and U.S. Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER to honor the 100th anniversary of the Delmarva chicken industry. Along with the hard work of the many farmers, suppliers, employees, not to mention the Delmarva Chicken Association that is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, the Delmarva chicken industry keeps Delaware's economy thriving.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER CADE KEENAN

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Commander Cade Keenan of the Missouri Air National Guard.

Cade Keenan, of Great Bend, KS, was recently named commander of the

139th Operations Support Squadron, 139th Airlift Wing, of the Missouri Air National Guard in St. Joseph, MO. In this role, Commander Keenan will lead 46 full-time instructor pilots, navigators, flight engineers, loadmasters, and other support staff of the 139th Airlift Wing.

Commander Keenan has served our Nation faithfully, with his first deployment being to Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as regularly deploying throughout southwest Asia between 2003 and 2020. An expert in infrared weapons and defense systems, he instructed crews from across the USAF, USMC, and 10 partner countries in combat tactics for the C-130, C-17, C-160, and C-235 aircraft. As a command pilot, Commander Keenan has 4,764 hours in military aircraft, with 852 of those hours being in combat.

Commander Keenan has earned a certificate in electro-optical and infrared applications from the Georgia Tech Research Institute, a master of business administration from Colorado State University, and a bachelor of science in industrial engineering from Kansas State University. He has also graduated from the USAF Advanced Instrument and USAF Weapons schools. Commander Keenan's extensive experience, wide breadth of knowledge on U.S. Air Force operations, and his impressive academic achievements give me great confidence in his ability to lead the 139th Operations Support Squadron. He will certainly make his country, the State of Kansas, and his community proud.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Commander Cade Keenan for his recent promotion, as well as thank him for his dedicated service to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE FRITZ

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor, in my opinion, the Kansan of the year, Willie Fritz. Fritz is currently the head football coach at Tulane University in New Orleans, which saw unprecedented success this year, culminating in a thrilling victory over the University of Southern California in the Cotton Bowl Classic.

To give some background on Coach Fritz, he graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School in 1978 and went on to be a dual sport athlete in basketball and football at Pittsburg State University for 4 years, both fantastic Kansas institutions. After multiple assistant coaching roles at various colleges—including Pittsburg State—Coach Fritz landed his first head coaching job at Central Missouri in 1997 and began his run of success as a head coach. He would stay at Central Missouri for 12 years and then went to coach at Sam Houston State and Georgia Southern before arriving at Tulane in 2016.

During his time at Tulane, his teams have played in three consecutive bowl

games from 2018–2020, winning two, but this season the program's success was historic for Tulane. Coach Fritz and the team made their mark first by winning Tulane's first-ever American Athletic Conference Championship after beating the University of Central Florida. The team then not only won the program's first Cotton Bowl, but did so in heroic fashion by coming from behind 28–14 at halftime and scoring 16 points in the final 5 minutes to beat USC and Heisman winner Caleb Williams by a final of 46–45. The team finished the season ranked No. 9 in both the coaches and AP polls at the end of the year. Following a 2–10 season in 2021 in which Tulane lost 17 players to season-ending injuries and were forced to play two of their home games on the road due to damage from Hurricane Ida, the 10-win increase marks the greatest turnaround in college football history.

The success for Tulane's football program didn't stop on the field though. This year alone, the team had 46 players receive Academic All-AAC honors and holds an 87 percent graduation rate. Both are true signs of the high standards that Coach Fritz certainly holds his team to.

For as much success as the team has had, I would be remiss not to mention a few of Coach Fritz's individual achievements. After the Cotton Bowl victory, Coach Fritz now has the most bowl appearances ever by a Tulane coach and now boasts a 236–119–1 career record. He was also awarded both the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation's 2022 Dodd Trophy and the George Munger College Coach of the year award. He is deserving of all these accolades and has also been recognized for his efforts on giving back and making a positive impact in the New Orleans community.

The only blemish on Coach Fritz's resume is that he had beat my alma mater, Kansas State, in Manhattan, KS, this season. Since he is a Kansan, I am willing to look past that one. I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Fritz on an incredible season at Tulane. May he see continued success throughout his career.●

TRIBUTE TO DAWN SMITH

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize U.S. Air Force veteran Master Sergeant Dawn Smith of Notasulga. Sergeant Smith joined the Air Force immediately after graduating high school when a recruitment poster caught her mom's eye. Once she learned about the opportunities available to her through military service, Sergeant Smith felt that it was the right path for her.

Sergeant Smith was stationed at several posts during her 20-year career. She started as a missile maintainer, but retrained as an eyecare technician. As a tribute to her dedicated work ethic, she was selected as a non-

commissioned officer academy instructor. Even though the military isn't a traditional, 4-year educational route, she described it as a "continuing education" experience.

After she retired from the military, Sergeant Smith started a cattle operation named Lone Oak Farm with her husband Tim, who also served in the Air Force for 23 years. She credits the "no-fail" mentality learned in the military for helping her succeed as a first-time farmer. The Smiths have grown their operation from 2 cows to 35, and now, they sell fresh beef to families across Alabama.

Sergeant Smith is truly a "lifelong learner" who is always willing to share her knowledge and experiences with others. That is why she is proud to be a 4-H agent assistant for the Tallapoosa County School System, where she teaches ag-related skills to more than 1,000 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders each month. And twice a year, she works with high schoolers, helping them learn how to work with their hands and grow their own produce.

Now, Sergeant Smith helps develop new curriculums for students, including a "Respect for the Flag" lesson that teaches the American flag's history, meaning, and how to properly care for it. Sergeant Smith credits the military for giving her greater awareness and compassion for the needs of others around the world. She went to Guatemala for the first time on a medical mission while in the service, which inspired her and her husband to continue mission trips to Guatemala and Alaska after their retirement.

Alabama is grateful for Sergeant Smith's service and proud to recognize her for the February veteran of the Month.●

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023—PM 1

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker, Madam Vice President, Our First Lady and Second Gentleman, Members of Congress and the Cabinet, Leaders of our military, Mr. Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and retired Justices of the Supreme Court. And you, my fellow Americans.

I start tonight by congratulating the members of the 118th Congress and the new Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working together.

I also want to congratulate the new leader of the House Democrats and the first Black House Minority Leader in history, HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

Congratulations to the longest serving Senate leader in history, MITCH MCCONNELL.

And congratulations to CHUCK SCHUMER for another term as Senate Majority Leader, this time with an even bigger majority.

And I want to give special recognition to someone who I think will be considered the greatest Speaker in the history of this country, NANCY PELOSI.

The story of America is a story of progress and resilience. Of always moving forward. Of never giving up. A story that is unique among all nations.

We are the only country that has emerged from every crisis stronger than when we entered it. That is what we are doing again.

Two years ago, our economy was reeling. As I stand here tonight—we have created a record 12 million new jobs—more jobs created in 2 years than any President has ever created in 4 years.

Two years ago, COVID had shut down our businesses, closed our schools and robbed us of so much. Today, COVID no longer controls our lives.

And 2 years ago, our democracy faced its greatest threat since the civil War. Today—though bruised—our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken.

As we gather here tonight—we are writing the next chapter in the great American story—a story of progress and resilience. When world leaders ask me to define America—I define our country in one word—Possibilities.

You know, we're often told that Democrats and Republicans can't work together. But over these past 2 years we proved the cynics and the naysayers wrong. Yes, we disagreed plenty. And yes, there were times when Democrats had to go it alone.

But time and again, Democrats and Republicans came together. Came together to defend a stronger and safer Europe. Came together to pass a once-in-a-generation infrastructure law—building bridges to connect our Nation and people. Came together to pass one of the most significant laws ever—helping veterans exposed to toxic burn pits.

In fact—I signed over 300 bipartisan laws since becoming President—from reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act to the Electoral Count Reform Act to the Respect For Marriage Act—that protects the right to marry the person you love.

To my Republican friends—if we could work together in the last Congress—there is no reason we can't work together in this new Congress. The people sent us a clear message.

Fighting for the sake of fighting—power for the sake of power—conflict for the sake of conflict—gets us nowhere.

And that's always been my vision for our country. To restore the soul of the Nation. To rebuild the backbone of America—the middle class. To unite the country. We've been sent here to—finish the job!

For decades the middle class was hollowed out. Too many good-paying

manufacturing jobs moved overseas. Factories at home closed down. Once-thriving cities and towns became shadows of what they used to be. And along the way something else was lost. Pride. That sense of self-worth.

I ran for President to fundamentally change things—to make sure the economy works for everyone so we can all feel pride in what we do. To build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out—not from the top down. Because when the middle class does well—the poor have a ladder up—and the wealthy still do very well. We all do well.

As my Dad used to say—a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say "Honey—it's going to be OK"—and mean it.

So—let's look at the results. Unemployment rate at 3.4 percent—a 50-year low. Near record low unemployment—for Black and Hispanic workers.

We've already created 800,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs—the fastest growth in 40 years. Where is it written—that America can't lead the world in manufacturing again?

For too many decades we imported products and exported jobs. Now—thanks to all we've done—we're exporting American products and creating American jobs.

Inflation has been a global problem because of the pandemic that disrupted supply chains and Putin's war that disrupted energy and food supplies. But we're better positioned than any country on Earth. We have more to do—but here at home inflation is coming down! Here at home—gas prices are down \$1.50 a gallon since their peak. Food inflation is coming down. Inflation has fallen every month for the last 6 months while take home pay has gone up.

Additionally—over the last 2 years—a record 10 million Americans applied to start a new small business. Every time somebody starts a small business—it's an act of hope.

And the Vice President will continue her work to ensure more small businesses can access capital and the historic laws we enacted.

Standing here last year—I shared with you a story of—American genius and possibility. Semiconductors—the small computer chips the size of your fingertip that power everything from cellphones to automobiles and so much more. These chips were invented right here in America. America used to make nearly 40 percent of the world's chips. But in the last few decades we lost our edge and we're down to producing only 10 percent.

We all saw what happened during the pandemic when chip factories overseas shut down. Today's automobiles need up to 3,000 chips each—but American automakers couldn't make enough cars because there weren't enough chips. Car prices went up. So did everything from refrigerators to cellphones. We can never let that happen again!

That's why we came together to pass the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. We're making sure the supply chain for America begins in America!

We've already created 800,000 manufacturing jobs even without this law. With this new law—we will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs across the country. That's going to come from companies that have announced more than \$300 billion in investments in American manufacturing in the last 2 years.

Outside of Columbus, Ohio—Intel is building semiconductor factories on a thousand acres—a literal field of dreams. That'll create 10,000 jobs. 7,000 construction jobs. 3,000 jobs once the factories are finished. Jobs paying \$130,000 a year—and many don't require a college degree. Jobs where people don't have to leave home in search of opportunity.

And it's just getting started. Think about the new homes—new small businesses—and so much more that will come to life. Talk to mayors and Governors—Democrats and Republicans—and they'll tell you what this means to their communities. We're seeing these fields of dreams—transform the heartland!

But to maintain the strongest economy in the world—we also need the best infrastructure in the world. We used to be #1 in the world in infrastructure—then we fell to 13th.

Now we're coming back because we came together to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—the largest investment in infrastructure since President Eisenhower's Interstate Highway system.

Already—we've funded over 20,000 projects—including at major airports from Boston to Atlanta to Portland. These projects will put hundreds of thousands of people to work rebuilding our highways—bridges—railroads—tunnels—ports and airports—clean water—and high-speed internet—across America. Urban. Suburban. Rural. Tribal.

And we're just getting started. I sincerely thank my Republican friends who voted for the law. And to my Republican friends who voted against it but still ask to fund projects in their districts—don't worry. I promised to be the President for all Americans. We'll fund your projects. And—I'll see you at the ground-breaking.

This law will help further unite all of America. Major projects like the Brent Spence bridge between Kentucky and Ohio—over the Ohio River. Built 60 years ago. Badly in need of repairs. One of the Nation's most congested freight routes—carrying \$2 billion worth of freight every day. Folks have been talking about fixing it for decades but we're finally going to get it done.

I went there last month with Democrats and Republicans from both States to deliver \$1.6 billion for this project. While I was there I met an ironworker named Saria—who is here tonight. For 30 years she's been a proud member of Iron Workers Local 44—known as the

"cowboys of the sky"—who built the Cincinnati skyline. Saria said she can't wait to be ten stories above the Ohio River building that new bridge. That's pride. That's what we're also building—pride.

We're also replacing poisonous lead pipes that go into 10 million homes—and 400,000 schools and childcare centers—so every child in America can drink clean water!

We're making sure that every community has access to affordable high-speed Internet. No parent should have to drive to a McDonald's parking lot so their kid can do their homework online.

And when we do these projects—we're going to Buy American. Buy American has been the law of the land since 1933. But for too long past administrations have found ways to get around it. Not anymore.

Tonight—I'm also announcing new standards to require all construction materials used in Federal infrastructure projects to be made in America. American-made—lumber—glass—drywall—fiber optic cables. And on my watch—American roads—American bridges—and American highways will be made with American products.

My economic plan is about investing in places and people that have been forgotten. Amid the economic upheaval of the past four decades—too many people have been left behind—or treated like they're invisible. Maybe that's you watching at home. You remember the jobs that went away. And you wonder whether a path even exists anymore for you and your children to get ahead—without moving away. I get it. That's why we're building an economy where no one is left behind.

Jobs are coming back—pride is coming back—because of the choices we made in the last 2 years. This is a blue-collar blue print—to rebuild America—and make a real difference in your lives.

For example—too many of you lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling wondering what will happen if your spouse gets cancer—your child gets sick—or if something happens to you. Will you have the money to pay your medical bills? Will you have to sell the house? I get it.

With the Inflation Reduction Act that I signed into law—we're taking on powerful interests to bring your health care costs down so you can sleep better at night.

You know—we pay more for prescription drugs than any major country on Earth. For example—1 in 10 Americans has diabetes. Every day—millions need insulin to control their diabetes so they can stay alive. Insulin has been around for 100 years. It costs drug companies just \$10 a vial to make. But—Big Pharma has been unfairly charging people hundreds of dollars and making record profits. Not anymore. We capped the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for seniors on Medicare.

But there are millions of other Americans who are not on Medicare—including 200,000 young people with Type I diabetes who need insulin to save their lives. Let's finish the job this time. Let's cap the cost of insulin at \$35 a month—for every American who needs it!

This law also caps out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors on Medicare at a maximum \$2,000 per year when there are in fact many drugs—like expensive cancer drugs—that can cost up to \$10,000—\$12,000—and \$14,000 a year. If drug prices rise faster than inflation—drug companies will have to pay Medicare back the difference.

And we're finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate drug prices. Bringing down prescription drug costs doesn't just save seniors money. It will cut the Federal deficit saving tax payers hundreds of billions of dollars on the prescription drugs the Government buys for Medicare.

Why wouldn't we want to do that? Now—some members here are threatening to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act. Make no mistake—if you try to do anything to raise the cost of prescription drugs—I will veto it!

I'm pleased to say that more Americans have health insurance now than ever in history. A record 16 million people are enrolled under the Affordable Care Act. Thanks to the law I signed last year—millions are saving \$800 a year on their premiums. But the way that law was written—that benefit expires after 2025. Let's finish the job—make those savings permanent—and expand coverage to those left off Medicaid.

Look—the Inflation Reduction Act—is also the most significant investment ever—to tackle the climate crisis. Lowering utility bills—creating American jobs—and leading the world to a clean energy future.

I've visited the devastating aftermaths of record floods and droughts—storms and wildfires. In addition to emergency recovery—from Puerto Rico to Florida to Idaho—we are rebuilding for the long term. New electric grids—able to weather the next major storm. Roads and water systems—to withstand the next big flood. Clean energy—to cut pollution and create jobs in communities too often left behind.

We're building 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations—installed across the country—by tens of thousands of IBEW workers. And helping families save more than \$1,000 a year—with tax credits for the purchase of electric vehicles—and energy-efficient appliances.

Historic conservation efforts—to be responsible stewards of our lands. Let's face reality. The climate crisis doesn't care if your State is red or blue. It is an existential threat. We have an obligation—to our children and grandchildren—to confront it.

I'm proud of how America is at last—stepping up to the challenge. But there's so much more to do. We will finish the job!

And we pay for these investments in our future by finally making the wealthiest and the biggest corporations begin to pay their fair share. I'm a capitalist. But just pay your fair share.

And I think a lot of you at home agree with me—that our present tax system is simply unfair. The idea that in 2020—55 of the biggest companies in America made \$40 billion in profits and paid zero in Federal income taxes? That's simply not fair.

But now—because of the law I signed—billion-dollar companies have to pay a minimum of 15 percent. Just 15 percent. That's less than a nurse pays.

Let me be clear. Under my plan—nobody earning less than \$400,000 a year—will pay an additional penny in taxes. Nobody. Not one penny.

But there's more to do. Let's finish the job. Reward work—not just wealth. Pass my proposal for a billionaire minimum tax. Because no billionaire should pay a lower tax rate than a school teacher or a firefighter.

You may have noticed that Big Oil just reported record profits. Last year they made \$200 billion—in the midst of a global energy crisis. It's outrageous. They invested too little of that profit to increase domestic production and keep gas prices down.

Instead—they used those record profits to buy back their own stock—rewarding their CEOs and shareholders. Corporations ought to do the right thing. That's why I propose that we quadruple the tax on corporate stock buybacks—to encourage long term investments instead. They will still make a considerable profit.

Let's finish the job and close the loopholes that allow the very wealthy to avoid paying their taxes. Instead of cutting the number of audits of wealthy tax payers—I signed a law that will reduce the deficit by \$114 billion—by cracking down on wealthy tax cheats. That's being fiscally responsible.

In the last 2 years—my Administration cut the deficit by more than \$1.7 trillion—the largest deficit reduction—in American history. Under the previous administration—America's deficit went up 4 years in a row.

Because of those record deficits—no President added more to the national debt in any 4 years than my predecessor. Nearly 25 percent of the entire national debt—a debt that took 200 years to accumulate—was added by that administration alone.

How did Congress respond to all that debt? They lifted the debt ceiling three times without preconditions or crisis. They paid America's bills to prevent economic disaster for our country. Tonight—I'm asking this Congress—to follow suit.

Let us commit here tonight—that the full faith and credit of the United States of America will never—ever—be questioned!

Some of my Republican friends want to take the economy hostage—unless I

agree to their economic plans. All of you at home should know what their plans are. Instead of making the wealthy pay their fair share—some Republicans want Medicare and Social Security to sunset every 5 years. That means if Congress doesn't vote to keep them—those programs will go away.

Other Republicans say if we don't cut Social Security and Medicare they'll let America default on its debt for the first time in our history. I won't let that happen. Social Security and Medicare are a lifeline for millions of seniors. Americans have been paying into them with every single paycheck since they started working.

So tonight—let's all agree to stand up for seniors. Stand up and show them—we will not cut Social Security! We will not cut Medicare!

Those benefits belong to the American people. They earned them. If anyone tries to cut Social Security—I will stop them. And if anyone tries to cut Medicare—I will stop them. I will not allow them to be taken away. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not ever.

Next month—when I offer my fiscal plan—I ask my Republican friends to offer their plan. We can sit down together and discuss both plans together. My plan will lower the deficit by \$2 trillion. I won't cut a single Social Security or Medicare benefit. In fact—I will extend the Medicare Trust Fund by at least two decades.

I will not raise taxes on anyone making under \$400,000 a year. And I will pay for the ideas I've talked about tonight by making the wealthy and big corporations begin to pay their fair share.

Look—here's the deal. Big corporations aren't just taking advantage of the tax code. They're taking advantage of you—the American consumer. Here's my message to all of you out there—I have your back.

We're already preventing insurance companies from sending surprise medical bills—stopping 1 million surprise bills a month. We're protecting seniors' lives—and life savings—by cracking down on nursing homes that commit fraud—endanger patient safety—or prescribe drugs they don't need.

Millions of Americans can now save thousands of dollars because they can finally get hearing aids over-the-counter without a prescription.

Capitalism without competition is not capitalism. It is exploitation.

Last year I cracked down on foreign shipping companies that were making you pay higher prices for everyday goods coming into our country. I signed a bipartisan bill that cut shipping costs by 90 percent—helping American farmers—businesses—and consumers. Let's finish the job.

Pass bipartisan legislation to strengthen antitrust enforcement and prevent big online platforms from giving their own products an unfair advantage. My Administration is also taking on "junk" fees—those hidden surcharges too many businesses use to make you pay more. For example—

we're making airlines show you the full ticket price upfront and refund your money if your flight is cancelled or delayed.

We've reduced exorbitant bank overdraft fees—saving consumers more than \$1 billion a year. We're cutting credit card late fees by 75 percent—from \$30 to \$8. Junk fees may not matter to the very wealthy—but they matter to most folks in homes like the one I grew up in. They add up to hundreds of dollars a month. They make it harder for you to pay the bills or afford that family trip. I know how unfair it feels when a company overcharges you and gets away with it.

Not anymore. We've written a bill to stop all that. It's called the Junk Fee Prevention Act. We'll ban surprise "resort fees" that hotels tack on to your bill. These fees can cost you up to \$90 a night—at hotels that aren't even resorts. We'll make—cable—internet—and cellphone companies—stop charging you up to \$200 or more when you decide to switch to another provider. We'll cap service fees on tickets to concerts and sporting events and make companies disclose all fees upfront.

And we'll prohibit airlines from charging up to \$50 roundtrip for families just to sit together. Baggage fees are bad enough—they can't just treat your child like a piece of luggage. Americans are tired of being played for suckers. Pass the Junk Fee Prevention Act so companies stop ripping us off!

For too long—workers have been getting stiffed. Not anymore. We're beginning to restore the dignity of work.

For example—30 million workers had to sign non-compete agreements when they took a job. So—a cashier at a burger place can't cross the street to take the same job at another burger place to make a couple bucks more. Not anymore. We're banning those agreements so companies have to compete for workers and pay them what they're worth.

I'm so sick and tired of companies breaking the law by preventing workers from organizing. Pass the PRO Act—because workers have a right to form a union.

And let's guarantee all workers a living wage. Let's also make sure working parents can afford to raise a family with sick days—paid family and medical leave—and affordable child care—that will enable millions more people to go to work. Let's also restore the full Child Tax Credit—which gave tens of millions of parents some breathing room and cut child poverty in half—to the lowest level in history.

And by the way—when we do all of these things—we increase productivity—we increase economic growth.

Let's also finish the job—and get more families access to affordable and quality housing. Let's get seniors who want to stay in their homes the care they need to do so. And give a little more breathing room to millions of family caregivers looking after their loved ones.

Pass my plan so we get seniors and people with disabilities the home care services they need and support the workers who are doing God's work. These plans are fully paid for and we can afford to do them.

Restoring the dignity of work also means making education an affordable ticket to the middle class. When we made 12 years of public education universal in the last century—it made us the best-educated—best-prepared Nation in the world. But the world has caught up.

Jill—who teaches full-time—has an expression—"Any nation that out-educates us—will out-compete us."

Folks—you all know—12 years is not enough to win the economic competition for the 21st Century. If you want America to have the best-educated workforce—let's finish the job by providing access to pre-school for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Studies show that children who go to pre-school are nearly 50 percent more likely to finish high school and go on to earn a 2- or 4-year degree—no matter their background. Let's give public school teachers a raise.

And—we're making progress by reducing student debt and increasing Pell Grants for working and middle-class families.

Let's finish the job—connect students to career opportunities starting in high school—and provide 2 years of community college—some of the best career training in America in addition to being a pathway to a 4-year degree. Let's offer every American the path to a good career—whether they go to college or not!

And folks—in the midst of the COVID crisis—when schools were closed—let's also recognize how far we've come in the fight against the pandemic itself. While the virus is not gone—thanks to the resilience of the American people—we have broken COVID's grip on us.

COVID deaths are down nearly 90 percent. We've saved millions of lives and opened our country back up. And soon—we'll end the public health emergency.

But we will remember the toll and pain that will never go away for so many. More than 1 million Americans have lost their lives to COVID. Families grieving. Children orphaned. Empty chairs at the dining room table. We remember them—and we remain vigilant.

We still need to monitor dozens of variants and support new vaccines and treatments. So—Congress needs to fund these efforts and keep America safe!

And as we emerge from this crisis stronger—I'm also doubling down on prosecuting criminals who stole relief money meant to keep workers and small businesses afloat during the pandemic.

Before I came to office—many inspectors general—who protect taxpayer dollars—were sidelined. Fraud was rampant.

Last year—I told you the watchdogs are back. Since then—we've recovered billions of taxpayer dollars.

Now—let's triple our anti-fraud strike forces going after these criminals—double the statute of limitations on these crimes—and crack down on identity fraud by criminal syndicates stealing billions of dollars from the American people. For every dollar we put into fighting fraud—taxpayers get back at least 10 times as much.

COVID left other scars—like the spike in violent crime in 2020—the first year of the pandemic. We have an obligation to make sure all our people are safe. Public safety depends on public trust. But too often—that trust is violated.

Joining us tonight are the parents of Tyre Nichols—who had to bury him just last week. There are no words to describe the heartbreak and grief of losing a child. But—imagine what it's like to lose a child at the hands of the law. Imagine having to worry whether your son or daughter will come home from walking down the street—or playing in the park—or just driving their car.

I've never had to have the talk with my children—Beau, Hunter, and Ashley—that so many Black and Brown families have had with their children. If a police officer pulls you over—turn on your interior lights. Don't reach for your license. Keep your hands on the steering wheel.

Imagine having to worry like that every day—in America.

Here's what Tyre's Mom shared with me when I asked her how she finds the courage to carry on and speak out. With faith in God—she said her son—"was a beautiful soul—and something good will come from this."

Imagine how much courage and character that takes.

It's up to us. It's up to all of us.

We all want the same thing. Neighborhoods free of violence. Law enforcement who earn the community's trust. Our children to come home safely.

Equal protection under the law—that's the covenant we have with each other in America. And we know police officers put their lives on the line every day—and we ask them to do too much. To be counselors, social workers, psychologists—responding to drug overdoses, mental health crises, and more. We ask too much of them. But what happened to Tyre in Memphis happens too often. We have to do better.

Give law enforcement the training they need—hold them to higher standards—and help them succeed in keeping everyone safe.

We also need more first responders and other professionals to address growing mental health and substance abuse challenges. More resources to reduce violent crime and gun crime—more community intervention programs—more investments in housing, education, and job training. All this can help prevent violence in the first place.

And when police officers or departments violate the public's trust—we

must hold them accountable. With the support of families of victims—civil rights groups—and law enforcement—I signed an Executive Order for all Federal officers. Banning chokeholds—restricting no-knock warrants—and other key elements of the—George Floyd Act.

Let's commit ourselves to make the words of Tyre's mother come true—something good must come from this. All of us in this chamber—we need to rise to this moment. We can't turn away. Let's do what we know in our hearts we need to do. Let's come together and finish the job on police reform. Do something. That was the same plea of parents who lost their children in Uvalde—do something on gun violence.

Thank God we did—passing the most sweeping gun safety law in three decades. That includes things that the majority of responsible gun owners support like—enhanced background checks for 18- to 21-year-olds—and red flag laws keeping guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves and others.

But we know our work is not done.

Joining us tonight is Brandon Tsay—a 26-year-old hero. Brandon put off his college dreams to stay by his mom's side as she was dying from cancer. He now works at a dance studio started by his grandparents. Two weeks ago—during Lunar New Year celebrations—he heard the studio's front door close and saw a man pointing a gun at him. He thought he was going to die—but then he thought about the people inside. In that instant—he found the courage to act—and wrestled the semi-automatic pistol away from a gunman who had already killed 11 people at another dance studio.

He saved lives. It's time we do the same as well. Ban assault weapons once and for all!

We did it before. I led the fight to ban them in 1994. In the 10 years the ban was law—mass shootings went down. After Republicans let it expire—mass shootings tripled.

Let's finish the job—and ban assault weapons again!

And let's also come together on immigration—and make it a bipartisan issue like it was before. We now have a record number of personnel working to secure the border—arresting 8,000 human smugglers and seizing over 23,000 pounds of fentanyl in just the last several months.

Since we launched our new border plan last month—unlawful migration from Cuba—Haiti—Nicaragua—and Venezuela has come down 97 percent.

But America's border problems won't be fixed until Congress acts. If you won't pass my comprehensive immigration reform—at least pass my plan to provide the equipment and officers to secure the border. And a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers—those on temporary status—farm workers—and essential workers.

Here in the people's House—it's our duty to protect all the people's rights

and freedoms. Congress must restore the right the Supreme Court took away last year—and codify Roe v. Wade to protect every woman's constitutional right to choose.

The Vice President and I are doing everything we can to protect access to reproductive health care and safeguard patient privacy. But already—more than a dozen States are enforcing extreme abortion bans. Make no mistake. If Congress passes a national abortion ban—I will veto it!

Let's also pass the bipartisan Equality Act to ensure LGBTQ Americans—especially transgender young people—can live with safety and dignity.

Our strength is not just the example of our power—but the power of our example. Let's remember—the world is watching.

I spoke from this chamber 1 year ago—just days after Vladimir Putin unleashed his brutal war against Ukraine. A murderous assault—evoking images of the death and destruction Europe suffered in World War II. Putin's invasion has been a test for the ages. A test for America. A test for the world.

Would we stand for the most basic of principles? Would we stand for sovereignty? Would we stand for the right of people to live free from tyranny? Would we stand for the defense of democracy?

For such a defense matters to us—because it keeps the peace and prevents open season for would-be aggressors to threaten our security and prosperity.

One year later—we know the answer. Yes—we would. And yes—we did. Together—we did what America always does at our best. We led. We united NATO—and built a global coalition. We stood against Putin's aggression. We stood with the Ukrainian people.

Tonight—we are once again joined by Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States. She represents not just her nation—but the courage of her people. Ambassador—America is united in our support for your country. We will stand with you—as long as it takes!!

Our Nation is working for more freedom—more dignity—and more peace—not just in Europe—but everywhere. Before I came to office—the story was about how the People's Republic of China was increasing its power—and America was falling in the world. Not anymore. I've made clear with President Xi that we seek competition—not conflict.

I will make no apologies that we are investing to make America strong. Investing in American innovation—in industries that will define the future—and that China's government is intent on dominating. Investing in our alliances and working with our allies to protect our advanced technologies—so they're not used against us. Modernizing our military to safeguard stability and deter aggression.

Today—we're in the strongest position in decades to compete with China—or anyone else in the world. I

am committed to work with China—where it can advance American interests and benefit the world.

But make no mistake. As we made clear last week—if China threatens our sovereignty—we will act to protect our country. And we did! And let's be clear. Winning the competition with China should unite all of us.

We face serious challenges across the world. But in the past 2 years—democracies have become stronger—not weaker. Autocracies have grown weaker—not stronger. America is rallying the world again to meet those challenges—from climate and global health to food insecurity—to terrorism and territorial aggression.

Allies are stepping up—spending more—and doing more. And bridges are forming between partners in the Pacific and those in the Atlantic. And those who bet against America are learning just how wrong they are. It's never a good bet—to bet against America.

When I came to office—most everyone assumed bipartisanship was impossible. But I never believed it. That's why a year ago—I offered a Unity Agenda for the Nation. We've made real progress.

Together—we passed a law making it easier for doctors to prescribe effective treatments for opioid addiction. Passed a gun safety law—making historic investments in mental health. Launched ARPA-H to drive breakthroughs in the fight against cancer—Alzheimer's—diabetes—and so much more.

We passed the Heath Robinson PACT Act—named for the late Iraq war veteran whose story about exposure to toxic burn pits I shared here last year.

But there is so much more to do. And we can do it together.

Joining us tonight is a father named Doug from Newton, New Hampshire. He wrote Jill and me a letter about his daughter Courtney. Contagious laugh. Her sister's best friend. He shared a story all too familiar to millions of Americans. Courtney discovered pills in high school—it spiraled into addiction—and eventually her death from a fentanyl overdose. She was 20 years old. Describing the last 8 years without her—Doug said—"There is no worse pain."

Yet—their family has turned pain into purpose—working to end stigma and change laws. He told us he wants to "start the journey towards America's recovery." Doug—we're with you.

Fentanyl is killing more than 70,000 Americans a year.

Let's launch a major surge to stop fentanyl production—sale—and trafficking. With more drug detection machines to inspect cargo and stop pills and powder at the border. Working with couriers like Fed Ex to inspect more packages for drugs. Strong penalties to crack down on fentanyl trafficking.

Second—let's do more on mental health—especially for our children. When millions of young people are

struggling with bullying—violence—trauma—we owe them greater access to mental health care at school.

We must finally hold social media companies accountable for the experiment they are running on our children for profit.

And it's time to pass bipartisan legislation to stop Big Tech from collecting personal data on kids and teenagers online—ban targeted advertising to children—and impose stricter limits on the personal data these companies collect on all of us.

Third—let's do more to keep our Nation's one truly sacred obligation—to equip those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they come home.

Job training and job placement for veterans and their spouses as they return to civilian life. Helping veterans afford their rent—because no one should be homeless in this country—especially not those who served it.

And we cannot go on losing 17 veterans a day to the silent scourge of suicide. The VA is doing everything it can—including expanding mental health screenings—and a proven program that recruits veterans to help other veterans understand what they're going through and get the help they need.

And fourth—last year Jill and I re-nited the Cancer Moonshot that President Obama asked me to lead in our administration.

Our goal is to cut the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years. Turn more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases. And provide more support for patients and families.

It's personal for so many of us.

Joining us are Maurice and Kandice. An Irishman—and a daughter of immigrants from Panama. They met and fell in love in New York City—and got married in the same chapel as Jill and I did. Kindred spirits. He wrote us a letter about their little daughter Ava. She was just a year old when she was diagnosed with a rare kidney cancer. 26 blood transfusions. 11 rounds of radiation. 8 rounds of chemo. 1 kidney removed. A 5 percent survival rate.

He wrote how in the darkest moments he thought—“if she goes, I can't stay.” Jill and I understand—like so many of you. They read how Jill described our family's cancer journey—and how we tried to steal moments of joy where you can.

For them—that glimmer of joy was a half-smile from their baby girl. It meant everything. They never gave up hope. Ava never gave up hope. She turns 4 next month.

They just found out that Ava beat the odds—and is on her way to being cancer-free—and she's watching from the White House tonight.

For the lives we can save—and for the lives we have lost—let this be a truly American moment that rallies the country and the world together and proves that we can do big things.

Twenty years ago—under the leadership of President Bush and countless advocates and champions—we undertook a bipartisan effort through PEPFAR to transform the global fight against HIV/AIDS. It's been a huge success. I believe we can do the same with cancer. Let's end cancer as we know it—and cure some cancers once and for all.

There's one reason why we're able to do all of these things—our democracy itself. It's the most fundamental thing of all. With democracy—everything is possible. Without it—nothing is.

For the last few years—our democracy has been threatened—attacked—and put at risk. Put to the test here—in this very room—on January 6th.

And then—just a few months ago—unhinged by the Big Lie—an assailant unleashed political violence in the home of the then-Speaker of this House of Representatives. Using the very same language that insurrectionists who stalked these halls chanted on January 6th.

Here tonight—in this chamber—is the man who bears the scars of that brutal attack—but is as tough and strong and as resilient as they get. My friend—Paul Pelosi.

But such a heinous act never should have happened. We must all speak out—there is no place for political violence in America.

In America—we must protect the right to vote—not suppress that fundamental right. We honor the results of our elections—not subvert the will of the people. We must uphold the rule of the law and restore trust in our institutions of democracy.

And—we must give hate and extremism in any form no safe harbor. Democracy must not be a partisan issue. It must be an American issue.

Every generation of Americans has faced a moment where they have been called on to protect our democracy—to defend it—to stand up for it. And—this is our moment.

My fellow Americans—we meet tonight at an inflection point. One of those moments that only a few generations ever face—where the decisions we make now will decide the course of this Nation—and of the world—for decades to come.

We are not bystanders to history. We are not powerless before the forces that confront us. It is within our power—of We the People.

We are facing the test of our time—and the time for choosing is at hand. We must be the Nation we have always been at our best. Optimistic. Hopeful. Forward-looking.

A Nation that embraces light over darkness—hope over fear—unity over division. Stability over chaos.

We must see each other not as enemies but as fellow Americans. We are a good people—the only Nation in the world built on an idea.

That all of us—every one of us—is created equal in the image of God. A Nation that stands as a beacon to the

world. A Nation in a new age of possibilities.

So I have come here to fulfil my constitutional duty to report on the State of the Union.

And here is my report. Because the soul of this Nation is strong—because the backbone of this Nation is strong—because the people of this Nation are strong—The State of the Union is strong!

As I stand here tonight—I have never been more optimistic about the future of America. We just have to remember who we are. We are the United States of America—and there is nothing—nothing—beyond our capacity—if we do it together!

May God bless you all.

May God protect our troops.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 7, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 302. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure, and for other purposes.

H.R. 423. An act to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 548. An act to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 302. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 548. An act to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 259. A bill to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in

order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 299. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

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-371. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (Docket No. RM23-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-372. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Internal Network Security Monitoring for High and Medium Impact Bulk Electric System Cyber Systems" ((RIN1902-AF88) (Docket No. RM22-3-000)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-373. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Warm Air Furnaces" (RIN1905-AE59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-374. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Refund of Alcohol Excise Tax" (RIN1515-AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-375. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Service of Process and Updated Addresses for Certain Communications with the Agency" (RIN0960-AI78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-376. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Initial Guidance Regarding the Application of the Excise Tax on Repurchases of Corporate Stock under Section 4501 of the Internal Revenue Code" (Notice 2023-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-377. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Depart-

ment of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exception for Interests Held by Foreign Pension Funds" (RIN1545-BN89) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-378. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exempt organization rulings and determination letters procedures" (Rev. Proc. 2023-5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-379. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement Providing Transitional Guidance Under Sections 6045 and 6045A for Brokers of Digital Assets" (Announcement 2023-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-380. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Timeline Regarding Implementation of Amended Section 6050W(e) Notice" (Notice 2023-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-381. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TCJA Section 174 Changes in Method of Accounting" (Notice 2023-8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-382. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Modifying and Superseding Rev Proc 2023-8 relating to Changes of Accounting for Specified Rese" (Notice 2023-11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-383. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Initial Guidance Regarding the Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax under Sections 55, 56A, and 59 of the Internal Revenue Code" (Notice 2023-7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-384. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Manufacturers May Need Additional Guidance To Ensure Consistent Calculations of Average Sales Prices"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-385. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Unobligated Balances for Appropriations Relating to Quality Measurement"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-386. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-3. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take specified actions to encourage the production of domestic crude oil, natural gas, and coal resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 259

Whereas, Crude oil, natural gas, and coal are vital components of our nation's economy, providing more than 11 million jobs throughout the United States, including 375,000 total jobs and \$58 billion in annual gross domestic income in Ohio alone; and

Whereas, Russian petroleum imports into the United States are approximately 670,000 barrels per day; and

Whereas, If constructed, the domestic Keystone XL Pipeline would have the capacity to supply 830,000 barrels per day of crude oil to American families and businesses; and

Whereas, The United States has large reserves of oil, natural gas, and coal for use in energy production and this abundance has provided security that has historically led to reliable and affordable energy for American consumers and our allies; and

Whereas, The world is looking to the United States for energy leadership and stability as current geopolitical events pose potential economic disruptions when inflation already affects households in the United States, across Europe, and the world; and

Whereas, Federal policies and the recently enacted tax increases on domestic oil and gas production that were included in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act inhibit production of these vital resources; and

Whereas, The United States has the ability and capacity to once again be a net exporter or energy resources, supplying our allies in Europe with energy; and

Whereas, The United States has established barriers and disincentives to coal use. These barriers and disincentives have caused the idling or premature retirement of coal plants; and

Whereas, Operation and expansion of a key component of the United States' energy success, our oil and natural gas pipelines, which provide the most efficient means of transporting those commodities, is being blocked by the federal government; and

Whereas, The Biden Administration continues to increase costs and delay efforts to develop oil and natural gas leasing on federal lands and waters despite the fact that the leasing program provides billions or dollars in revenue to federal, state, and local governments and supports conservation programs throughout the country; and

Whereas, Areas in which the United States conducts offshore production are some of the lowest carbon intensive energy producing regions in the world, and halting offshore leasing and development will shill production and capital investment overseas and undermine decades of environmental progress; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 134th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, strongly urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to do the following:

(1) Implement policies and enact legislation to ensure that the United States again becomes energy independent;

(2) Suspend and eliminate federal policies and the tax increases from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on domestic oil and gas production that cripple the production of these vital resources;

(4) Undertake measures and policies that ensure long-term American energy leadership, security, and progress, including those that result in the continued operation of existing oil and natural gas pipelines, the construction of new oil and gas pipelines, such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, the resumption of consistent and credible federal lease sales, and the immediate preparation of a new five-year program to guide future offshore leasing;

(5) Enact measures that cease the import of Russian oil into the United States;

(6) Implement policies and enact legislation to promote clean, modern power plants utilizing coal as an energy resource; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. Res. 33. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY, from the Special Committee on Aging, without amendment:

S. Res. 34. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging.

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. Res. 37. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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. BOOKER:

S. 273. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 274. A bill to provide paid family and medical leave to Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 275. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 276. A bill to require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to investigate the vetting and processing of illegal aliens apprehended along the southwest border and to ensure that all laws are being upheld; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 277. A bill to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 278. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP code for particular communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 279. A bill to establish a moratorium on energy development in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 280. A bill to ensure that only licensed health care professionals furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 281. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to direct certain prosecutor's offices to annually report to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 282. A bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 283. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to stipulate, as a condition on the sale at auction of any crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that the crude oil not be exported to certain countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 284. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to include on the engravings on the Taras Shevchenko Memorial in the District of Columbia the name of Vincent Illuzzi, Sr., who carved the statue; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 285. A bill to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 286. A bill to make transitional compensation available to dependents of members of the Armed Forces convicted of dependent abuse in Federal or State court and dependents of members accused of dependent abuse who have forfeited all pay and allowances for an unrelated offense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 287. A bill to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 288. A bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 289. A bill to improve national security at the National Institutes of Health, to address national security issues in the licensure of biological products, to address national security considerations in research at the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 290. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 291. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KING, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 292. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to modify certain requirements for Regional Commissions, to reauthorize the Northern Border Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARASSO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 293. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discount

window lending programs, and for other programs; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 294. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 295. A bill to grant certain authorities to the President to combat economic coercion by foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 296. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 297. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 298. A bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 299. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; read the first time.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 300. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for Federal student loan reform; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 301. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified elementary and secondary education tuition; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 302. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide colorectal cancer screening for members of the uniformed services who served in locations associated with toxic exposure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 303. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to limit the use of Federal funds for travel by the President if the President's annual budget submission to Congress is late, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 304. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to limit the use of Federal funds for the salaries or expenses of political employees if the President's annual budget submission to Congress is late, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida,

Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 305. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 306. A bill to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 307. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish certain rules relating to unmanned aircraft systems and operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. MULLIN):

S.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. VANCE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S.J. Res. 10. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to "Reproductive Health Services"; to the Committee on Veterans' 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. CARPER:

S. Res. 33. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. Res. 34. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging; from the Special Committee on Aging; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 35. A resolution designating October 22 through October 28, 2023, as "Natural Product Industry Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 36. A resolution reinforcing the United States-Nigeria relationship and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections in 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. Res. 37. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 24

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 24, a bill to fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families.

S. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 68

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 68, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to

prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 78

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 78, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 79

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 79, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes.

S. 82

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 82, a bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 89

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 89, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 95

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 95, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 113, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 137

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 137, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, and his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 163

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and require review of certain agricultural transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 176

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to extend and expand the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 186, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from promoting, supporting, or contracting with abortion entities, or otherwise expanding access to abortions on Federal lands or in Federal facilities.

S. 191

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to eliminate the position of the Chief Diversity Officer of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to prohibit the disbursement of Federal funds to State and local governments that allow individuals who are not citizens of the United States to vote in any Federal, State, or local election.

S. 196

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 196, a bill to prohibit the declaration of a Federal emergency relating to abortion.

S. 198

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 212, a bill to provide a process for ensuring the United States does not default on its obligations.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

S. 247

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 252

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting the marketing of firearms to minors, and for other purposes.

S. 259

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 259, a bill to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

S. CON. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 2, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 2, *supra*.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution affirming the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and protected for all people of the United States under the Constitution of the United States, and recognizing the 237th anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

S. RES. 19

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 19, a resolution recognizing the importance of establishing a national "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution".

S. RES. 24

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 24, a resolution supporting the observation of "National Girls & Women in Sports Day" on February 1, 2023, to raise awareness of and celebrate the achievements of girls and women in sports.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 277. A bill to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act to place roughly 700 acres of sacred lands into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians. The lands in this bill, which are adjacent to the Tribe's existing reservation, include sacred sites, ancient rock art, and Tribal artifacts. Placing these lands into trust would protect the Pala

Band's sacred lands and allow them to safeguard their culture and traditions as their ancestors have done since time immemorial.

Our bill would place 721 acres of land in San Diego County, which the Tribe has already purchased, into trust for the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Doing so would allow the Pala Band to preserve their traditions and better steward their sacred sites for generations to come.

Members of the Pala Band of Mission Indians descend from the Cupeño and Luiseño Tribes. The Cupeños lived in the valley of San Jose de Valle for generations until they were expelled from their ancestral homelands by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1901. The Tribe was forcibly relocated to Pala, CA, onto a Luiseño reservation. Over a century later, the Pala Band considers themselves one proud people with over 900 Tribal members.

In 2016, the Tribe purchased the lands covered by our bill in order to prevent the construction of a landfill on their sacred lands, known to the Tribe as "Chokla." This bill would enable the Federal Government to fulfill its trust obligation by providing permanent protection for the Pala Band's ancestral and cultural sites.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate and Congressman ISSA and Congressman VARGAS for leading this effort in the House of Representatives. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as quickly as possible.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 306. A bill to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to reintroduce the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023. This legislation would finalize this multidecade effort by the Tule River Tribe to provide clean drinking water to their people and uphold the Federal Government's trust and treaty responsibilities.

The Tule River people are descendants of the Yokuts Indians, a large group of Native Americans who occupied what is now known as the San Joaquin Valley in California for thousands of years prior to contact with settlers.

In 1856, the Federal Government established their reservation in Tulare County, with the specific goal of providing the Tribe with arable farmland and the water resources necessary to establish self-sufficiency. However, their land was fraudulently stolen from them, and in 1873, President Grant issued an Executive order to create a new reservation for the Tribe. This land—which is the Tribe's current reservation—is comprised of mostly mountainous lands that do not provide

sufficient irrigation opportunities or water storage facilities. Today, the Tule River Tribe struggles to provide clean drinking water to their people, and Tule Tribal citizens suffer from a low standard of living as a result.

Since 1971, the Tribe has worked to establish its federally reserved water rights to create the viable homeland they were promised and to ensure that their citizens have enough water to meet their current and future water needs. For decades, the Tribe has worked with the Departments of the Interior and Justice as well as downstream water users to advance a settlement agreement, thereby avoiding costly litigation for both the tribe and the U.S. Government.

I am proud to introduce this legislation to quantify the Tribe's water right of 5,828 acre-feet per year of surface water and fund \$568 million towards the construction of a water storage project. Our legislation would also codify what is known as the "2007 Agreement" with downstream water users, who support this legislation. Finally, the legislation would transfer approximately 9,000 acres of Federal land currently in the Sequoia National Monument to allow the Tribe to protect the watershed headwaters and 800 acres of grazing land to the north and south of the reservation boundary.

It is long past time for the Federal Government to live up to its trust and treaty responsibilities to the Tule River Tribe. We must codify this water settlement and settle the Tule River Tribe's claims against the United States. Access to clean drinking water now and in the future is essential to the continued strength of Tribal nations and to ensuring the sustainability and viability of future generations.

Water is a sacred and necessary resource for Tribal nations and for all people. As California and the West continue to experience a historic megadrought, enactment of our legislation would provide water security to Tule River citizens now and into the future.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate. I would also like to thank the Tule River Tribe for their decades of hard work to finalize this settlement and the downstream water users, including the Tule River Association and the South Tule Independent Ditch Company, for working with the Tribe to settle this issue and avoid litigation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023 as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CARPER submitted the following resolution; which was referred from the

Committee on Environment and Public Works; to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 33

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works (in this resolution referred to as the "committee") is authorized from March 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,911,674, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$4,666 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,166 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,705,702, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$8,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$2,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,794,044, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$3,334 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$834 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023;

(2) for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.

SENATE RESOLUTION 34—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; from the Special Committee on Aging; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 34

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 104 of Senate Resolution 4 (95th Congress), agreed to February 4, 1977, and in exercising the authority conferred on it by such section, the Special Committee on Aging (in this resolution referred to as the "committee") is authorized from March 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,060,695, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,532,620, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative

Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,471,925, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023;

(2) for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.

SENATE RESOLUTION 35—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 22 THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 2023, AS "NATURAL PRODUCT INDUSTRY WEEK"

Mr. LEE (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 35

Whereas dietary supplements, such as multivitamins, minerals, herbs, and fish oils, are intended to add to or supplement an individual's diet and come in the form of pills, capsules, powders, gel capsules and tablets, extracts, or liquids;

Whereas natural products such as dietary supplements have contributed to the United States economy as well as the wellbeing of individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, 80 percent of individuals in the United States reported using dietary supplements, an increase of 9 percent since 2016;

Whereas, nationally, sales for the natural and organic products industry were \$259,000,000,000 in 2020, and are expected to surpass \$300,000,000,000 in 2023;

Whereas dietary supplements and dietary ingredients are currently regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-417; 108 Stat. 4325);

Whereas the natural products industry empowers individuals in the United States to pursue flexible work arrangements like direct selling;

Whereas demand for natural products in the United States has led to the establishment of numerous direct selling companies that produce and sell natural products, and 36 percent of direct sellers focus on wellness products, including natural products;

Whereas the increased consumption of dietary supplements has led to the creation of more than 754,000 domestic jobs and the generation of \$121,600,000,000 in total United States economic output, including \$38,400,000,000 in domestic wages;

Whereas many dietary supplements contain vitamins and minerals such as vitamin D, iron, zinc, and more, which have been shown to improve health;

Whereas 42 percent of supplement users cite overall health and wellness benefits as a reason they take supplements;

Whereas individuals in the United States have the right to make decisions about their health and should seek to make informed decisions based on careful research and the best scientific evidence;

Whereas studies have found among older individuals an association between increased use of dietary supplements and reporting more healthful lifestyles; and

Whereas the National Institutes of Health has found that some dietary supplements can improve overall health and manage some health conditions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 22 through October 28, 2023, as “Natural Products Industry Week”;

(2) supports individuals in the United States in their efforts to maintain or improve their health, including through the use of natural products;

(3) recognizes that dietary supplements have become a routine part of the lives of millions of individuals in the United States; and

(4) recognizes the contributions of the natural product industry to the workforce and economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 36—REINFORCING THE UNITED STATES-NIGERIA RELATIONSHIP AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO CONDUCT FREE, FAIR, TRANSPARENT, AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS IN 2023

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

S. RES. 36

Whereas Nigeria is the most populous democracy in Africa;

Whereas Nigeria remains one of the United States closest partners in Africa, with billions of dollars of United States aid and investment per year going towards key areas of governance, health, education, energy, and finance, and democracy in Nigeria continues to be a strategic priority;

Whereas Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa and plays an essential role in the

economic growth and development of West Africa and continent-wide;

Whereas the United States-Nigeria trade relationship, supported by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) and foreign direct investment, further connects our two countries' economies;

Whereas Nigeria's leadership in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) underscores Nigeria's position on upholding democracy and adherence to transfer of power through constitutional means;

Whereas the 2023 electoral process in Nigeria is scheduled to include a presidential election, 28 governor elections, 469 Federal lawmaker elections, and 36 State House of Assembly elections that may test the very foundation of democracy in Nigeria;

Whereas the United States supports peaceful, credible elections in Nigeria in keeping with the democratic aspirations of the Nigerian people;

Whereas the United States, through key multilateral and nongovernmental international organizations, has provided support to increase voter participation, access, education, and safety in elections since Nigeria's transition to multi-party democracy in 1999;

Whereas the 2019 Nigerian presidential and state-level elections were marred by election-related violence, last-minute delays, widespread vote buying, and disinformation, and had the lowest voter turnout in a presidential election since the return to civilian rule in 1999;

Whereas, after the 2019 elections, Nigerian citizens made a resounding call for electoral reforms to address violence, corruption, and political party conduct within the country's political system;

Whereas, over numerous election cycles, Nigerian civil society has developed significant capacities to impartially observe elections, conduct civic and voter education programs, and hold government officials accountable to democratic values;

Whereas the 2019 international election observation report published by the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute noted that “political parties remain the weakest link among Nigeria's nascent democratic institutions,” a sentiment shared by other citizen and international election observation missions, and emphasized the need for political party reforms to promote stronger internal democracy mechanisms, the further inclusion of women and young people in the political process, and the adherence to election codes of conduct and the legal framework by political parties;

Whereas despite the low voter turnout in the 2019 elections, a 2022 Afrobarometer poll indicated that 70 percent of Nigerians favor democracy over any other kind of government;

Whereas, since 2019, Nigeria has taken integral steps to advance transparency and inclusion in elections, including through key provisions passed as part of the Electoral Act, 2022;

Whereas the Electoral Act, 2022 calls for, among other things, an earlier release of election funding for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the electronic transmission of results, and the enfranchisement of voters with physical and mental disabilities;

Whereas the people of Nigeria continue to advocate for stronger democratic values, governmental accountability, and the full implementation of the Electoral Act, 2022 in advance of presidential elections in 2023;

Whereas President Muhammadu Buhari has committed to a “peaceful transfer of

power to an elected democratic government” in 2023, and has pledged to ensure that “elections are conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner”; and

Whereas Nigeria continues to suffer from a multitude of security issues, including banditry, terrorism, ethnic violence, religious intolerance, and a lack of accountability for human rights abuses attributed to state security forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reiterates the United States commitment to democracy and good-governance in Nigeria and underscores the support of the United States for all people of Nigeria to be able to participate in free, inclusive, and fair elections;

(2) commends the Government of Nigeria on the passage of the Electoral Act, 2022, which signals the intent of the Government of Nigeria to strengthen its administration of elections, and emphasizes the need for fair and transparent electoral processes;

(3) applauds the work of the many Nigerian civil society organizations that continually work to advocate for and support the implementation of key election reforms, bolster civic education, demand accountability for actions of the government and security personnel, and embolden women and youth participation in politics;

(4) encourages all Nigerians to exercise their right to vote and to refrain from all acts of electoral violence, voter malfeasance, vote buying and selling, inflammatory speech and disinformation, and any other actions that undermine free and fair elections in Nigeria;

(5) condemns violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, ISWAP, and numerous other insurgent and bandit groups that has impacted millions of Nigerians and displaced hundreds of thousands in neighboring Chad, Niger, and Cameroon;

(6) calls on the Government of Nigeria to fully implement the various reforms included in the Electoral Act, 2022, and to—

(A) fund INEC to its fullest capacity to independently administer free, fair, and credible elections;

(B) ensure that Nigerian citizens can safely vote in elections, free of voter intimidation and violence perpetrated by security forces, bandits, paid political disruptors, and armed insurgents;

(C) remain independent from political interference by candidates, appointed or elected officials, political parties, and state security forces;

(D) work with INEC to ensure that elections are held as scheduled;

(E) partner with civil society organizations, the United States Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development on programs that promote and fund good-governance, civic education, and voter access;

(F) work meaningfully to reduce domestic tensions within Nigeria; and

(G) support effective sub-national elections through State Independent Electoral Commissions;

(7) urges INEC to—

(A) ensure equitable access for voter registration, the distribution of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and voter rolls, and ensure that the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) accurately allows for only one vote per person;

(B) maintain and publicly share accurate pre- and post-election voter turnout data;

(C) hold candidates, elected officials, and political parties accountable for electoral law violations, and take steps to prosecute all those who engage in voter intimidation, vote buying, and all other forms of electoral malfeasance;

(D) coordinate with civil society groups that help advance voter education, voter registration, and election observation;

(E) minimize bureaucratic hurdles for accreditation of citizen and international observers and ensure they have unfettered access to all aspects of the electoral process; and

(F) work with the United Nations and the international community to enfranchise millions of Nigerian citizens that have become internally displaced due to violent conflict;

(8) urges political parties in Nigeria to undertake reforms that reinforce democratic values and good-governance, including by—

(A) holding candidates, elected officials, and party operators accountable for efforts to interfere with elections, including vote buying, voter intimidation, and electoral violence;

(B) addressing financial and other barriers that routinely block women and young people from participating or running for elected office; and

(C) addressing electoral corruption, patronage, and clientelism;

(9) calls upon the United States Government and the international community to continue to invest in programs aimed at advancing voter education, electoral security, conflict mitigation, electoral dispute resolution, anti-corruption efforts, as well as the development of political parties in Nigeria, including—

(A) funding pre- and post-election data collection with the Government of Nigeria and INEC in accordance with the best election data maintenance and accessibility practices to ensure there is a free open source for post-election data that is transparent and permanently available to the public;

(B) supporting the right of Nigerian citizens to vote in elections that are free, fair, credible, and consistent with international democratic standards;

(C) promoting accountability for any individual that seeks to use violence, intimidation, or corrupt electoral practices to undermine peaceful credible elections in Nigeria, including through consideration of targeted financial and travel sanctions;

(D) enabling citizen and international observation initiatives unfettered access to observe and issue reports on the pre-election, election day, and post-election processes, including independent verification of election results to the greatest extent possible; and

(E) working alongside the Government of Nigeria to call out and address disinformation about the electoral process or from malign external actors;

(10) calls on candidates running for the office of the president, governor, and Federal and state elected offices to publicly commit to peace and to pursue the resolution of election disputes through peaceful means; and

(11) calls on the Secretary of State to pursue diplomatic engagement to encourage a peaceful and transparent electoral process in Nigeria in 2023, including by coordinating efforts among various United States Government agencies and departments to further good governance, strengthen democratic and electoral institutions in Nigeria, and prevent intercommunal violence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 37—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 37

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,518,098, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,316,738, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,798,642, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023;

(2) for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 299

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for the first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 299) to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

Mr. KAINÉ. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 8:20 p.m. today and proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint session of Congress provided under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 11; that upon dissolution of the joint session, the Senate adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 9; that following the prayer and

pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Benjamin nomination; that at 11 a.m., all remaining postcloture time on the nomination be considered expired; that following disposition of the Benjamin nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Chung nomination; that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, we will gather in the Senate Chamber at 8:20

p.m. to proceed as a body to the House for the State of the Union.

RECESS

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 8:20 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:32 p.m., recessed until 8:20 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the President pro tempore.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Kelly Fado; the Secretary of the Senate, Ann Berry; and the Vice President of the United States, KAMALA HARRIS, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, 2023, AT 10 A.M.

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:41 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 10 a.m.