



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

No. 188

Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, November 13, 2023)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LAPHONZA R. BUTLER, a Senator from the State of California.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, sometimes we feel that You hide from us. We cry aloud. It seems that we only hear the echoes of our despair. We sometimes believe that the wicked are winning. We sometimes believe that they rarely experience trouble and grief.

Today, guide our lawmakers with Your truth. Show them the path You desire for them to take. Remind them that You are King forever, and, though the wrong seems strong, Your omnipotence will prevail.

Hear our prayers, O Lord. Incline Your ears to us and give us Your shalom, Your peace.

We pray in Your matchless 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LAPHONZA R. BUTLER, a Senator from the State of California, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. BUTLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tomorrow, for the second time since taking office, President Biden will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the APEC summit in San Francisco.

Above all, I look forward to President Biden pushing President Xi on something I raised during the bipartisan codel I led to China: cracking down on the sale of precursor chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl.

When my Senate colleagues and I met with President Xi, we explained in stark detail how destructive the fentanyl crisis was here in America and that China had a responsibility to do its part to stop its trafficking. One step

we strongly urged President Xi to take is for Chinese law enforcement to coordinate with the United States to enforce laws already on the books on the sale of precursor chemicals. I believe we have made progress on this issue, and I am very optimistic that good news will come from tomorrow's meeting regarding fentanyl when President Biden meets with President Xi.

If China stopped the sale of chemicals used to make fentanyl, it would not only save countless American lives but even benefit China, as it would go a long way to improving China's image in the minds of Americans.

So, just as we pushed President Xi on cracking down on fentanyl last month, I expect President Biden will urge him to do so tomorrow, and I think we may see real results. When we met with President Xi in person, we were pointed and specific with our questions and issues and found him to be responsive, and I hope President Biden will have the same sort of frank conversation tomorrow with President Xi.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we have until Friday to avert another costly, unnecessary, and avoidable government shutdown. Time is a luxury that neither side has. If we are going to keep the lights on beyond this Friday, our Republican colleagues will have to work with Democrats in a bipartisan way to pass a clean extension without hard-right cuts and without poison pills.

So far, I am heartened—cautiously so—that Speaker JOHNSON is moving forward with a CR that omits precisely the sort of hard-right cuts that would have been nonstarters for Democrats. I certainly don't agree with everything the Speaker is proposing, and I can't imagine too many Senators would have taken the Speaker's approach in drafting this bill. But the proposal before

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



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the House does two things Democrats have pushed for: It will avert a shutdown, and it will do so without making any terrible, hard-right cuts that the MAGA rightwing demands. It also eliminates the poison pills that so many MAGA Congress Members put in the bills.

We will see over the course of today how the House moves forward. Over the past few days, a significant portion of the Speaker's hard-right flank has torched his proposal precisely because it doesn't make cuts. I hope the Speaker does not yield to the demands of the hard right as we try to keep the government open. Instead, I hope the Speaker continues to recognize he will need Democratic votes in order to avoid a shutdown.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Senator TUBERVILLE, today, the Senate Rules Committee will mark up a resolution allowing the Senate to quickly confirm the military promotions currently being blocked by Senator TUBERVILLE. I will join the Rules Committee later today—I am a member of the committee; it is the only committee on which I serve—and vote in favor of this resolution. I will vote in favor of the Rules Committee's resolution.

For 9 months, Senator TUBERVILLE has thumbed his nose at longstanding Senate custom and prevented the swift, bipartisan confirmations of hundreds of generals and flag officers. Each time Members from both sides have tried to reason with Senator TUBERVILLE, he has only dug in further.

As a result of Senator TUBERVILLE's holds, America's national security is now paying the price. Our military readiness is paying the price, and our military spouses and kids, who can't plan the next chapters in their lives even though they have served us for many, many years—they pay the price too.

Patience is wearing thin with Senator TUBERVILLE on both sides of the aisle. I strongly support this resolution to overcome these military holds, and if it is reported out of committee today and if our Republican colleagues cannot soon convince Senator TUBERVILLE to drop his holds, I will bring it to the floor for a vote.

I thank Chair KLOBUCHAR and Chairman REED for their good work on moving this important resolution.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the student debt CRA, as soon as today, Senate Republicans will force a vote on a cruel measure to eliminate President Biden's historic Student Loan Repayment Program and strip away a critical lifeline for millions and millions of borrowers. I strongly oppose this terrible Republican measure to deny American families a critical

lifeline just 1 month after the pause on student loan payments ended.

My Republican colleagues talk a big game about helping working families, but with this student debt congressional resolution, they are actively trying to block relief that would immediately improve the lives of so many working Americans. The hypocrisy is glaring. Republicans are willing to give huge tax breaks to ultrawealthy billionaires and large corporations, but when it comes to helping working families, Republicans refuse to give them a break. They say that it costs too much money. But billionaire tax cuts don't? Give me a break.

Right now, there are over 5.5 million borrowers involved in President Biden's SAVE Plan, including nearly 300,000 in my home State of New York alone. So the worst thing we could do for these borrowers and these families right now is let this Republican CRA pass and strip away this critical lifeline.

I will strongly oppose this Republican CRA to overturn student debt relief, and Democrats will keep working to make sure relief reaches every borrower in need.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the Supreme Court, yesterday, for the first time, the U.S. Supreme Court announced the adoption of an ethical code of conduct for Justices. At a time when Americans' trust in the High Court is deeply, deeply shaken, the Supreme Court has taken an important step to lay down basic rules of the road for our Justices. Frankly, this should have happened a long time ago. Lower courts have long been required to embrace an ethical code of conduct, and there is no reason that the Supreme Court should not have done the same.

Now, while the Supreme Court's announcement was important, its lack of enforceability is a glaring omission. Justices, it seems, are left to their own devices in applying this code to themselves. Frankly, Americans could be excused if they are skeptical after everything they have read in the paper about Justices accepting lavish gifts and vacationing with ultrarich ideologues, some of whom bring cases before the Court.

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE said it well. He said: It is as if they are agreeing to the rules of baseball but no umpires.

So, while the Justices' code of conduct is a necessary and important step, it cannot be the final word. The public's trust in our courts is a key feature of our democratic society, and there is a lot of work left to do before that trust is fully restored. Congress must—must—continue its efforts to hold the judiciary accountable.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on an FCC letter, last month, my

colleagues and I wrote the FCC, urging them to adopt a number of key principles from our infrastructure law that fight against digital discrimination and ensure equal access to high-speed internet. Well, I have good news. The FCC heard us loud and clear and will vote tomorrow to implement the provisions I pushed with my colleagues to ensure everyone can access high-speed internet no matter what ZIP Code they live in.

The digital divide has caused our country so much damage. It has shut out rural, urban, and low-income Americans, including far too many women and people of color, for whom basic internet access remains unavailable or unaffordable.

I am proud of the great work we did to address the digital divide in our bipartisan infrastructure law.

Now I encourage all of the FCC Commissioners to take advantage of the provisions in our infrastructure law so that underserved communities can access high-speed internet just like everybody else.

JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on a circuit court judge, last night, the Senate confirmed the 37th circuit court judge under President Biden: Ana de Alba to serve as circuit court judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge de Alba's confirmation is significant. She is the 30th Hispanic judge confirmed by this Democratic majority under President Biden. With the confirmation of this 30th Hispanic judge, that is the most Hispanic judges confirmed by any President in one term—something we can all be proud of. That is the most Hispanic judges ever confirmed by any President in his first term—30—30 new Hispanic judges.

We are making the bench look more like America. One judge at a time, Democrats are making our courts look more like America—greater diversity, more women, a broader range of professional and personal experiences. We will keep going.

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. MCCONNELL. Madam 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 Republican leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, the Supreme Court announced its adoption of a code of ethics. The Court produced the code internally and adopted it unanimously. In

other words, as I expected, a coequal branch of government conducted its business independently, which sounds an awful lot like the separation of powers envisioned in the Constitution.

Certainly, that hasn't deterred Senate Democrats from their obsessive effort to bend the Court to their will. In fact, their monthslong smear campaign—disguised as an effort to make the senior-most jurists in the country, duly confirmed by the Senate, more "accountable" to the American people—unfortunately, continues apace. We know what our colleagues really mean by "accountability." It is code for "intimidation."

I am sure that this sort of accountability is exactly what the Justices and their families felt as the Biden administration declined to enforce Federal law and protect them in their homes from angry mobs or when Senate Democrats threatened to slash the Court security budget in the face of death threats or on any number of occasions when our colleagues have issued ominous, veiled warnings about "restructuring" or outright threats that Justices would "pay the price."

This week, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee are at it again. Our colleagues planned last week to threaten legal action against private citizens who decline to indulge their sham trial of the Justices. The only problem? Republicans on the committee submitted too many commonsense amendments, and the majority worried that some of them might pass with bipartisan support.

But regardless of how Senate Democrats choose to spend their time, I will repeat what I have said before: I have the utmost confidence in each one of the Justices of our Nation's highest Court, and they should continue to pay this intimidation campaign no mind.

INFLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now on another matter, this morning's October inflation report tells a story that has become familiar on President Biden's watch. Prices remain stubbornly high and well above the Federal Reserve's 2-percent target. Prices are up 3.2 per year over year, and cumulative inflation since the President took office now clocks in at 17.6 percent.

Even as the rate prices are growing ebbs, working Americans are growing more frustrated with an expensive new normal. The price of a gallon of milk has risen 15.8 percent since January of 2021. Meanwhile, a gallon of gas is going for 54.8 percent more. As one small business owner in Texas put it to reporters recently, he said:

I'm trying to think of one area where prices have eased, and I can't think of anything.

Earlier this month, President Biden told a gathering in rural Minnesota that "Bidenomics is just another way of saying 'the American Dream.'" The

American people are just simply not buying that.

According to one recent survey, only 14 percent of U.S. voters have said President Biden has made them better off, and 65 percent of voters said they had cut back on nonessential spending.

So, if the President thinks that Bidenomics is the American dream, he might want to pay closer attention to how many Americans are desperate to wake up.

MARCH FOR ISRAEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, today, our Nation's Capital will welcome a rally of Jewish Americans and friends of Israel. The participants in today's events are gathering in mourning, in worry, in fear, and in shared resolve.

In the dark days since the terrorist massacre of October 7, their message has been crystal clear: There is no moral equivalence between terrorism and self-defense. Israel has a right to exist, and Jews everywhere have a right to live without fear.

These basic truths should be obvious and unimpeachable. But if anyone failed to see the creeping advance of anti-Semitism across the West in recent years, if any corner of our society let itself believe that this unique hatred of Jews has been confined to history, that naive fiction was shattered on October 7 and swept away by the hate that has poured across college campuses and city streets throughout America and the West over the past month.

In just the first week after Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad murdered 1,200 Israelis, harassment, vandalism, and assault against American Jews rose nearly 400 percent.

But the peaceful people gathering in Washington today aren't here to ask for pity for themselves. They are here on behalf of the more than 240 hostages, including a 3-year-old American boy and at least 8 other Americans who cannot speak for themselves. They are here with a clear message for our leaders: Stand with Israel.

Since October 7, I have spoken repeatedly about the challenges Israel faces as it works to protect its people, bring the hostages home, and destroy Hamas's capability to wage war. I have talked about the terrorists' reprehensible record of systematically violating the customary laws of war; their expropriation of humanitarian aid; the cold-blooded practice of putting command centers and weapons caches in hospitals, schools, and even mosques; their grotesque penchant for using innocent Gazans as human shields; and, of course, the threat of further violence from the Iran-backed terrorists on the second front.

This is why I have urged the Biden administration to give Israel the time, space, and support it needs to bring these savages to justice.

How quickly some in the West have become confused about the crystal-

clear distinction between terrorism and self-defense. It is not the same thing.

Hamas sought the conflict. Hamas perpetuates it by holding hostages and continuing its terrorism. And those of us who live out of range of terrorist rockets should pause before second-guessing Israel's response.

This is the time that demands moral clarity on campuses, in newsrooms, in Congress, and at the sharp end of American military strength. It is also time to restore credible deterrence against Iran, the chief underwriter and architect of violence against Israel and against American forces in the Middle East.

In less than 1 month, Iran-backed terrorists have targeted U.S. service-members in Iraq and Syria 52 times. From the abandonment of Afghanistan to the delisting of the Houthis, to our failure to respond to proxy attacks on our friends in the region, the Biden administration has made Iran's job actually easier.

And now, as America dithers over support for their friends in Ukraine, Tehran has thrown itself firmly behind Putin's Russia. It will take more than demolishing a couple of warehouses to show our adversaries we are credible. Iran and its terrorist networks must know that violence against America or our allies will be met swiftly and overwhelmingly with lethal force.

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. THUNE. Madam 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.

ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, recent events—notably, Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine and Hamas's deadly October 7 attack on Israel—have thrown the importance of national security into sharp relief. At its most basic level, of course, national security means having a strong military, a fighting force that can meet and defeat any threat it is called upon to face. But there are other key components of national security as well. There is border security, there is economic security, and there is energy security.

Now, what do I mean by energy security? I mean a strong and stable energy supply that does not depend upon imports from hostile countries or unstable regions of the world. You only have to look at the soaring costs and supply challenges countries like Germany have faced in the wake of Russia's attack on Ukraine to realize that relying on energy from other countries, particularly hostile countries, can leave a country in a deeply vulnerable position.

The United States has been doing a good job of maintaining our energy security. We developed domestic resources, both renewable and conventional, which meant that we were able to minimize our reliance on other countries. But President Biden upended that trajectory with his singular focus on Green New Deal policies, and now we are at an inflexion point, honestly.

President Biden's energy policies have put us on a dangerous trajectory, one that could easily result in significant disruptions to our domestic supply. For starters, there is the President's notable hostility to conventional energy production. Since the day he took office, President Biden has pursued an agenda that is hostile to conventional sources of energy—namely, oil and natural gas.

He set the tone on his first day in office when he canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline—a pipeline project, by the way, that was already underway and was to be paired with \$1.7 billion in private investment in renewable energy to fully offset its operating emissions. He also almost immediately froze new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, sending a clear signal to oil and gas producers that his administration would be reluctant to work with them to increase American energy production. And he has continued along the same lines ever since, with a recent notable example being his cancellation of seven oil and gas leases in the small portion of the ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, that is available for energy exploration and development.

The problem with the President's actions, of course, is that our Nation is nowhere near being able to end our reliance on conventional energy. And let me just say, I am a big and longtime supporter of renewable energy, but we are simply not in a position yet where we can rely predominantly on alternative energy technologies. The President himself admitted as much in his most recent State of the Union Address, but that hasn't stopped him from pursuing policies that seem designed to eventually force our Nation to rely on other countries for oil and gas, with all the attendant security and economic risk that brings.

And the President's energy agenda isn't limited to canceling oil and gas leases or discouraging investment in conventional energy production. Also of deep concern is the President's apparent determination to force Americans to adopt electric vehicles on a broad scale within the next decade. And why is this so concerning? Because our electric grid is nowhere near capable of supporting that kind of a widespread transition to electric vehicles. Rising electricity demand is already stretching our grid, which has been weakened by the move away from conventional energy sources.

In February, the PJM Interconnection, which manages a substantial part of eastern America's electric grid, warned that fossil fuel plants are being

forced to retire at a faster rate than new renewables can be brought online—at a rate of roughly 2 to 1. In other words, we are rapidly approaching a situation in which we simply don't have the ability to keep up with our current electricity demand. Add charging for tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles on top of that, and we would be looking at a future of widespread blackouts and brownouts, to say nothing of soaring electricity prices.

So it goes without saying that a nation that can't reliably keep its lights on or its homes heated is a nation that is less than secure. To make matters worse, the Biden administration has proposed a rule that would severely constrain supply chain for distribution transformers, which is a critical component of America's electric grid.

Stakeholders are already facing significant backlogs for these critical components, whether they are trying to recover from a storm, improve the grid, or tie in new development. The Biden administration's proposed rule would guarantee that these problems would get worse.

Recent events remind us that we can't take our Nation's security for granted. We have to work constantly to maintain our Nation's strength, both to ensure that we are always prepared to meet any threat and because being strong is the best way to discourage any threat; and energy security is an essential part of maintaining that strength. If we want to maintain our energy security and if we want to maintain the kind of energy supply that can not only deal with all domestic energy demands but will leave us free from overreliance on other countries, we can't keep heading down the path the Biden administration has set us on.

I hope the President and his allies will realize this important point before it is too late.

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

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I seek recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 6126

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, time is of the essence. Yes, time is of the essence, and that is why I rise today, once again, in calling for the immediate passage of the House-led and passed bipartisan, standalone aid package for Israel that will provide our ally

with \$14 billion in military assistance for their ongoing war with the savage Hamas terrorists. This standalone bill does not use Israel as a lever to fund Ukraine funding or to make our border more porous to terrorists and criminals.

I want to start by sharing two stories—the stories of two gentlemen I met last week. I am going to start with Doran. Doran's brother was the mayor of a kibbutz located within a stone's throw from Gaza. As the mayor, he often welcomed Palestinians from Gaza. He shared meals with them and conversed with them. It was a peace-loving family. But on the morning of October 7, Doran's brother, the mayor, was brutally murdered by Hamas.

But that wasn't enough. Next, his brother's mother-in-law was murdered. Then, his son was murdered and, finally, a nephew. In a matter of a few hours, a woman lost her husband, her mother, her son, and her nephew.

The other story I want to share is of two brothers, Gal and Guy. Gal was the older brother. Guy was the younger brother. They went to the peace and love music festival, just about 3 miles away from the Gaza Strip. And, on the morning of October 7, Gal was watching over his brother Guy, and they heard gunshots, and they heard rockets going off, and they both decided to run for their cars. They were split up, and, while Gal made it home, Guy never did.

Later that same day, his family saw horrifying videos of his brother lying on the ground, handcuffed, and who remains a hostage to this day. And, of course, we have no idea if Guy is alive or not.

So I ask: Why is this important? Why is time of the essence?

Listen, Israel is a powder keg, and it is about ready to explode. For starters, since we were here last, Hamas leadership has declared its desire for a permanent state of war with Israel on all borders. There continues to be a barrage of missiles, rockets, and drone attacks on Israel that has worsened since the war broke out, with Hamas firing at Israel nearly 10,000 times.

Since October 7, 50 attacks have occurred on U.S. military installations. Some 52 American soldiers have been injured, not to mention that we lost 30-some Americans, killed on October 7 by these monsters called Hamas.

So why is time of the essence? Right now, there are still hundreds of innocent people, like Gal's brother Guy, being held captive, and, most likely, being tortured and raped by Hamas terrorists, including 10 Americans.

So I stand here today, again, calling on my Democratic colleagues to do the right thing, and today—yes, today—pass this aid for Israel in their time of need. It has been over 5 weeks since the Hamas army of terror launched its savage and brutal assault on our greatest ally in the Middle East. The House and its bipartisan solution have only been met with obstruction by my friends across the aisle in this Chamber, and

the American public wants to know why the White House and my friends here across the aisle insist upon leveraging this funding in order to fund their other priorities.

Is there really anybody across the aisle who objects to Israel receiving funding and to help stop this war against humanity?

This delay in providing this aid is not lost on Israel, raising questions about our commitment as an ally, and perhaps equally concerning is the message it sends to Hamas terrorists, emboldening them in their murderous endeavors. And our slow response reinforces the White House message that America has no redline, and they can continue to attack our military without significant recourse.

America is not a fair-weather friend. We must stand unequivocally with Israel, a country that has stood beside us as a staunch ally through thick and thin. We must pass this aid today.

Now, when I met with Doran—who lost, as you recall, four members of his family on October 7—he pledged with me to help get one clear message to the American people: Hamas does not use logic. We are not dealing with a civilized nation here. Their evil defies any type of logic. They don't make sense. These people are evil monsters who rape, torture, and kill their enemies.

And, by the way, every person in this room is one of their enemies. Anyone in America who does not believe in their religious ideas is their enemy, whom they have pledged to kill.

Hamas, Iran, and its proxies have all taken an oath to kill every American. Yet some of my colleagues across the aisle have attempted to delay the delivery of this critical military assistance, as they call for negotiations with these terrorists in a ceasefire.

I would ask each one of my friends across the aisle who is holding up this bipartisan funding to sit down with a victim of Hamas's savage attacks. Please invite any one of the 170 family members who are here on Capitol Hill today, who have family members currently being held as hostages—their friends and family members being used as a human shield by this evil terrorist group. I am asking you to sit down with them and listen to their stories of how Hamas terrorists tortured, maimed, and massacred the most Jewish people in a single day since the horror of horrors, the Nazi Holocaust.

I want to make sure it is clear today: Hamas evil defies any logic. There is no negotiating with them. There are no terms that they would seriously consider. All they understand are death, horror, and destruction.

Let's make this point perfectly clear. Our hesitation to provide bipartisan funding to our staunch ally Israel empowers Hamas and gives Iran and its proxies a green light to kill Americans.

I would like to urge everyone to take this measure and adopt it immediately. And, for now, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Ohio, my friend Senator VANCE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, thanks to my colleague from Kansas here. Look, this is pretty simple, and it is pretty obvious. The U.S. Senate would pass aid—much-needed aid—to Israel today, at this very moment, aid the House has already passed. It could go to the President's signature this afternoon if my Democratic colleagues would stand down. But they won't. Many of them here are gathered to push back against our very commonsense proposal to offer support to one of our most important allies as they face an existential threat. And it is important for us to be honest about that fact, to acknowledge that Israel would be getting support from this government tomorrow if our Democratic friends didn't stop it today.

Now, why are they doing this? You will hear over the next hour or so—we will hear—a lot of slogans but very little real discussion about our policy in Ukraine or our policy in Israel. The Democrats have decided that this must be combined into a massive hodgepodge package for it to pass the U.S. Senate. They are doing this because they know that America is united behind Israel, and they want to use our Israeli allies as a political cover in their time of crisis. That is all this is about. You will hear a whole lot, but that is, ultimately, what this is about.

They know they cannot defend President Biden's disastrous, pointless, and, ultimately, directionless Ukraine policy, so they would like to use Israel as a cover.

Now, we have before us a hodgepodge of a supplemental from the President of the United States. It combines a few billion dollars for Ukraine with a few billion dollars to Gazan support—because that makes a ton of sense, right? Let's give money to the Israelis to fight back against Hamas, and then let's give some money to Hamas too. I am sure they won't use it to kill Israelis. It will just be food and medicine, we are assured, even though we know that because Hamas is the functional government in Gaza, we know if we give them support, that support will all the way flow into the war effort. At least, some of it will. Let's be honest about it. Maybe some of it will flow to the Palestinian people. Call me skeptical, but we know that, at least, some of it will flow to the Hamas war effort. Let's be honest about that fact.

It is not just that, though. It is not just a few billion for Hamas, a few billion for Israel; it is a few billion to resettle migrants in the United States of America—because, God knows, we haven't had enough resettlement of migrants in the United States of America over the last couple of years. The fentanyl deaths and the chaos and crime in our country prove it.

And then on top of that, let's add \$60 billion to Ukraine, because, of course, we know that Israel and Ukraine are very closely connected. They are so

closely connected, in fact, that this Chamber can't have a separate debate on one aid package or the other. And then let's add some money to East Asia on top of that.

We will combine all of this into a \$106 billion dollar supplemental aid package that has very, very little—the gross majority of the money has nothing to do with Israel—and we will do it so that we can cover for the fact that the President of the United States has thrown the world into chaos.

What I would like to do is have a separate debate. Divide these questions into separate conversations and debate them separately. And, oh, by the way, use the political will of this Chamber to support our Israeli allies yesterday because they have needed it for much longer than that.

Now, let me close with just a couple of final observations here, and then I will kick it over to my friend, the Senator from Missouri.

I am getting sick, in this Ukraine policy debate, of hearing the same exact slogans repeated. This country has been governed for 30 years on bipartisan foreign policy slogans. Why don't we have a real debate? We are told again and again and again that Vladimir Putin is just like Hitler in the 1930s; if we don't stop him in Ukraine, he is going to march all the way through Europe.

What happened to our education system that the only historical analogy we can use in this Chamber is World War II? What about World War I where competing major powers threw the entire world into conflict because we didn't make smart decisions, we didn't deescalate conflict when we had the opportunity.

Why is it that we think Vladimir Putin, who has struggled to fight against the Ukrainians, is somehow going to be able to march all the way to Berlin when he can't conquer a country immediately to his east?

Why do we think that everything that happens in the United States and in the world in 2023 is Munich almost a century ago?

I am sick of us not having a real debate on this conversation. Vladimir Putin is a bad guy. He should not have invaded Ukraine. But our policy in 2023 has to be different than our policy in the 1940s because the circumstances are different.

As Lincoln said:

As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew.

You will also hear that China will be emboldened. China will be terribly emboldened if we don't stop the Russians in Ukraine. Well, call me crazy, but I think the Chinese would be emboldened if we use limited American weapons and give it all to the Ukrainians instead of giving it to the Taiwanese.

Now, maybe you disagree, but let's have the debate, and let's have the real debate on the President's Ukraine policy instead of holding Israel hostage.

There is nothing more shameful than taking an existential crisis—thousands of dead Israeli civilians—and using them as a fig leaf for a Ukraine policy.

If you want to defend the Ukraine policy, defend it. Let the Israel aid flow through, and let's let it flow through today.

I yield to my good friend from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I stand in solidarity with my colleagues on separating these issues. I think the American people think that is what we do here. I think the American people think we actually have an appropriations process where we have individual bills come forward and we are offering amendments and Senators can have their say and Republicans and Democrats can have different ideas, offer different amendments and we vote on those things.

That is actually not what happens here at all. And this is now compounding this with a supplemental aid package of putting on a bunch of unrelated issues to try to bootstrap Ukraine aid when the most pressing need we have right now, the most bipartisan support we have right now, is the Israeli aid. And, by the way, it is paid for.

Now, I know listening to the hallways buzz in this town about actually paying for something is, like, unbelievable. You know, it is going to be catastrophic if we actually have that discussion. But I think it is healthy. I think it is healthy. But I think we need to separate these issues.

This is supposed to be the most deliberative body in the history of the world, and what we are told is: We can't do that.

And to my friend from Ohio's point, history doesn't begin and end with Neville Chamberlain. There are a lot of lessons from history about how you confront these things.

And, by the way, each theater is very different. What Israel needs is different; what Ukraine might need is different; what Taiwan might need is different. Oh, and by the way, what the United States of America might need is different as we face our chief rival in the world. We have never had one like this in the history of this country with China. We have never had an economic rival, a nuclear power, a militarized rival like we have with China.

Maybe we should be talking, as we talk about this military industrial base—and I think there is broad support for this—for long-range capability.

Our military industrial base is strapped right now. We are at capacity. We ought to be growing that. I support that. But I think we ought to have a discussion about: What does the United States need too? But as it relates to Israel, they have a clear objective, a likelihood of success, broad support. I have yet to hear any of that as it relates to Ukraine.

All we get are, again, slogans and fearmongering. I think, by the way, if you brought up that for an individual vote, it might pass. I don't know. We ought to try it. But I know this would. It should today. But we are going to hear objections now from the Democrats. They are going to object to this and forestall this important aid that our allies in Israel, who are facing a real existential threat right now, need.

Again—and, by the way, we have thrown in, you know, border here, and call me skeptical as it relates to Joe Biden and his administration on his seriousness when it comes to the border. When I was attorney general of Missouri, we fought some of these fights in court, including keeping "Remain in Mexico" in place. We had to get court orders and contempt orders against this administration to actually follow the judge's order to enforce the law.

Now, I am going to support the strongest border package possible, but it is really hard when you have an executive branch that isn't interested in executing the law. And now we have 8-plus million people in this country who have come here illegally. They have admitted that, quite possibly, we have terrorists in this country because we have an open border. Let's have that debate also. But here we are with an opportunity to separate the Israeli funding, again, that has broad support.

Each one of these issues, each one of these funding requests have separate realities on the ground, political support, strategies, likelihood of success. Let's respect that, and let's respect the will of the American people that we can actually come up here and do the important work we were sent here to do, which is to have real debate in what is supposed to be the most deliberative body in the history of the world.

I yield back to the Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, let me start by thanking my colleagues from the great State of Ohio and Missouri for standing beside the people of Israel unequivocally.

But before we turn the floor back to those who protest too much, those who protest against this stand-alone Israel funding, let's address some of the objections made by the Senate Democrats last week.

It is important that we focus on the urgency of aiding Israel without tying it to other complex, timekilling, unrelated conflicts.

In last week's debate here on the Senate floor on Israel's safety and security, Senate Democrats mentioned Ukraine 77 times, more than twice of what they mentioned Israel.

I ask Americans to listen to this debate and count for themselves how many times my friends across the aisle mention Ukraine but turn their back, almost like they are allergic, to using the word "Israel."

They took 45 minutes of their hour-long speeches to make their case for Ukraine funding. Look, I get it. I get it: You want to fund Ukraine. But let's have that debate another day.

What Americans understand about Ukraine is that Joe Biden has thrown \$113 billion at the problem with minimal accountability. And in return, 200,000 people have died. Americans understand that the war in Ukraine is at a stalemate, and it is going to turn into a 7-, probably 10-year war. It is going to turn into a war of attrition. What is the plan, Americans want to know? How much more of their blood and treasure do we have to send overseas? Let's debate Ukraine funding another day.

Now, next, my friends across the aisle are going to use the pay-fors as an excuse. If that is the reason you won't support stand-alone funding for Israel, then give us a different pay-for. But, meanwhile, time is of the essence. Your caucus and our caucus are divided on funding for Ukraine. Your caucus and our caucus are divided on how to solve the open-border crisis.

And I don't hear any solutions offered from the Republican-controlled House, the people's House, that the first thing we don't hear from the White House and the Senate leadership is that it is dead on arrival, and vice versa. Anything that we are offering they say is dead on arrival.

Folks, we are no closer today on figuring out Ukraine funding or how to solve the open-border crisis than we were a month ago, two months ago, six months ago. We are months apart, I think we are infinitely apart, from solving these problems.

Meanwhile, Hamas and Iran grow more emboldened and World War III inches closer. I don't hear anyone saying, from either side of the aisle, don't fund Israel. So why don't we fund Israel today? Don't tell me why we should fund Ukraine. Don't tell me you don't like the pay-for. Stand up today and tell me why we shouldn't fund Israel today. Tell me why we shouldn't use Israel as a leverage for your other priorities.

Tell me why we shouldn't send a message to Hamas and Iran. And the message that we are going to send them is that we will not tolerate this barbarism, these atrocities, these crimes against humanity.

Time is of the essence. The House has passed a stand-alone bill to fund Israel. The Senate should do the same.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6126, which is received from the House. I further ask the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we cannot

send the message to our allies or to the world that America only stands by some of its allies, that our word is only good some of the time. We also cannot send our adversaries the message that they can simply wait us out, allow us to become distracted, allow our resolve to waiver, and that the United States will eventually fail to respond to all of the pressing challenges we face.

Our adversaries are watching carefully to see if we will let Putin win, and the answer must emphatically be, absolutely not. I have said it before; I will say it many times again. We cannot just do half our job here. That is not just wrong, it is dangerous, and it is naive.

There are fundamental flaws in the arguments I have heard from my colleagues for splitting up this aid. Let's start with this one: the argument that somehow we haven't debated Ukraine aid, even though we have been debating this even longer than aid for Israel and even though we have already been forced to punt this aid to an ally in need before.

Ukraine can no more afford a delay than our allies in Israel. Ukraine is at a critical point in a brutal war to defend its sovereignty against Putin's bloody invasion. Abandoning Ukraine is the same as surrendering to Putin and sends a message that he can invade any democracy he would like with impunity. Fortunately, Members on both sides of the aisle do understand this, and clear, overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate have shown they support aid for Ukraine.

We absolutely cannot allow Ukraine aid to get left behind yet again when they are at a critical moment in their heroic fight to protect their homeland and their future as a sovereign democracy.

If my colleagues really wanted more debate on this, we had a robust debate last week, and there was a very strong showing from Senators who discussed at length why it is so important that we keep this aid together in one package. Here is the key point that was raised time and again in that debate: The global challenges we face are all connected, and they are all urgent. We have to be strategic enough to understand that.

Do you know who met with Putin last month? The leader of Hamas. Do you know who is watching how committed we are to our allies in Ukraine? The Government of China.

When it comes to the serious humanitarian crisis in Gaza, let's get something straight: Making sure people have food and water and medical care is not just the right and moral thing to do, it is also very clearly in our national interest, as it promotes long-term stability and security.

Hamas is hoping we ignore the humanitarian needs in Gaza. It is hoping it can drive more people to despair and then anger and then, ultimately, extremism.

In this critical moment, if we only respond to some of the challenges before us, not only will the other challenges continue to fester, but we will be sending a dangerous message about the limits of American leadership in the world.

For our commitments to mean something in the world, they have to be ironclad. For our adversaries to take American leadership seriously, they have to know that we will stand by our allies, that we will stand up for democracy, and that we will stand up to dictators. The way we do that is by passing a strong, unified security package with support for Ukraine and Israel, humanitarian assistance, and smart investment in the Indo-Pacific to support our partners and strengthen deterrence.

I am continuing to work on this package to get it done, and that work cannot be more important, nor could it be more urgent. If my colleagues are serious about making sure we act quickly, I urge them to support us in that effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, reserving my right to object, I believe we must move forward with emergency funding for our allies—all of our allies, not just the State of Israel but also Ukraine. We are in a situation where both of these countries are under tremendous stress. But it is very clear that the proposal before us, this unanimous consent request to pass the bill including only funding for Israel, is just ironically an attempt to deny funding for Ukraine. It is not really about helping Israel; it is about making sure we don't continue our support and commitment to Ukraine. That commitment is just as vitally important to us as our solemn commitment to Israel.

If we fail to support Ukraine, we will send a very unfortunate message to our adversaries: You can succeed in overrunning America's allies if you simply wait us out.

My colleagues on the other side of the debate have been spinning a false narrative that says: By providing support for Ukraine, we will deny support for Israel. The truth is that the only obstacle to providing help to both nations is them. The truth is also that the United States is already supporting the State of Israel. The United States has provided Israel with over \$12.4 billion in military assistance and missile defense funding over the last 3 years. In response to the attacks of October 7, President Biden has moved two aircraft carrier strike groups into the region. He ordered marines into the region. U.S. forces have already engaged and shot down missiles from adversaries in the region. We have also suffered more than 56 injuries of American military personnel because of actions against the U.S. position in the Middle East.

We need to support Israel. We are supporting Israel. We will continue to support Israel. But we cannot abandon

Ukraine. They have lost hundreds of thousands of civilians and military personnel.

The horrors of October 7 were grotesque. I was in Israel last month. I saw the images—some that have not yet been released—of the slaughter. It was traumatic for the entire State of Israel—in fact, the Jewish community worldwide. But go to Ukraine. Go to Bucha. Dig up the graves of people shot in the back of the head while their hands were tied. You want to talk about atrocities? Those were atrocities perpetrated by the Russians.

So we are fighting forces that are dark and evil in two fronts, and we have to support all of those democratic nations—Israel and Ukraine. They are struggling against the darkness.

This is not my opinion alone. Two weeks ago, Mike Pompeo, the former Secretary of State for Donald Trump and a former Congressman from Senator MARSHALL's home State of Kansas, wrote this about Ukraine:

Make no mistake: The outcome of this war will have a direct impact on U.S. national security. Should Putin prevail—whether on the battlefield or through a war of attrition that leads to ill-conceived diplomacy—

And I would suggest that denying this aid is ill-conceived diplomacy—

the war would be felt well beyond Ukraine's borders.

Indeed, I would add that if we fail to support Ukraine with funding and equipment, then it is more likely that young American servicemembers will be called upon to fight and perhaps die and suffer in Eastern Europe because, as so many of my colleagues have suggested and as Secretary Pompeo suggested, Putin will not be satisfied with simply taking Ukraine, and we could see ourselves engaged in defending one of our NATO allies.

I have a very simple sort of notion about American military policy, having had the privilege to serve in our military. I would rather send resources to a country fighting than send American soldiers to do the fighting. And if we don't support Ukraine, that will happen.

Let me conclude by simply saying that it is time to get serious. We have 3 days before our government runs out of funding. Israel needs our support. Ukraine needs our support. American families and communities are counting on us to deliver critical disaster assistance. They need support for affordable, high-quality childcare. There are many needs we must address. We have to move now but not by isolating our Ukrainian allies. We are in the fight with them, and we will finish the fight with them.

At this point, I would yield to Senator DURBIN of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I understand the concerns raised by my colleague from Kansas. I share many of them. We have all seen the horrifying videos and

images, the scenes of death and destruction perpetrated by Hamas terrorists from October 7—the deadliest single day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. We all know that return to the status quo is unacceptable. So I support the Senator's sense of urgency that we must get security aid to Israel as it seeks to defend itself.

As a former chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, it was my privilege and honor to appropriate literally millions of dollars for Iron Dome, the air defense which today protects Israel. I believe in supporting our allies in France. In fact, I joined a quarter of my colleagues in the Senate in a letter to President Biden just last week with this very same message.

But I want to be clear. Many of my colleagues harken back in history to the days of Munich and say we are stuck in that thinking. I would say: Forget Munich for a moment. Think of the days of Moscow. Think of this impromptu visit by the Hamas terrorists to Moscow to sit down with Vladimir Putin. Coincidence? Just happened to be part of the travel plan? No. Hamas had already attacked Israel. They were branded as a terrorist group. Where did they go to find solace? Where did they go to find a friend? They went to Moscow and Vladimir Putin. Why would we get soft on Putin at this moment?

What is happening in Israel is a mirror of what is happening in Ukraine—a tyrant, atrocious conduct, an unprovoked invasion of a country, innocent people killed. That is the story in both places. Yet the Republicans come to the floor today and say to us: We are only concerned about one. We don't care about the NATO alliance and supporting it further. We don't care about supporting Ukraine further. We just want to help one of our allies.

I want to be clear. Just 2,000 miles north of Israel, there is another country fighting for its survival in the face of a brutal assault, also in need of sustained U.S. security assistance. That country is Ukraine.

Two months ago, I imagine, my colleagues all joined me and others, meeting in the Old Senate Chamber in a private, secret, confidential meeting with the President of Ukraine. President Zelenskyy told us without equivocation: Without the continued financial support of the United States and NATO, we will lose this war. He didn't say that once; he said it twice to make it abundantly clear. And now for the Republicans to say that we will step aside and let the aid to Ukraine—if it is ever going to come—come much later is to jeopardize their future and to really make a mockery of the amazing display of courage we have seen in Ukraine resisting the Russian aggression.

Just as Secretaries Austin and Blinken argued for emergency aid for Israel before the Senate Appropriations Committee recently, they also stressed the need for aid to Ukraine. Ukrainians have fought bravely, stood up against

Russian tyranny, with the United States, the European Union, and countless other countries around the world standing with them. We are the front-line of democracy in Ukraine, and to walk away from Ukraine, as the Republicans are suggesting today, is a travesty. To pull back now would be unconscionable, a reflection of an America no longer being the world leader it purports to be, and a boon for countries like Russia, China, and Iran, eager to fill the ensuing void.

Secretary Blinken said it plainly:

In both Israel and Ukraine, democracies are fighting ruthless foes who are out to annihilate them.

Secretary Austin went further:

Today's battles against aggression and terrorism will define global security for years to come.

The Republican suggestion today to walk away from assistance to Ukraine would unfortunately lead us to that conclusion.

And only firm American leadership can ensure that the tyrants, thugs and terrorists worldwide are not emboldened to commit more aggression and more atrocities.

In addition to Israel and Ukraine, we must also remain steadfast in addressing Chinese aggressions in the Indo-Pacific, including Taiwan.

Let me say a word about humanitarian aid. One cannot look at the scenes coming out of Gaza without realizing there are many thousands of innocent victims, people who are not part of the terrorism of the Hamas leadership, people simply trying to survive. The scenes coming from hospitals on a daily basis are a reminder to us that there is a desperate need for humanitarian aid.

Al-Shifa Hospital this morning displayed photographs of a dozen infants who have been separated from their ventilators because the electricity is off, and there is no water in the hospital.

To provide humanitarian aid to the helpless, guiltless victims in this part of the world is consistent with the values of the United States, and I support it without reservation. Humanitarian assistance is not only the right thing to do, it will save lives. It will help prevent the next conflict. It will serve as a downpayment on our own security in the future.

I urge my colleagues to resist this effort by the Republicans to walk away from Ukraine and to ignore the obvious consequences. The people of Ukraine have shown extraordinary courage. I hope a majority in the Senate will as well.

I yield to Senator VAN HOLLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, at this moment of danger and peril around the world, we, the United States of America, must support our friends and democracies that are under attack from brutal adversaries. That means supporting Israel's right to defend itself in

the aftermath of the brutal Hamas attacks of October 7.

It also means ensuring that the people of Ukraine can defend themselves against Putin's rank aggression. Make no mistake about it, this proposal on the floor today is tantamount to saying the Ukrainian people should surrender to Vladimir Putin. It is waving the white flag. If we don't support Ukraine, not only will the Ukrainians lose, democracy will lose around the world. And I have to say that Ronald Reagan would be rolling in his grave today to see the Republican Party abandoning Ukraine in the fight for democracy and freedom.

You know, most of us gathered recently in the Old Senate Chamber with President Zelenskyy, and he was very clear that the Ukrainians will fight on to defend their democracy and their sovereignty, but if the United States doesn't stand by the people of Ukraine, Putin will have the upper hand.

So for goodness' sake, our Ukrainian friends are spilling blood; they are giving lives. The very least we can do is step up and continue to provide military assistance so that they can defend themselves.

And this is not only about Ukraine; it is about making sure that our allies—our NATO allies—understand that the United States will continue to stand up against aggression. If the United States walks away, the NATO alliance will begin to collapse.

It also sends a terrible signal to others around the world—other autocrats—who are watching very carefully what the United States and our allies do with respect to Ukraine. I have heard my colleagues say it is only speculation as to what our allies in the Indo-Pacific would think if we walked away.

Well, let me tell you. They have told us very clearly. Leaders in Japan and South Korea, friends in Taiwan are watching closely what the United States does with respect to Ukraine, just as President Xi is keeping one eye on Taiwan as he keeps the other eye on what is happening in Ukraine.

Now, President Biden is scheduled to meet with President Xi tomorrow in San Francisco at the APEC conference. And I can tell my colleagues don't pretend on the Senate floor or otherwise that you are going to be really tough on China; that you are going to support Taiwan if you cut loose and run when it comes to Ukraine because they are intricately connected. Just ask the people in Taiwan, ask the people in the Indo-Pacific region.

Finally, I keep hearing my Republican colleagues talk about their so-called pay-for, as if the \$14 billion dollar cut to the IRS pays for the \$14 billion in support for Israel. This debate has been going on for a couple of weeks so it can't be that our colleagues aren't paying attention to what both the IRS and the Congressional Budget Office have said. They have said, far from paying for it, it will actually increase

the deficit. That was the testimony of all the witnesses, Democrats and Republicans, in the Budget Committee last week. Why would it increase the deficit? Because you are taking away funds that the IRS is using to go after very wealthy tax deadbeats, people who are not paying the taxes that are already due and owing.

You are saying to the IRS: We are going to deny you the funds to go after those very wealthy deadbeats. And because you can't collect the revenue from those tax deadbeats, the United States deficit is going to go up, not down. So that doesn't pay for it. Don't call it a pay-for. That is simply a fraud. It is not true.

And what is really astounding—I have heard my colleagues use the word “leverage” a couple of times. It is a new cynicism to use our efforts to support Israel to provide what amounts to a don't-have-to-pay-your-taxes message to very wealthy Americans. It is like nobody ever seems to miss an opportunity to give another tax break to very wealthy folks on the Republican side. In this case, it is not a tax break; it is actually just requiring that people pay the taxes already due and owing. So stop calling it a pay-for.

Let's stand up for Ukraine and democracy in Ukraine; yes, let's continue to support Israel's right to defend itself; and let's stand up as the United States of America to ensure that we send a message to our allies around the world that are with them and our adversaries around the world that we will stand by our friends.

With that, I yield to the Senator from Colorado, Senator BENNET.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, reserving the right to be object, I am glad to be here today. I think it is important for us to have this debate. This is a debate. People on the other side of the aisle say it is not one.

I heard my colleague from Ohio talking earlier about slogans, slogans, slogans. This is all about slogans.

I cannot believe the degree to which the accomplishments by the Ukrainian people are being diminished on this floor or being diminished in this debate. It is absolutely disgraceful.

They are this close to winning this war. There is a freeze today on the battlefield, on the frontline, in part, because Putin knows exactly what is going on here. He knows about the debate that is going on here. He knows, my colleagues, that he is losing on the battlefield. He understands that. NATO understands that. Xi Jinping understands that. He knows that.

He is losing on the battlefield. He is counting on winning on Capitol Hill. He is counting on winning on this battlefield. Let me tell you something. This isn't about slogans.

Let's talk about what Ukraine has done over the last 2 years. I haven't heard anybody talk about that in this discussion or this debate. I hope my

colleagues on the other side are listening because you will not hear, in your lifetime, a list of greater courage or sacrifice than what you will hear from Ukrainians, and it is not slogans.

They defeated and reversed the Russian attack on Kyiv—which, by the way, Kyiv was supposed to fall in 72 hours. They reversed that. They forced Russia to retreat from Chernihiv and Sumy. They won the battle of Kharkiv. They took back Kherson. They took back Snake Island.

Ukraine has taken back more than half—more than half—of the land that Russia took from them in this invasion, colleagues, more than half. Nobody 2 years ago would have predicted that. Everybody would have said Putin would never relinquish that land.

They almost singlehandedly restarted commercial grain trade with Asia and Africa. Why does that matter? That matters so that the whole rest of the world can be fed, so they will stay in the fight that we have led that no other country can lead but the United States of America, even though my colleagues on the other side have gotten tired.

Last month—read it. Look it up. I will put it in the RECORD. There was an amazing article over the weekend about this in the New York Times, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, Nov. 12, 2023]

HOW UKRAINE, WITH NO WARSHIPS, IS THWARTING RUSSIA'S NAVY

In a small, hidden office in the port city of Odesa, the commander of the Ukrainian Navy keeps two trophies representing successes in the Black Sea.

One is the lid from the missile tube used in April 2022 to sink the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, the Moskva, a devastating blow that helped chase Russian warships from the Ukrainian coast. On the lid is a painting of a Ukrainian soldier raising his middle finger to the ship as it bursts into flames.

The other is a key used to arm a British-made Storm Shadow missile that slammed into the headquarters of the Russian fleet in Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsula.

We dreamed of making a beautiful recreation park for children in this place, to take away the center of evil that is there now,” said Vice Adm. Oleksiy Neizhpapa, the Ukrainian naval commander.

He held the key in his hand, and although his eyes were tired, he said there was nothing to do but fight.

“Sevastopol is my hometown,” he said. “For me, it is my small homeland, where I was born, where my children were born. So, of course, I dream that the time will come, hopefully soon, that we will return to our naval base in Sevastopol.”

Despite having no warships of its own, Ukraine has over the course of the war shifted the balance of power in the naval conflict. Its use of unmanned maritime drones and growing arsenal of long-range anti-ship missiles—along with critical surveillance provided by Western allies and targeted assaults by Ukraine's Air Force and special operations forces—have allowed Ukraine to blunt the advantages of the vastly more powerful Russian Navy.

“At this point, the Russian Black Sea Fleet is primarily what naval strategists term ‘a fleet in being’: It represents a potential threat that needs to be vigilantly guarded against, but one that remains in check for now,” said Scott Savitz, a senior engineer at the RAND Corporation, a federally financed center that conducts research for the United States military. “Remarkably, Ukraine has achieved all this without a substantial fleet of its own.”

Admiral Neizhpapa cautioned that Ukraine remains vastly outgunned on the Black Sea. It lacks the battlecruisers, destroyers, frigates and submarines that populate the Russian fleet. Russian planes still dominate the skies above the sea, and Russia still uses its fleet to launch long-range missiles at Ukrainian towns and cities, threatening armed forces and civilians alike.

On Wednesday, a missile struck a commercial ship pulling into the port of Odesa, killing the pilot and wounding three crew members. It was the first civilian vessel hit since shipping to Odesa resumed in late August.

The Russia Navy also dominates the Sea of Azov, a body of water connected to the Black Sea by the narrow Strait of Kerch, and is increasingly using Azov ports in the occupied cities of Mariupol and Berdiansk to help alleviate logistical challenges on land.

Ukraine has nevertheless managed to negate some of those advantages and lately has gone on the offensive. Over the last two months, it has launched both stealthy nighttime operations by small units on jet skis and powerful missile strikes. Those strikes have hit not just the Sevastopol headquarters but also a Kilo-class submarine and a shipbuilding plant in eastern Crimea, an attack that damaged a new missile-carrying Russian warship.

The latter strike “will likely cause Russia to consider relocating farther from the front line,” the British military intelligence agency reported on Wednesday.

Ukrainian officials also said that the Russian strike on a civilian ship as it pulled into port in Odesa would not stop the shipping. About 100 cargo vessels carrying more than 3.3 million tons of agricultural and metal products have made the journey in a little over two months, according to Western and Ukrainian officials.

Even as forward movement on the ground has largely shuddered to a halt, with neither Russian nor Ukrainian forces able to break through heavily fortified lines, Ukraine has effectively turned around 10,000 square miles in the western Black Sea off its southern coast into what the military calls a “gray zone” where neither side can sail without the threat of attack.

And Admiral Neizhpapa stressed that Ukraine's combined armed forces and its security services were all playing integral roles in the battle of the Black Sea.

James Heapey, Britain's armed forces minister, told a recent security conference in Warsaw that Russia's Black Sea fleet had suffered a “functional defeat” and contended that the liberation of Ukraine's coastal waters in the Black Sea was “every bit as important” as the successful counteroffensives on land in Kherson and Kharkiv last year.

The war at sea has also demonstrated the impact of emerging technologies, transforming long-held theories about naval warfare in ways that are being studied around the world, perhaps nowhere more closely than in China and Taiwan.

The classical approach that we studied at military maritime academies does not work now,” Admiral Neizhpapa said. Therefore, we have to be as flexible as possible and change approaches to planning and implementing work as much as possible.”

For example, he said, it takes years to develop and build warships and more time to update them to meet new challenges. Yet maritime drones are evolving every month.

Admiral Neizhpapa acknowledged that Russian air superiority over the Black Sea is a problem and has stressed the value that F-16 fighter jets would bring to Ukraine's naval war. The United States has pledged F-16s, but Ukrainian officials have said they are unlikely to be seen in Ukrainian skies before next summer.

Russia's main response to setbacks at sea has been a relentless bombing campaign aimed at crippling Ukrainian port infrastructure and punishing the people of Odesa. In recent weeks, its naval aircraft have been dropping "mine-like objects" in the shipping lanes from Odesa, the admiral said, but shipping has not stopped.

"Of course, they want to stop our initiative by all means," he said. "But we believe that they will not succeed."

While much attention over the past 20 months has focused on the land war, Europe's largest since World War II, a desire to control the Black Sea was a key factor in President Vladimir V. Putin's decision to invade Ukraine. In 2014, when Russia illegally annexed Crimea, Ukraine lost nearly all of its ships; about 5,000 of its sailors defected, cutting the size of its navy by two-thirds.

Despite Ukraine's recent intensified assaults, Crimea still functions like a huge aircraft carrier parked off Ukraine's southern coast. It is a critical logistics hub for Russian occupation forces in the south, a base for Russian fighter jets and attack helicopters, and a platform to launch missile and drone strikes across Ukraine.

Admiral Neizhpapa is fond of citing an adage of Alfred Thayer Mahan, the famed American naval officer and historian: "A nation must defend its own coast starting from the coast of the enemy."

For the admiral, who left the peninsula in 2014 with other sailors who remained loyal to Ukraine that means taking the war to Crimea.

Russia, however, is also adapting and bolstering its defenses.

What we did a year ago is no longer working or is not working as effectively," Admiral Neizhpapa said. "We have to be flexible and change our tactics."

Ukraine must not only innovate, he said, but also deploy new weapons quickly. Ukraine has unveiled several iterations of uncrewed surface vessels, and officials recently offered a glimpse of what they said was Ukraine's first unmanned underwater vehicle.

Christened Marichka and measuring about 20 feet from bow to stern, the vessel can travel beneath the surface of the waves for more than 600 miles, although the size of its payload has not been made public and there is no evidence that it has been used in combat.

About two dozen Russian ships and one submarine have been damaged or destroyed since Russia launched its full-scale invasion, Admiral Neizhpapa said. Oryx, a military analysis site that counts only losses that it has visually confirmed, has documented at least 16 damaged or destroyed ships.

Standing in front of a classified chart that lists damage done to Russian vessels, Admiral Neizhpapa said he had no time for what he called "wishful sinking"—any exaggeration of what Ukraine has achieved.

There are still scores of powerful Russian warships that Ukraine wants to take off the board. On Friday, Ukraine's intelligence agency released a video of a naval drone attack on two ships that it said played an important role in the layered air defenses that protect Russia's fleet. The extent of the damage was not clear.

"The enemy also learns very quickly, and he also makes his own conclusions, counteracting our actions," Admiral Neizhpapa said. "The war at sea can only be won with new solutions that must be implemented as quickly as possible."

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, they largely neutralized the Black Sea Fleet. They don't even have a real navy. They don't have a navy. Through their dedication and through their imagination and their willingness to sacrifice, they have managed to neutralize the Black Sea Fleet.

There is nobody who thought they could do this. This is all while Russians outnumber Ukrainians 3 to 1 on the battlefield.

I heard from my colleagues, how much more American lives, how much more American treasure? There is not an American losing their life. The Ukrainians are losing their lives in the name of democracy.

In total, Ukrainians have killed 300,000 Russian fighters. Thank you, Ukraine, for doing the work that NATO has not been asked to do, that the United States has not been asked to do.

Putin knows he is losing this war in Ukraine. The only question that he has is, is he going to win the war here in the U.S. Congress? Who is going to lose Ukraine?

And the people who are here today saying this is not a lesson from World War II; this is a lesson from World War I, these are the people who are going to lose Ukraine.

Do we have any right to be fatigued, colleagues, when we haven't lost 100,000 people, when all we are being asked to do is manufacture the weapons that Ukraine is using on this battlefield, putting American people to work to support Ukraine and democracy? That is what we are being asked to do. Can we possibly be fatigued at this moment?

I suppose we could be having a very different debate if Ukraine hadn't been as successful as they have been, but they have been successful. What we know is, if we roll over now for Vladimir Putin, if we stop providing Ukraine with their weapons—and they are out of bullets. They are out of bullets as we stand here today. They have \$1 billion left. If we stop providing them with resources, if we stop providing them with the intelligence that we provided them, they are going to lose this war. President Zelenskyy came here and told you that we will win this war if you stick with us; we will lose this war if you abandon us.

We cannot abandon Ukraine at this moment.

I know I have other colleagues on the floor who need to speak today. I am glad this has been recorded for history. I am glad today's debate has been recorded for history because when they ask who lost this war to Vladimir Putin, it is not going to be a question of rhetoric or debate points; it is going to be a question of a war that we were actually on the verge of winning and a

war that we walked away from and lost with repercussions to every single corner of this world, including where Xi Jinping is sitting right now in Beijing. And don't forget about it. Don't forget about it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I want to thank Senator MURRAY and Senator REED for leading us in this time.

I want to make two relatively brief points to add to the discussion, and I will turn it over to others of my colleagues.

First, I understand that my Republican colleagues want to avoid the question of Republican priorities. The fact of the matter is, an Israel-only funding bill passed through the House of Representatives, and attached to it was a massive giveaway for the richest Americans: millionaires and billionaires who don't pay their taxes. So as we chart the path forward for a bill that only funds Israel, we know, in the House of Representatives, it has to be matched with a massive—massive—giveaway for millionaires and billionaires.

I don't think you can ignore that fact that a large swath of the Republican Party is using this crisis in Israel in order to deliver yet another gift to the very small slice of Americans who don't need any more gifts. There are 700 billionaires in this country who have more net worth than 50 percent of all Americans. The rules are already rigged in favor of the superwealthy. So the idea that we would facilitate a plan in the House of Representatives to use Israel aid as a means to continue to rig the rules in favor of those ultrarich Americans, it is just incredibly distasteful, and it is a signal about where the Republican Party priorities are today.

Second, I do want to talk about what Senator VANCE and others talked about, about the lazy precedent, referencing the sloganeering that they accuse Democrats of engaging in.

So it is correct that what is happening today in Ukraine does not have a modern precedent because never before in our lifetime, in the post-World War II order, has a large nuclear nation like Russia invaded another large neighboring nation with the purpose of annexation.

What Russia is trying to do is to fundamentally change the rules; to fundamentally shift international norms that have been in place since World War II. At the foundation of it is that big countries don't change their borders through force, through aggression. It is important to understand that these are the rules that have undergirded the last 70 years of U.S. growth and U.S. national security.

So we don't believe that we should support Ukraine because we just believe that Vladimir Putin is Adolf Hitler. We don't believe we should support

Ukraine to perpetuate some slogan about American greatness. No. We believe that we have an interest—as the most powerful nation in the world, as the nation that has benefited most from the post-World War II order—to defend those rules because, if we don't, no one else will.

And it just strikes me that my Republican colleagues who have this fatalistic view of what is going to happen in Ukraine just really view America as weak, as impotent, and as powerless in the face of this unprecedented aggression from Vladimir Putin. America's greatness is connected to our willingness to stand up and lead at moments of crisis, and this is a unique moment of crisis without precedent, which is why it requires the United States to stand against Russia's aggression.

Listen, for thousands of years—and we know this because you read about it in your history books while growing up—for thousands of years, prior to the establishment of the post-World War II order, this world was defined by state-on-state, civilization-on-civilization violence and conflict. People labored under the constant threat that their entire world would be ended by another one of these civilization-on-civilization conflicts. But this was back at the time when weapons were crude—they were swords; they were bows and arrows; then they were simple firearms. Millions died, but millions also survived.

We live in a very different era today where we, frankly, have to be more worried—not less worried, not permissive and fatalistic—about the consequences of reentering a world and a paradigm in which states enter into conflict against other states. Why? Because we now live in a world filled with weapons of mass destruction, not just nuclear weapons but other highly sophisticated weapons.

So now this kind of conflict that Russia and Ukraine are engaged in is the kind of conflict that can wipe out millions in a day. That is why the United States of America has stood up for the post-World War II order. That is why we have fought and sometimes died to maintain it. And this is the most significant affront to that order—an order that has protected this country; an order that has protected our economy; an order that has saved millions of lives in our lifetimes.

It is hard. Ukraine's mission is difficult. In a short-term “satisfy me now” culture, I understand that many of my Republicans get phone calls from their constituents saying: If Ukraine hasn't won this war tomorrow, I am not interested any longer. But this conflict matters, and it matters that we stick with Ukraine, because if we lose—if we lose—we are living in an entirely new world: The cap is off state-on-state violence. Pretty soon, America will be in one of those conflicts with another nuclear nation, and we won't be talking about thousands of Ukrainians dying; we will be talking about millions of Americans dying.

So I appreciate my colleagues for being here today. I think this is as important as it gets. I think we really are deciding the future of this world and the rules that govern it, and I join my colleagues in objecting to this motion.

I yield the floor to Senator SCHATZ.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object—and I will be pretty quick here—I have rarely seen such a cynical piece of legislation on the Senate floor. I have rarely seen it.

The point that CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and CHRIS MURPHY made, I think, is the first point, which is, when all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. So whenever there is an opportunity to legislate—even in the foreign policy space, even when we are in a global fight against fascism—the first thing that comes to the mind of many people on the other side of the aisle is, How can we make life easier for the wealthiest among us? Like it has literally got nothing to do with Israel aid or Ukraine aid or Indo Asia-Pacific security matters. Just, whenever you get a chance, throw in an opportunity to enrich the wealthiest among us who are already not paying their fair share of taxes.

So that is the frame, right?
This is where we start, which is, I have got an idea: We should cut taxes again. I have got an idea: Let's gut the IRS so that they don't have the ability to audit these billionaires, many of whom don't pay taxes in the first place.

So that is how you should understand this from the jump.

The second thing you should understand is, we really are in a global fight against fascism and authoritarianism. And if there is one thing that I think the last 2 or 3 years—frankly, the last 7 years—has taught us is: Believe what the authoritarians say they want to do. Believe Hamas when they say they want to wipe Israel off the map and that they are not done. Believe Putin when he says that the biggest mistake that the Soviet Union ever made was perestroika and glasnost and all of that. Believe him when he says that after he takes Ukraine, he will turn his eye to the Baltics. Believe all of these people. They do exactly what they have been saying they would do. And here we are hoping—hoping against hope—that maybe they don't mean it; that maybe their ambitions aren't so murderous. They do it every time.

And the idea that we would separate these two fights even though these people are aligned—these Fascists are aligned, this authoritarian movement is increasingly aligning itself perhaps because of the internet, perhaps because of globalization—but, whatever it is, there is an actual global Fascist, authoritarian movement, and they are on the march. And the idea that we would fund Israel's security needs and leave Ukraine behind because—what?—

Ukraine is in Europe? because Donald Trump doesn't like Ukraine aid? because it is getting hard? because it is getting tiring? because it is getting expensive? Listen to those arguments. My God. This man wants to take Europe and has a plan to do so.

As Senator BENNET said—and this is a key point—God bless these Ukrainian fighters. They are the ones fighting and dying. They are the ones spilling blood to keep Europe peaceful, to establish that nobody can change the boundaries of a country using violence only. God bless them for doing this. God bless them for their sacrifice, for their ingenuity, for, frankly, exceeding everybody's reasonable expectations. God bless them for their sacrifice.

All they need from us are resources. We are the wealthiest country in the history of humankind, and we are saying: It is a little too long. We haven't won yet. Trump doesn't like it. This is kind of getting expensive.

What a bunch of terrible arguments in the scheme of things. What a bunch of terrible arguments. When we look back 20, 30, 50 years from now at this debate, no one is going to ask whether this was emergency spending or in a supplemental or in the regular appropriations process or in a CR or in a CR and omnibus. They are just going to ask: Did we stand with the free world like Americans always do?

So this has gotten me a little angry. This has gotten me a little frustrated because I just thought—I really did think—and I am not naive—but I really did think that on an issue like this, we could put our partisanship aside; we could put our fealty to either our current President or to the former President aside and just say: Look, this is good for the free world; we are just going to do it together.

I now, with the Presiding Officer's permission, through the Chair, defer to the President pro tempore.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I call for regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas still has the floor.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, thank you to my colleagues for their comments today and for their arguments. Many were good arguments. Some of the facts, the American people disagree with. Some of the conclusions, the American people disagree with.

What I heard today was once again from my colleagues spending 80 percent of their time focusing on Ukraine funding; but I didn't hear one person say why we shouldn't go ahead and fund Israel today, why we shouldn't send a bill to the President's desk today.

Look, we have debated Ukraine at lengths. Put a bill on the floor. Let's

vote on Ukraine funding. My friends across the aisle have said that Ukraine is winning this war, and many of the same reasons they give us to continue to support Ukraine are the same words I heard in grade school as to why we should support the cause in Vietnam. They are the same arguments.

If Ukraine is winning, then why have Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary abandoned Ukraine? Why is the frontline not moving?

Some of my friends brought up aid. Look, if you want aid to the hospitals in Gaza, if you want aid to Gaza itself, then tell Iran to stand down. Tell Hamas to release the hostages. I don't hear anyone talking about that. Tell Hamas to surrender. Let's send a message from the Senate that we unequivocally stand beside Israel.

And I will close with this: One of my friends across the aisle talked about President Reagan. What I will remember about President Reagan and, before him, Eisenhower is that they stressed peace through strength. But this White House is giving us war through weakness.

Time is of the essence. We need to get Israel the funding. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, my colleagues from Kansas, Ohio, and Missouri have raised a raft of questions to which I will offer a few timely and simple answers: Look up. Look back. Look ahead.

To my colleague from Kansas, his predecessor Bob Dole, a Senator who was a great leader in this Chamber, was a champion for the power of humanitarian aid around the world. And I will not yield without speaking to a piece of this supplemental that has been largely ignored: the critical role of humanitarian aid in sustaining our partners and allies, in averting humanitarian catastrophe, and, yes, in sustaining both Ukraine and Israeli national security.

But, first, if I might, let's look back for a moment to history. My colleague from Ohio complained that we somehow had not thoroughly debated Ukraine. I believe we have, but I am happy to have us engage for hours more because there are critical lessons from the past that inform the strong, broad, and bipartisan support for aid to Ukraine.

The last time I went to Kyiv, I traveled with his predecessor, Senator Rob Portman—a cochair of the Ukraine Caucus in this body and a determined and committed supporter of Ukraine's. Why? Let's look back for a moment.

In the runup to the Second World War, a famous American aviator, Charles Lindbergh—a man who was decorated for his exploits and his exploration—joined a nationwide movement whose slogan was "America First." "America First" seemed to say that we should stay out of the roiling conflicts in the Pacific and in Europe; that we should step back and allow the

armies of the Nazis to advance across Western Europe and allow the armies of imperial Japan to advance across Asia because those were not our concerns. In fact, he gave a publicized speech in favor of neutrality just on the eve of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

History proved that "America First" almost risked "America Alone" in a world overcome by authoritarians.

I will tell you, that mistake is a mistake my colleagues risk making now. If they want to make America weak again, they can go back to the arguments of the isolationist Republicans on the verge of the Second World War.

But to my colleague from Kansas, I will say you don't really have a debate with us. You have a debate with your own leadership. I have heard on this floor clear, forceful, focused speeches in defense of Ukraine—the critical role of our support for Ukraine—not from Democrats alone but from some of the most seasoned and capable and leading Members of the Republican caucus, including my colleagues from Texas and from Kentucky.

There is broad support for Ukraine. I, frankly, think, to answer the question of my colleague from Ohio: How are these possibly connected, the attack of Hamas on Israeli civilians, the attack of Russia on Ukrainian civilians?

I say, you would need only look up. What is that sound? It is Iranian drones and missiles raining death on innocent civilians in Israel and Ukraine. These conflicts are profoundly connected.

My colleague from Ohio suggested that President Biden has thrown the world into chaos. I do not have the time to fully rebut this ill-informed point, but I will suggest that Vladimir Putin's aggression in Ukraine and, in particular, the terrorism of Hamas in Israel is not the cause—of that, President Biden is not the cause but, in fact, has been a forceful, timely, and responsive leader. His response to the attack on Israel, I hope, has earned broad bipartisan support because it was personal, forceful, and timely.

All of us here are standing, calling for the release of hostages by Hamas, standing in strong support of Israel, and insisting that we advance at the same time the aid that is desperately needed by our close allies.

My colleague from Kansas asked a critical question: Will we show the United States is a fair-weather friend? To my colleague I will say: Sir, that is exactly why I join my colleagues in objecting to this narrow, Israel-only aid package, because we cannot show that we will fail to aid Ukraine.

Last, it was asked by several of my colleagues: Why would we send humanitarian aid into Gaza? It will inevitably all fall into the hands of Hamas, who support this.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, if I might, a letter from the Israeli Embassy to the Congress of the United States.

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

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING—
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE COMPONENT

Please find below an overview of Israel's position, regarding the humanitarian assistance component of the Presidential request for emergency supplemental funding.

It is in Israel's view that humanitarian assistance to Gaza could and should play a significant role in helping Israel achieve its long-term strategic goals to remove the Hamas threat in Gaza, and enabling a post-Hamas Gaza that is demilitarized and does not pose a threat to Israel.

Israel's position is that this assistance should be designed in a way that ensures that it does not fall into the wrong hands, Palestinian or international.

In light of this, we support appropriating significant funding as part of the supplemental, for the following purposes and under the following terms:

a) Funding for short-term emergency humanitarian assistance, so long as it will be allocated and delivered in coordination with Israel, inspected and monitored by Israel and which is consistent with Israel's objectives in Gaza.

b) Designated funding for a post-Hamas Gaza. Significant humanitarian assistance under the supplemental is required in order to rebuild a demilitarized and profoundly changed Gaza following the uprooting of Hamas.

c) Egypt-Gaza border: As part of the supplemental, we seek funding for the Egypt-Gaza border, including the upgrading of the Rafah crossing—all designed to ensure that Gaza will not be able to remilitarize. As such, this part of the supplemental will be vital for Israel's security. We stand ready to share our thinking on how to achieve the above mentioned goal.

The bottom line is that the supplemental, properly allocated, would contribute to humanitarian solutions on the ground, while bolstering Israel's national security. We believe that US funding in this matter will draw contributions from additional actors and stakeholders from the region and from the international community. We are more than willing to answer any questions you may have and look forward to continuing our dialogue on this and other matters.

Mr. COONS. Who supports humanitarian aid into Gaza with appropriate measures of inspection? The Israeli Government. They say it is critical to bolstering their national security.

Look up. Look back. Look forward. Look up; you will see the missiles and drones of Iran raining down on innocent civilians. Look back; you will see the mistakes of isolationism. Look forward, and you will see there is a bipartisan path to supporting humanitarian relief globally, to supporting aid to Israel against Hamas, to investing in border security, and to taking up and passing a robust supplemental, as we can and as we should.

For that reason, I join my colleagues in opposing the motion made by my colleague from Kansas.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today, alongside my colleagues, including Senator COONS and Senator MURRAY, to implore my colleagues to hold firm in their support of Ukraine.

I have sat here for the last hour and listened to these speeches and listened

to some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle—which, I know, does not reflect all of them—and this is what I came away with: the focus on “Oh, you just want to go backward,” the analogies to talking about past decisions in Munich and Vietnam. We all are students of history. I am focused on now. I am focused on what is happening now.

Like my colleagues here, I have strongly condemned the massacre, the terrorist attack by Hamas—and the democracy of Israel. We stand with Israel and the right to defend, but we also stand with the idea that we should continue to provide humanitarian relief in Gaza and around the world.

I think one of the ironies of the statement of our colleague from Ohio—and some of our other colleagues—was that he failed to mention that, actually, Israel has come out this week also supporting the humanitarian aid. So that is one thing that I think needs to get corrected.

The second, as we look at where we are now, he mentioned Vladimir Putin, called him “a bad guy.” Those were his words, “a bad guy.” I think it is a lot more than that. This is a tyrant. This is a ruler who has committed war crimes, who has downed passenger planes, who has invaded a democracy. Let’s get the facts straight about Vladimir Putin.

The other thing is that, now, to not see this as connected is just plain wrong. What kind of drones was Russia using? Iranian drones. Who took the meeting with some of their senior officials from Russia? Who went there? Hamas. Hamas went to Russia after this terrorist attack.

When we stand for democracies in one place, we stand for democracies in other places.

Our colleague from Ohio referred to some of the President’s requests as a “hodgepodge”—a “hodgepodge.” I was thinking of that word and what is in this request and this budget: protection of a nuclear plant, the largest nuclear plant not just in Ukraine but in Europe. When his predecessor, Senator Portman, and I were in Ukraine, when we met with President Zelenskyy—where we actually talked about the strong support and the strong Ukrainian community in Ohio and in Minnesota—when we met with him, a major focus of ours was the nuclear plant because we didn’t know how long the Ukrainians were able to hold the line to protect that plant from not just contamination in Ukraine but contamination all over Europe. That is what is in what our colleague has called a “hodgepodge” of a budget.

What else? Supporting NATO. I was just with the leader of Estonia—a small country, yes, but they have given over 1 percent of their military budget—of the budget of their country—to Ukraine.

Are we just going to turn away on NATO because we think it is a “hodgepodge” to support our allies in coun-

tries like Great Britain, our allies in countries like France and Germany and Estonia and Latvia and Lithuania and Georgia and, yes, Ukraine? We are just going to say it is a “hodgepodge”?

What else is in that “hodgepodge”? Well, what else is in the “hodgepodge” are things like air defense, things like munitions, things like small arms. That is what we are talking about here when we talk about the help that we give to Ukraine.

Then I looked at some of the percentages, as I sat here, of other small nations that have given much more than the United States, where it is something like 0.3 percent—right? These countries are at over 1 percent in the help that they have given Ukraine. They have taken in 4 million—count that, 4 million—refugees in Europe. So when we help Ukraine, we are not doing it alone, colleagues. We are standing with our allies. We are standing with our best trading partners. We are standing with the world for democracy.

This is not in a vacuum. This is, as the President once said, a big effing deal.

What about Vladimir Putin? Senator BENNET got at this. He is failing. He tried to capture Kyiv, but he failed. He tried to wipe Ukraine off the map, but he failed. He tried to break the Ukrainian spirit, but he has made it stronger. He tried to break NATO, but NATO has grown.

Ukraine has persevered against all odds. To abandon our partners now would be a dereliction of our duty to defend a democracy and an embarrassment to this Nation, and, yes, it would create a much bigger national security risk not just for our allies but for our country.

I have had the privilege of visiting Ukraine not just with Senator Portman but on another visit, as well, with a number of our Republican colleagues. Each time, I was struck by the strength of the people who put their lives on the line: the ballerina who has to don camo and go to the frontline, the cafe owner donating food to people in need, the deejay at the national call center using her platform to find missing loved ones.

We must not forget President Zelenskyy’s words in September:

There is not a soul in Ukraine that does not feel gratitude to you, America.

That is what we have to remember. They are watching in Ukraine. The democracies are watching. And, as Leader MCCONNELL has said, “think of it as an axis of evil: China, Russia, and Iran.”

This is not just a test for Ukraine. It is a test for the United States and for the free world, and the path toward greater security for all of us is simple: Help Ukraine win the war.

I yield the floor.

The Senator from Oregon is with us today to speak.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I once again join my colleagues in com-

ing to the floor in opposition to this short-sighted proposal and in support of a comprehensive supplemental funding bill that responds to the full range of immediate global challenges facing our country. This includes arming and equipping Ukraine and Israel, aiding our partners in the Indo-Pacific, and providing the necessary assistance to adequately address dire humanitarian needs around the world.

To only provide urgently needed support to Israel, as my colleague’s proposal would do, would miss the bigger picture. And that is precisely what Putin and Hamas are hoping for. This proposal ignores the reality that these conflicts are part of a shared fight to preserve democracy, confront autocracy and defend the values of the free world.

Over the past 75 years, these shared values and the advancement of democracy across the world have benefited the American people by making the world more predictable, increasing our national security, lowering the cost of goods, and providing opportunities for American businesses. Europe is a critical trading partner for the U.S., and in my home state of New Hampshire, we export about \$3 billion worth of goods and services to Europe annually.

So it is in our collective interest to continue supporting our partners to further the democratic advancement in countries across the world, provide an alternative to China and Russia, and increase America’s security and prosperity.

We know that our allies need weapons now, but bullets and bombs alone will not solve these challenges in their entirety. Humanitarian assistance, which provides for the basic needs of those who find themselves in the crosshairs of the world’s conflicts and crises, supports our security objectives in Israel, Ukraine, and across the globe. In Gaza, the United States has long worked with our Israeli and Egyptian allies to ensure that humanitarian aid is properly and efficiently vetted and delivered. The U.S. has a rigorous system in place to screen and certify implementers on the ground who make sure that food, water, and fuel go to the places and people that need them—not to Hamas. And in Ukraine, the United States has stood by men, women, and children as they fight off a brutal invading force. A failure to continue to support assistance for Ukraine could mean that 12 million fewer people will get the humanitarian assistance they need right now—aid that has gone to emergency food and shelter, basic healthcare, access to safe drinking water, and basic hygiene kits. This funding is simple. It will save lives. We must deliver.

Now, make no mistake; our adversaries are watching what the United States does. It is no coincidence that Iran backs Hamas’s campaign in Israel while also supplying Russia with lethal drones to use in Ukraine. China’s coercive behavior toward Taiwan and the

broader Indo-Pacific region may very well depend on if the U.S. is willing to stand on the side of democracy in Europe and the Middle East. Dictators like to stick together. And while they stick together, they seek to divide us from our allies and divert our attention and our resources. We cannot pick and choose when to stand up to autocrats—or there will be no free world left to defend.

I will keep coming back here and keep objecting as long as there are short-sighted and partisan proposals that do not adequately address the breadth of our national security challenges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled recess: Senator MERKLEY, Senator LEE, and Senator CORNYN.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, our colleague from Kansas has come to the floor and asked for unanimous consent for a bill of some major significance.

We have heard a lot of my colleagues explain why this Israel-only bill would be a disaster, because it throws Ukraine overboard.

And then I heard his rebuttal. His rebuttal was, “Well, why not do Israel alone?” as if we hadn’t had this conversation for the last hour and a half. We know the answer: because the House has said it will pass an Israel-alone bill, leaving Ukraine abandoned.

So this UC is about abandoning Ukraine. That has powerful international consequences. Allow Ukraine to be torn apart by Putin’s brutal invasion—that is what this UC does. It makes a group of American Senators Putin’s best friends. This bill—this UC, this unanimous consent for this bill—will shatter the Atlantic alliance, deeply, deeply damaging the power of democracies working together. This bill will fracture NATO because if we don’t stand with Ukraine, how many doubts creep in about any enduring effort to defend a smaller country assaulted by a dictator next door?

This bill will destroy American leadership in defending democracies. This bill will empower dictators around the world. They will conclude that they can outlast the attention span of a coalition of democratic republics as long as they stay the course.

Some of my colleagues in support of this bill say it is costing a lot of money. The budget that Russia is dedicating to this battle is, some estimate, 30 percent—30 percent—of their defense expenditures. Our GDP here is 1½ percent—1½ percent versus 30 percent. If we can’t stay the course when the question is \$1.50 out of every \$100, when would we ever stay the course?

The last time this globe saw such complicity blockading a vicious con-

queror was when Chamberlain went to Munich.

In Munich, Chamberlain told Hitler: You can take that massive slice of Czechoslovakia, and England will look the other way. We will simply declare peace in our time.

But that appeasement by Chamberlain didn’t produce peace in our time. Instead, that appeasement of Hitler stoked Hitler’s appetite for conquering adjacent lands. That appeasement of Hitler set the stage for the Second World War, with massive loss of life and treasure for the United States of America and nations around the world.

Appeasing Putin today is as wrong as appeasing Hitler 85 years ago. We must instead stand with the freedom-loving, fierce-fighting, democracy-defending people of the Republic of Ukraine.

If you come to this Chamber and you have followed former President Trump’s lead in loving Putin, then say yes to this unanimous consent request and throw Ukraine under the bus. If you love China, love their authoritarian conquests, love their desire to invade Taiwan, then come to this floor and support this unanimous consent request for this bill and throw Ukraine under the bus. But if you care about freedom; if you are a champion of democracy; if you believe that democracies must stand together against tyranny, against autocracy, against imperialist invaders; if you respect the courage and fortitude of the people of Ukraine, then absolutely say that you object to this UC request, that you object to this bill.

We here in the U.S. Senate must not countenance Putin appeasement. We must not countenance complicity and another Munich moment. So I join my colleagues today in preparing to object to this bill.

I yield to my colleague from Washington State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is to be recognized next.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this is a moment in history where we have the chance to stand up and provide assistance to an ally, an important ally, in a tough part of the world that has a lot of enemies in common with the United States.

Israel was savagely attacked without provocation on the morning of October 7 of this year, just over a month ago. The most unspeakably savage human attacks were carried out on men and women of Israel whose offense was simple: living in Israel. The people of Hamas wanted them dead because of the fact that they are Jewish and they live in Israel. Their humanity, their religion, their ancestry, and their geography all qualified them to be deemed unworthy of living by the savages of Hamas. These savages will continue in their butchery and, in so doing, degrade humanity for as long as they can get away with it.

Longstanding relationships between the United States and Israel have set

us on a course in which we can reasonably be expected to provide reasonable assistance to Israel.

Now, to be clear, what Israel is asking of us is not grand. They are not asking us to go there and fight their war for them, nor are they asking us to provide hundreds of billions of dollars over many years in order to help them achieve that effort—no. It is a relatively modest request that they are making of us. Compared to other requests that we are considering from other parts of the world, including and especially from Ukraine, this is a modest one.

This is, moreover, an effort that they believe they can carry out successfully in a matter of weeks or months, not something spanning out over the better part of a decade.

Finally, there is overwhelming bipartisan, bicameral support for aid to Israel. It has already passed the House of Representatives. It is done. We could bring it up right now, we could pass it today, and it could be on the desk of the President of the United States at the Oval Office, just a few blocks from here, by tonight.

To my knowledge, there is not a single Member of this body who would object to collapsing, consolidating the otherwise burdensome and time-consuming process that it takes to bring a bill to the floor at the U.S. Senate. We could have this done today, and I predict that the vote would be overwhelming—if not unanimous, then very nearly so—with the number of dissenting votes probably in the single digits, probably in the low single digits, if, in fact, there were any “no” votes at all.

So the point here is that you have two proposals, two ideas to offer support in two different conflicts. One is overwhelmingly popular and bipartisan and could easily pass both Houses. The other is troubling and fraught with questions and also happens to be the proposal—the one for Ukraine—that is a lot more expensive and that involves a conflict that is now, we are being told, a conflict that is likely to stretch out for the better part of a decade with no end in sight. And that is a conflict wherein—since the beginning of last year, we have spent \$113 billion on the conflict in Ukraine. They are, moreover, analytically distinct, just as they are geographically distinct. They involve different considerations. We opt to consider them together.

This is one of the real maladies of Washington today, is the fact that, in many instances, Congress can’t seem to resist the impulse to consolidate support for one thing and use that as leverage to bring about support for something else for which there is no comparably large, bipartisan, broad-based support. That is unfortunate.

The people of Israel need this aid now. Let’s get this done now. We will consider Ukraine on its own merits. There is no reason to delay. We should bring this up today, get it passed

today, and get it signed into law this very evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, tomorrow, President Biden is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and it is safe to say their meeting comes at an especially fraught time. There is a war in the Middle East, a war in Europe, and growing tensions in the Indo-Pacific.

In each case, the United States and China have aligned with opposing powers. China is financing the Russian war while America is supporting Ukraine. China is propping up the Iranian regime and terrorist proxies while the United States is backing Israel's righteous defense. China is threatening its own invasion of Taiwan while the United States stands firmly in support of Taiwan's defense.

In addition to these conflicts on the world stage, the United States is facing more direct threats from the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party. Economic relations have deteriorated due to China's subversive trade practices.

The Chinese Communist Party is holding three American hostages, including Houston native Mark Swidan, who has been imprisoned and tortured for more than a decade.

More than 70,000 Americans a year are being killed by a synthetic opioid, fentanyl, which is manufactured using precursor chemicals that come from—you guessed it—China.

Earlier this year, a Chinese surveillance balloon traveled across the United States, marking a new level of bravado for the Chinese Communist Party.

So suffice it to say this is an especially fraught time for U.S.-China relations, but President Biden should not give the Chinese Communist Party or President Xi a free pass. I hope the President will deliver a clear message to President Xi that China's aggressive and hostile actions will not be met with kid gloves. We have a responsibility to the American people and to our allies to deal with threats from China straightforwardly and head-on.

Strong leadership from the President is important, but Congress has an important role to play too. For example, we have a major piece of unfinished business that is a key to our efforts to counter threats from China, and that is the National Defense Authorization Act. This year's National Defense Authorization Act—or NDAA, as we call it—includes a range of provisions related to long-term strategic competition with China, and it is time to finish that bill and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

The Senate passed the NDAA at the end of July, and here we are in November. I hope this week, after more than 3½ months of waiting, we can finally

begin to vote on the formal conference process. This will be key to ironing out the differences between the House and the Senate so we can deliver a bill to the President's desk that is truly tough on China and deals with the threat in a realistic and clear-eyed fashion.

The Biden administration has moved away from the idea of decoupling from China and now focuses on derisking. Frankly, that makes a lot of sense to me because it is hard to ignore a population of 1.4 billion people on the other side of the planet. But we do need to derisk, and that requires some very specific tasks.

We want to reduce America's reliance on China for key national security interests, but we don't necessarily want to completely decouple. I couldn't care less how many businesses want to invest in Starbucks or Burger Kings in China, but I care a lot about American investment in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and advanced semiconductors.

We know that derisking is harder than it sounds because China does not play by the rules, as we know. The Chinese Communist Party has become increasingly aggressive in its efforts to gain power and influence, embracing illicit tactics like intellectual property theft, for which it is infamous, forced technology transfers, and predatory lending.

It is important to understand that this strategy by the Chinese Communist Party doesn't just benefit China's economy but also its military. In China, there is no bright line separating the military and civilian sectors. This is part of a very intentional strategy known as military-civil fusion, which promotes development of dual-use technologies. In short, the Chinese Communist Party is focused on shoring up technologies that bolster its military strength and its economic power at the same time.

Unfortunately, American investors are fueling the success of Chinese military-civil fusion, possibly unwittingly, without even knowing exactly what is happening. I am not talking about covert theft of intellectual property; I am talking about direct investments in Chinese companies. American investors are funneling money into companies that are developing artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and next-generation semiconductors, all of which benefit the People's Liberation Army. Intentionally or not, these American investors are fueling China's military strength and funding capabilities that could eventually be used against the United States and our allies.

Joseph Stalin reportedly said:

We will hang the capitalists with the rope they sell us.

Metaphorically, the United States has provided the Chinese Communist Party with a lot of metaphorical rope.

At the end of 2020, U.S. investments in Chinese companies totaled \$2.3 trillion in market value. That includes \$21

billion in semiconductors, \$54 billion in military companies, and a whopping \$221 billion in artificial intelligence. That is American investors in China, in those sectors.

We now know China as the single largest national security threat of our time, and it is clear that the United States entities are helping bankroll its rise. While we have some information—*anecdotal really*—that illustrates the scope of the problem, we need more information. We need more visibility. We need a better understanding of how certain U.S. investments benefit the Chinese Communist Party and its military buildup and its belligerent and aggressive actions.

Thankfully, this is a bipartisan priority, and I am glad the Senate took action over the summer. The Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, and I introduced an outbound transparency provision that was adopted as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, and it passed by a vote of 91 to 6. You don't get that kind of bipartisan vote around here very often. So I think it sends a very strong message.

This measure simply requires companies to notify Treasury of investments in specific sectors, including advanced semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and hypersolics. This is not a broad bill that prohibits investments in the People's Republic of China. This is designed to provide information to Congress's policymakers about where that money is going in particular sectors where we are in the greatest level of competition with China.

This is all about visibility, about transparency. It will help us understand where the money is going and allow us to take appropriate action, if required.

Our colleagues in the House are overwhelmingly supportive of outbound investment transparency, though there isn't the same level of consensus that there is here in the Senate. Members of the House have suggested everything from notification requirements to sanctions, to outright prohibitions on some investments.

We work very diligently with stakeholders here in the Senate to try to build consensus. And I think we have achieved that on our outbound transparency provision. But I do expect our colleagues in the House will have a thorough debate about various options. And I have to say, we are fortunate that we have two experts on this topic in the conference committee of the House.

Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL leads the House Foreign Affairs Committee and is a powerful and trusted voice on matters related to China. He recently introduced his own outbound investment legislation and is committed to including a strong outbound provision in the NDAA.

The conference committee for the Defense authorization bill also includes Chairman MIKE GALLAGHER, who leads

the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. His committee has been investigating problematic investments in Chinese companies, and he has been clear, based upon those investigations, that Congress needs to enact strong guardrails around investments in China.

But before you do that, you need good information, which is what our outbound investment transparency provision provides. I am glad Chairman GALLAGHER and Chairman MCCAUL will bring their expertise to the Defense authorization bill conference committee. And I am optimistic they can work out with our Senate colleagues a provision that will earn strong bipartisan support.

After 3½ months of waiting, I hope the Senate will finally vote to begin the NDAA conference committee process this week. Once that happens, the two Chambers can work together in earnest to reach an agreement on a final version of the bill.

Here in the Senate, I appreciate Chairman REED and Ranking Member WICKER for their leadership throughout this process and their support of this amendment with Senator CASEY.

I also want to express my gratitude to Senator SULLIVAN of Alaska for his support and his commitment to putting a strong outbound investment provision in this year's NDAA.

There is a lot of work that remains to be done, but there is clearly—clearly—an overwhelming bipartisan desire to counter threats from China through an outbound investment measure. As I noted, this amendment passed the Senate by 91 to 6.

In the House, Members on both sides have endorsed varying proposals that address the same problem from different angles. I don't understand why anyone would be opposed to outbound investment transparency. All we are asking for is information that may or may not require us to take further action.

This information is key to our national security and will help the United States manage risks related to China. And I hope we can get the job done soon.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:51 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJAN).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL FARMER OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND THE MARINES AND SAILORS OF 1ST PLATOON, COMPANY G, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate offered a resolution that I was proud to offer, "Honoring the Distinguished Service of Captain Samuel Farmer of the United States Marine Corps and the Marines and Sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment," and I would like, if I might, to say a word or two about that resolution here this afternoon.

Why the resolution and who exactly are the marines and sailors of 1st Platoon? Well, I will tell you who they are. They were the individuals stationed at Abbey Gate on that fateful day in August of 2021 when the United States was in the midst of a major evacuation operation, and a terrorist from the Islamic State came to Abbey Gate in Kabul, Afghanistan, and detonated a suicide vest that killed 13 soldiers and hundreds of civilians, including 9 members of this platoon. Nine of the thirteen who were killed were from 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

Who is Sam Farmer? Well, he was their commander. Sam is from the great State of Missouri. He is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University. Upon his graduation, he was commissioned into the Marine Corps and became an infantry officer. Upon completing his training, he took command of a rifle platoon there in Company G, known as Ghost Company. His platoon was Ghost 1.

Then, in August of 2021, Sam and his platoon found themselves in Kabul, Afghanistan. Sam's platoon was charged with security there at Abbey Gate, and there are—I think even now, 2 years removed from the disaster there, we don't fully appreciate the heroism of all of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and others who were there that day but particularly, if I might, of this platoon, of the men Sam commanded.

Something that most people don't know is that Sam's platoon went for almost 2 days without food and water. Now, why was that? Is it because there wasn't any available for them? No, that is not it. It is because this platoon, in the midst of this evacuation, this incredibly tense scene, gave up their own food and water for 2 days to the Afghan women and children who were waiting in the crowds, hoping to be evacuated. That is the kind of men who were standing there on guard that day. That is the kind of man Sam Farmer is.

Of those 9 servicemembers killed—8 marines, 1 Navy corpsman—another Missourian was among their ranks, someone whom I have had occasion to talk about on this floor several times before—LCpl Jared Schmitz, also from Missouri.

Nine were killed from that platoon. Many others were wounded, and that includes Sam Farmer himself, the platoon commander. But even with his wounds, even in the midst of this disaster as it unfolded, Sam continued to serve, his fellow platoon members continued to serve and to complete their mission.

I just want to make sure that we honor them for what they did, that we honor them for securing the airport and facilitating the evacuation of American citizens, permanent residents, Embassy workers, and special immigrant visa holders. Whatever you think of our withdrawal from Afghanistan, we should be able to honor the men and women who served so bravely, including Sam Farmer and the members of his platoon.

You know, I have had the privilege to get to know Sam just a little bit. He grew up not too far from where I did in central Missouri. His parents, Chris and Anne, are schoolteachers at Fort Osage School District, which is in the Buckner area, for those who know Missouri, just to the west of my hometown of Lexington, MO. Sam has a younger brother, Jack.

If you meet Sam, what you will find is that he is self-effacing, doesn't like to talk about his own achievements, doesn't like really to talk about himself at all. What he likes to talk about is his service and the men and women he served with. What he likes to talk about is his honor in being a U.S. marine.

To be honest with you, I don't know that he would particularly like me saying too much about him on the floor today, but I thought it was important to honor him because Sam, just last month, completed his service with the U.S. Marine Corps. On the occasion of his separation, I offered this resolution, which details his service and the service of the members of his platoon.

You know, I have to say I think about those who have served whom I know, and I think about particularly my own uncle, Gene Hammer, who served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. I observed over the years that my Uncle Gene—he served before I was born, but, you know, he served, he came home. He won a number of medals, but when he came home, he put those medals away in a drawer and never talked about it ever after. He didn't want to talk about it. He didn't want to talk about himself, didn't want to talk about what he did, didn't want to talk about those medals, didn't want to talk about any of it. I can certainly understand, and I certainly respect that.

But I will just say that whether Sam feels that way or not, I bet one of these days, Sam's children are going to want to know what he did for his country, and I bet his family is going to want to honor his service to his country. Frankly, his family and his future children deserve to know what he and the members of his platoon did for this country.

So I hope this resolution that the Senate has passed and adopted honoring Sam and his platoon—I hope that maybe one day, he will be able to show that to his kids and say “Well, here, you can read about what we did all those years ago” and that his parents, Chris and Anne, will be able to hang that up and say “This is what my son did for our country, proudly serving, this young man from Missouri who represents, frankly, the best of who we are and who we can be.”

So it is a privilege to get to honor Sam, to congratulate him on his service to our country, to the Marine Corps, to congratulate him on his service, his leadership of that platoon not just on that fateful day but for all of the days he was commander, and the leadership, the courage, and the bravery he has shown ever since.

I will just end with this. Let's take the opportunity to honor the sacrifice of those marines and sailors. They truly embody the motto “Semper Fidelis,” always faithful.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

IRAN

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, since Joe Biden took office, Iran and its proxies have attacked American troops in the Middle East at least 135 times. Let me say that again: 135 attacks on American troops since January 2021. What is worse is that 52 of those attacks have happened in the last month since Hamas conducted its murderous rampage in its ongoing war against Israel. These rocket and drone attacks against American bases in Iraq and Syria have caused at least 56 service-member injuries, 25 traumatic brain injuries, and 2 Americans have died because of these attacks.

Just like they have been for years, these attacks are financed by Iran, Israel's greatest enemy. These attacks—let's be clear—are meant to kill Americans and to increase the conflict and the violence in the Middle East.

So what has President Biden done in response to these attacks? Has he punished Iran and its proxies for killing Americans? Has he made it clear that the United States will not tolerate these attacks in the future? No, not even close.

Consider the Biden administration has also failed to enforce oil sanctions on Iran, giving them over \$90 billion, and now President Biden is, reportedly, once again, considering the release of the remaining \$10 billion Iran is owed as part of its hostage exchange. What kind of message does it send to the people attacking our troops to give them another \$10 billion more to fund their activities against the United States and Israel?

In fact, since the terrible atrocity of October 7, Joe Biden has not changed his Iran policy in a single way. Of the 135 attacks on Americans, the Biden

administration has hit back fewer than 10 times. Think about that; 135 times they hit us, fewer than 10 times did we hit them back. When the attacks against Americans increased in October, President Biden didn't even authorize a response for 9 days. It took at least 13 attacks on Americans for President Biden to finally react. And what did he do? The bare minimum, striking empty weapons storage facilities in eastern Syria.

After these strikes, Secretary Blinken said:

My warning to the Ayatollah was that if they continue to move against those troops, we will respond, and he should be prepared.

Well, it is not surprising that shooting a bunch of empty warehouses doesn't scare Iran. In fact, it emboldened them in the form of 22 more attacks. That is right. Proxies attacked American troops' positions 22 more times after that initial pathetic response.

When Secretary Austin announced those strikes, he said:

The United States does not seek conflict and has no intention nor desire to engage in further hostilities.

Well, Lloyd Austin and Joe Biden may not seek conflict, but Iran does. And it will continue to try to kill our troops until they face real consequences, until they are scared straight.

On Sunday, we finally did hit back again, but, again, we didn't even try to hold the real bad guys accountable; instead, the administration, once again, shot only at expendable proxies. Iran obviously was not deterred by this latest pathetic response. How do we know that? Once again, these proxies have committed four more attacks against Americans since Sunday.

Iran has had a proxy strategy for decades. It uses groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and militias in Iraq and Syria to deny responsibility for its campaign of terror against Israel and the United States. When we kill their proxies, all we do is validate their proxy strategy.

Iran will fight to the last Arab, but Iran will not fight if we hold the things at risk that they hold most dear: their shock troops in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, their Quds Force or, if necessary, sites and facilities in Iran itself.

The United States needs Iran to know that we will not tolerate these attacks. We need to make sure Iran knows that we will not tolerate these attacks and that any attacks by Iran's proxies will be treated as an attack by Iran on the United States and be met with devastating consequences.

That is one reason I will be introducing legislation later this week that would strengthen sanctions against the Iranian transfer of missiles and drone technologies to terrorists and even other nations like Russia, which uses them in its war against Ukraine.

It will also stop Iran from developing the kind of long-range missiles that

can threaten the U.S. homeland because, again, if we let Iran continue to shoot at American troops in the Middle East without shooting back at the Iranians who are directing those attacks, what will they do if they get their hands on missiles that can target America? What will they do if they get their hands on a nuclear weapon?

It is time, today, to make Iran, once again, fear the United States before more Americans die.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. REED assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Nebraska.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, well, here we are again. I am looking at a floor where there is nobody on it. In fact, we haven't even taken a vote today. It has been 7 weeks since our last government shutdown face-off, and nobody is here.

Folks, we have very serious problems facing our country. We have an open border. It is a humanitarian and security crisis. We have \$34 trillion in debt. Let me put that in perspective. That is about \$256,000 for everybody in this country. And that is roughly the cost of a second mortgage for people in Nebraska. So it is like you own your own home, and now you have another home on top of that—only it is not a home; it is your Federal debt. And, of course, we are facing another government shutdown because we have not passed a budget.

When I was Governor of Nebraska, one of the things I told my team is that passing a budget is our most important thing we do: We fund the government. We would get involved 6 months before. We would give our budget to the legislature to start working on that budget.

Now, let me tell you how it is supposed to work here in the U.S. Senate. We are supposed to pass 12 appropriations bills. For the first time in 5 years, the Senate Appropriations Committee indeed passed 12 appropriations bills before the August recess—first time in 5 years before the August recess. Two came out June 22. The other 10 came out in July.

And yet, for months, our leader sat on those appropriations bills. We did not vote on them. We did nothing. We should have been amending, debating, and voting on those bills, and we did nothing. And here we are again, facing a government shutdown.

Now, it is a little different this time around because we have actually voted on 3 of those 12 appropriations bills. They were crammed together in what is called a minibus. And since that minibus has been voted on and passed, we have done nothing again, which means we have done 25 percent of our work—25 percent.

Now, to most people, 25 percent is a failing grade. Leading up to the September 30 deadline to pass the budget,

our majority leader had kept us in recess 5 of 7 weeks. We, typically, come in on Tuesday and leave on Thursday—or come in on Monday and leave on Thursday.

Do you know what most people in my State do? They work Monday through Friday. And when they have to get the job done, guess what they will also do? They will work weekends.

The House, in October, canceled their State home period. We didn't. The House has passed 7 of those 12 appropriations bills. Now, that is only 58 percent, but that is still more than twice as many as we have passed.

Why aren't we working? Why aren't we working on the people's business here?

We should be in session every day to get our work done. So far this year, we have voted 307 times—307. That is less than one a day. Only 35 percent of those votes have been on legislation. The other 65 percent have been on judicial candidates and nominations and so forth.

We can work harder. Our constituents work hard every day. Nebraskans work hard every day. We need to be here working on the people's business. I am ready to work each and every day until we pass these appropriations bills. We should get all 12 of them passed. We should work with the House to pass theirs, send them to the President, and it all should be done before September 30. And yet here we are, approaching November 17, and yet another deadline, another threatened government shutdown, another continuing resolution. I am ready to work. I know my colleagues are ready to work.

Mr. Leader, let us work. Call us together. Let us vote. Let's get the people's business done. Let's pass a budget. We should have an open government and a closed border. We need to control our spending and our debt. These are serious issues. Please, let us work.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

WORLD DIABETES DAY

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, there are several important domestic and international matters before us that require our urgent attention, not least of which is the need to find a bipartisan path to keep the Federal Government open and fund it within the next 3 days to prevent a national economic calamity.

We have a lot of work to do. A lot of priorities vie for our attention. But today, on World Diabetes Day, I rise to address another pressing issue that I believe also requires our timely action.

I want to uplift the findings of my new bipartisan white paper, released today on this World Diabetes Day. It shines a light on the urgent need for Congress to finally address the high costs of insulin and pass Federal legislation to cap the costs of insulin for every American who needs it.

This report is issued jointly today from my office in collaboration with my partner in this work, my friend the Republican Senator from Louisiana, JOHN KENNEDY. Senator KENNEDY and I have been working to address the high costs of insulin because this is a problem that is particularly acute in our States.

Over 12 percent of adults in my home State of Georgia—12 percent—are diabetic, but in Louisiana, that number climbs to over 14 percent, and many of these are people who cannot afford access to this lifesaving drug.

This is what we hear from the people in our States, but this new report, for the first time, takes a comprehensive look to learn more about who and where these people are. And what we found in our original analysis is that there are more than 800 counties across the country where you see the tragic convergence of high rates of diabetes coupled with high rates of uninsured people—high levels of diabetes, high levels of uninsured people. And we call these insulin deserts. These insulin deserts—some 813 counties across our country—are in the top half of counties across the country for both their percentage of individuals who are uninsured and who have diabetes—over 800 counties. And over 100 of these insulin desert counties are in my home State of Georgia.

Over 75 million nonelderly people live in insulin deserts. That includes more than 12 million Americans who are uninsured. In fact, among nonelderly individuals, insulin deserts have nearly double the percentage of uninsured residents as those who live in nondeserts.

So our analysis shows these insulin deserts are concentrated in the South and the Southeast. But it also shows that there are insulin deserts all over the country, concentrated in the South and in the Southeast, but you see them from Washington State to Texas, to North Dakota, to Florida, to New Jersey. In other words, this is a national problem.

And who are the people in these insulin deserts? Well, as compared to uninsured folks in other parts of the country, uninsured Americans who live in these places are, one, more likely to fall under the Federal poverty line than their counterparts. They are less likely to be college graduates than uninsured Americans in nondeserts. They are more likely to be people of color than uninsured Americans in nondeserts. In fact, in 2019, Black Americans were twice as likely as non-Hispanic White Americans to die from diabetes.

And uninsured Americans in insulin deserts are less likely to have access to sufficient internet service than uninsured Americans. And why does this matter? One of the reasons it matters is because it means that they have less access to patient assistance programs offered online by insulin manufacturers, and we know the challenges that

uninsured people experience when it comes to accessing healthcare.

This report deals with the uninsured people who are diabetics and the convergence of those two things.

So what does all of this mean? What this report illustrates is that even with the steps private industry has taken to lower insulin costs—steps that are good, that many of us in Congress pressed them to do. But it is still voluntary, and, by the way, they could be rescinded at any time.

And even with the steps more than 20 States have taken to institute State-level insulin copay caps and even with our success in lowering out-of-pocket insulin costs for Medicaid beneficiaries, there are still millions of Americans and communities across our country that are being left behind. They live in these insulin deserts concentrated in the South and the Southeast, but you see them all over the country. They are being left behind.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, in 2019, uninsured people with diabetes spent close to \$1,000 on insulin alone. If you are poor and you are uninsured, that number is unaffordable. We know that number includes the 246,000 insured Americans who use insulin every year, and we know that number rises to more than 540,000 Americans when we include those who experience a lapse in coverage.

But even when we look past the uninsured, we know that when we include those Americans with private insurance, the total number of Americans who are left vulnerable to potential spikes in insulin prices jumps to some 2.75 million Americans.

Here is the thing: Insulin should not be expensive. It is a 100-year-old drug. When it was invented, the patent was sold for \$1. It certainly shouldn't be unaffordable.

For the first time, this analysis, which my office releases today, paints a clear picture of who is needlessly suffering and whom we will leave behind if we do not pass my \$35 cap for the insured and the uninsured.

We already know what happens when people can't afford their insulin. We know that one in four diabetics—listen—ration their insulin. In the United States of America, people are rationing insulin, getting insulin from friends who have relatives who have passed away. I spent time with a young woman in my State named Lacey, who is a graduate student, was meeting people on Facebook meetup groups and then meeting them in dimly lit parking lots at the local Chick-fil-A to get insulin in the United States of America, a drug, invented 100 years ago, sold for \$1.

That is not right. But not only is it not right, it is not smart. It is bad fiscal policy. We know that every year Federal and State government spending on hospitalizations related to complications from diabetes totals more than \$11 billion. That is more money

than it would cost to cap the cost of insulin for everybody who needs it.

And, so, yes, I am a pastor; I am going to make the moral argument, but I am saying to you that it is not right, and it is not smart.

And perhaps that is why there are many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who care about this issue and have long been working to make insulin more affordable for diabetics.

I want to commend my colleagues, Senator JEAN SHAHEEN and SUSAN COLLINS, for their leadership over the years that has helped keep this issue on Washington's front burner. I look forward to our continued partnership in the coming months on this issue.

I was proud that last year this Chamber passed a provision from my legislation, the Affordable Insulin Now Act, that was signed into law as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. Since January 1, that provision has been saving our seniors money by capping out-of-pocket insulin costs at no more than \$35 a month for Medicare patients. And my original Affordable Insulin Now Act included a 35-dollar-a-month insulin copay cap for patients on private insurance as well, and it almost passed this Chamber.

We got close. Now it is time to get it done. We weren't successful in getting that provision over the finish line. But I was proud that earlier this year, I got together with my friend JOHN KENNEDY, and we introduced a new bipartisan version of the Affordable Insulin Now Act that would finish the work we started by capping insulin costs at \$35 a month for insured Americans and uninsured Americans.

Since then, Senator KENNEDY and I have been working to build support for our legislation, which we have committed will be—listen—completely paid for. And I am proud that support for our plan has continued to grow. I am proud our bipartisan bill has the support now of a broad coalition of Senators from both sides of the aisle, from Senators FETTERMAN to PETERS, to HAWLEY, to VANCE, to WARREN, to CASEY, to BRITT, to TUBERVILLE, to BRAUN, to ROSEN—Senators who don't agree on a whole range of things, but we all know this makes sense.

Our bipartisan plan to lower insulin costs for the insured and uninsured also has the support of organizations like the American Diabetes Association, the American College of Physicians, Protect Our Care, and First Focus Campaign for Children.

So on World Diabetes Day, I encourage all of my colleagues to read this report, which we released today, because it drives home the work we should be focused on for the more than 7 million Americans with diabetes who use insulin, and it reminds us of whom we leave behind when we fail to act.

Dr. King said: Of all the injustices, inequality in healthcare is the most shocking and the most inhumane.

Shame on us if we can't get this done.

And so in closing—and nobody believes a Baptist preacher when he says “in closing”—I think that this report is summed up by the story of a woman in the State of Georgia.

She said:

I have suffered with [diabetes] since the age of 11. [The] type of insulin that costs me hundreds of dollars every month at the pharmacy was released to market the year before I was diagnosed. I bought a vial in 1997 without insurance and it cost me \$18.

In 1997.

This insulin has not changed since then—

The drug hasn't changed—

but now costs hundreds of dollars. Something needs to be done to ensure we who depend on this life sustaining medicine can continue to afford it. We will literally die in a matter of days without it. It is not a matter of choice.

I agree with her, something must be done. And so let me just thank folks in my office, dedicated public servants who have been working on this issue, especially Gabi Vesey, Annie Wang, and Harper Melnick, for their work on this report. Thank you. People who need insulin really need it. It is not a matter of choice, and Congress can make a difference by passing this bipartisan legislation.

I urge my colleagues, with all that we have to do, to prioritize this work as we handle the host of other vital issues that require this body's attention.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I don't intend to try to match the eloquence of Senator WARNOCK, and I am certainly not going to repeat what he just said.

Senator WARNOCK and I have introduced—as he said—the Affordable Insulin Now Act of 2023. It would cap the price of insulin for people with private insurance and people who don't have any insurance at all at \$35 for a 30-day supply.

I have noticed that nobody in Washington ever stands up and says: I have got a lousy idea, and I need money for it.

It is always: I have got an extraordinary idea and an important idea and an effective idea, and we need to do this. We need to spend money.

And in almost all the cases, the people making that assertion are in good faith. They really believe that. And in many cases, it is true. They have a great idea. And a lot of what we do, as you know, is we make decisions, but we really—that means we balance interests. We have got a finite amount of money. We can't keep borrowing at the rate we have been borrowing. We have got a finite amount of money, and we have got to make hard decisions on what to spend that money on.

And the traditional dichotomy is, well, guns versus butter, domestic needs versus defense needs. But it is more complicated than that. Sometimes it is butter versus butter. And those are hard decisions to make, and I realize that.

The second point, I guess, I would make is that we deal with so many problems in the U.S. Congress that, frankly, we don't know how to solve. We are doing the best that we can, but we are really nibbling at around the edges. I don't know how to make a parent love their child.

We all know that if a parent doesn't show the parent's love for a child, the child is not going to stop loving the parent; the child is going to stop loving himself. And we know what that leads to.

And I don't know how. I don't know anybody who really knows how to make a parent love a child and support their children. That is one of those problems we deal with all the time. It is hard to solve. We don't really completely understand how to successfully help an addict stop being an addict. I wish we did. And there are things we can do to help the addict, but we don't really have the answer.

Sometimes we pretend we do, but we don't. We don't have the answer. I don't have the answer to stop people from hurting other people, from taking their stuff and doing it repeatedly.

And I could continue. All the easy problems are solved. And I make these two points that we have a lot of competing interests for the way we spend money and the point that there are some problems we really don't know how to solve. To assert—and you can believe me or not believe me, but if you will read the report that Senator WARNOCK talked about, you will see that he and I, I believe, are correct. This is a problem we can solve.

If I had to pick one health problem that affects the quality of life and costs our country and our system the most money, it would be diabetes. I don't know if you have ever known somebody with diabetes. It is a horrible disease, and it can't be cured. But we know how to treat it.

It is very pervasive. In my State, 44 percent of my people are affected by diabetes directly. Fourteen percent are diabetic. Another 30 percent are prediabetic. And Louisiana is not the only State with those kind of numbers.

Diabetics account for \$1 of every \$4 spent, \$1 out of every \$4 spent on healthcare in the United States of America. Think about that. The average cost of hospitalization for a diabetic—which if they can't pay for it, ultimately we all pay. The average cost of hospitalization for diabetic patients is from \$8,400 to \$23,000 a year.

And medical costs, if you look beyond the quality-of-life issue and the moral issue of just helping people who are sick, if you look at it in terms of dollars and cents, diabetes costs America \$327 billion a year. That is in medical costs and lost work and wages and lost productivity.

So we know the problem, and we know the costs. And we have a solution: Insulin. It works. It works. So why don't we make insulin available to everybody who needs it, whether they

can afford it or not? And that is what our bill does. It is not going to be free. Insulin doesn't cost that much to make, and I don't begrudge the companies who sell insulin. I don't begrudge them making a profit.

But it is bone-deep, down-to-the-mar-row stupid for us to allow someone whose diabetes can be managed by taking insulin not to take that insulin because they can't afford it. That is immoral, and that makes no sense in terms of dollars-and-cents cost to the rest of the American people. And Senator WARNOCK and I's bill would address that. It would say: If you have private insurance, great. But if you don't have any insurance at all, if you are uninsured—and a lot of Americans become uninsured every year; maybe they don't stay uninsured, but they become uninsured—and you are diabetic, we are going to cap your out-of-pocket cost at \$35 for a 30-day supply. So you have no excuse not to take your insulin to address your diabetes.

It is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do. And Senator WARNOCK and I's bill is paid for. We are not suggesting we go out and just borrow more money. This bill, our bill, is paid for. It is going to be paid for by finding other moneys in the budget.

Now, Senator WARNOCK has worked extremely hard. He is the lead author on this bill, and I thank him for his big mind and his good heart and soul on this issue.

Others have worked hard too; Senator COLLINS and Senator SHAHEEN have a bill, and we are working to try to marry our two bills, the four of us. But, ultimately, what it is going to come down to, in my opinion, is that, Senators being Senators, Senator SCHUMER is the floor leader. He is going to have to force a shotgun marriage here. He is going to have to take the good work of Senator SHAHEEN and Senator COLLINS, Senator WARNOCK and my work—whether you want to call it good or not—and say: I am going to take their efforts and put them in one bill. And Senator SCHUMER's bill will be paid for; otherwise, I am not going to vote for it, but it will be paid for.

And his bill—I will wrap it up real fast—and his bill will be paid for, and it will lower the cost of insulin for insured and uninsured.

I yield to the Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ISRAEL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024—Motion to Proceed

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 241, making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6126) making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk is reporting.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the quorum call to be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNOCK. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be vitiated.

Mr. WARNOCK. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask the quorum call be vitiated and ask consent to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask that we vitiate the quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we vitiate the quorum call so we can move to the funding of—the Israel funding bill from the House.

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is not in order.

Objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Utah.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The senior assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 241, H.R. 6126, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Roger Marshall, Mike Braun, J.D. Vance, Rand Paul, Rick Scott, Tommy Tuberville, Marsha Blackburn, Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, Eric Schmitt, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Crapo, Pete Ricketts, Ted Budd, Marco Rubio.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I move to table the motion to proceed to H.R. 6126.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 309 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The motion was agreed to. (Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The majority leader.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 6363

MR. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its 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 (H.R. 6363) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

MR. SCHUMER. 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BUTCH SPYRIDON

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator HAGERTY and myself, I want to congratulate our friend Butch Spyridon on his induction into the JA Nashville Business Hall of Fame.

Before he retired this summer, Butch served for 32 years as the top executive of the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corp, NCVV. Under his leadership, the NCVV transformed Music City into the commerce, tourism, and entertainment hub it is today. Before Butch, the country music lovers who crowd the famous honky-tonks of lower Broadway and the classical music lovers who fill the Schermerhorn made their pilgrimages to other destinations. Before Butch, corporations and nonprofits chose other conference destinations; now, they compete for space at the Music City Center. Today, music historians drawn to the city by the Bluebird Cafe, RCA Studio B, and the Ryman Auditorium can also explore the National Museum of African American Music, the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum because Butch understood the cultural importance of these interconnected genres. He was a vital part of recruiting the city's professional sports teams and pushed the effort to build massive sports complexes where they could play. He turned Independence Day and New Year's Eve celebrations into major tourism spectacles and, in 2019, welcomed the NFL Draft to lower Broadway, the most successful draft event in League history.

In 2023, Butch received the 100th star on the Music City Walk of Fame for his unparalleled contributions to the economic and cultural success of Nashville, TN. It is our privilege to congratulate him once more on this latest, greatest honor: Hall of Fame Laureate.●

TRIBUTE TO NOAH McNAUGHTON

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Noah McNaughton, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. McNaughton is a graduate of Lyman High School in Presho, SD. Currently, he is attending Dakota State University, where he studies cyber leadership and intelligence. Mr. McNaughton is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. Mr. McNaughton has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. McNaughton for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO AMELIA MULLIN

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Amelia Mullin, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Mullin is a graduate of Forest Charter School in Truckee, CA. Currently, she is attending American University, where she is majoring in international studies. Ms. Mullin is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. Ms. Mullin has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Mullin for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SHAWN ANDREWS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Shawn Andrews, the Union County Teacher of the Year from Union County High School in Lake Butler, FL.

Shawn engages with his students through lesson plans that teaches them how to have fun while solving various types of math problems. He strives for each school day to be meaningful for his students as they set out to achieve academic success. Shawn seeks to develop a learning culture that makes his students dedicated to excelling, not only in his class, but in others they are taking during the school year. He knows some days may be more challenging than others for his students, and he often works longer hours to help them.

Shawn is a mathematics teacher at Union County High School. His wife Cindy is also a teacher in the county.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Shawn for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NICOLETTE BARONE

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Nicolette Barone, the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year from Oak

Park Elementary School in Tampa, FL.

Nicolette works with her students to build their self-confidence, telling them anything is possible and by turning their extrinsic motivation into intrinsic determination. Oftentimes, she interviews her students about their favorite school memories or helps them with math assignments.

Nicolette credits her success as a teacher to those who taught her in school, her mentors, supervisors in the school district, and her parents. She believes this award represents not only her achievements but those of every student she taught.

Nicolette has been a fourth and fifth grade math teacher at Oak Park Elementary School for 7 years. She also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Tampa.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Nicolette for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DON CLERVEAUX

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Don Clerveaux, the Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year from Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary School in Miami, FL.

Don spends each school day providing inspiration and dedication to his students. He helps them to conquer academic and personal challenges in an effort for them to have a successful future. Don seeks to strengthen his students' core values in their community schools and back home. He views those values as a "cord of three" challenging to break. He also helped his fellow teachers become certified to take their students to the Everglades to learn about this important ecological region of our State.

Don is Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary School's fifth grade Science and Social Studies teacher. He also coaches football, track and field, and strength conditioning at Hialeah Gardens High School.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Don for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAREN CODY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Karen Cody, the Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year from Navarre High School in Navarre, FL.

Whether you are taking Karen's class or just stopping by, she welcomes everyone to her classroom with open arms. Her students describe her as caring and considerate of their needs. Karen knows students can find math to be unenjoyable, so she tries to find interesting ways to teach the subject.

Students continue to visit Karen's classroom long after they leave. Karen's dedication to her students is

most evident through her efforts to reach out to them individually. She wants to ensure they are successful in their academic endeavors.

Karen teaches algebra 1 at Navarre High School. She worked her way up in experience as a paraprofessional for 15 years at the school and earned her bachelor's degree and master's degrees before becoming a teacher 7 years ago.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Karen for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY FERGUSON

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Timothy Ferguson, the Sarasota County Teacher of the Year from Garden Elementary School in Venice, FL.

When Timothy moved to Florida, he was out of his comfort zone. He needed to develop a new lesson plan for students younger than he was accustomed to teaching. Since then, he has decided to lead by example to his students. When he sings during class, he tells his students that, while he was never instructed on how to sing, it shows them his willingness to try his best and to learn from his mistakes. This is what they should be doing in his and other classes in school.

Timothy wants his students to grow as musicians and is dedicated to his craft. He sees every student at the school, more than 500, once a week. This gives him the opportunity to be a positive role model in their lives.

Timothy has taught for more than 20 years. Beginning his career in New York as an instrumental music teacher and band director, Timothy moved to Florida where he now teaches music classes at Garden Elementary School for kindergarten through fifth grade students.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Timothy for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE GOFFE

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Jennie Goffe, the Hendry County Teacher of the Year from Clewiston High School in Clewiston, FL.

Jennie is a champion for career and technical education programs because they prepare her students with industry skills and gives them workforce experience. Her students can earn an average of 150 workforce certificates through the program annually.

Jennie's agricultural program allows her students to manage a 480-acre farm and care for more than 60 animals. The program allows students to harvest crops, maintain a greenhouse, grow sugarcane, and care for pastures. These skills translate to real-world farming experience.

Jennie has been an agricultural teacher at Clewiston High School for

the past 10 years. Last year, after Hurricane Ian impacted Florida, Jennie started an effort between her school's students and community members to help clean up hard hit areas throughout Fort Myers Beach. She earned her master's and bachelor's degrees in agricultural education and communications from the University of Florida.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Jennie for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SHELLY HINOJOSA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Shelly Hinojosa, the Walton County Teacher of the Year from South Walton High School in Santa Rosa Beach, FL.

Shelly's ability to help her students become civically engaged is a testament to her work as a teacher. She focuses on teaching civic responsibility and critical thinking skills to ensure they are prepared to further their education.

Shelly works with seniors on college scholarship programs to ensure they qualify and helps them fill out the application paperwork. She organizes career fairs, as well as hosts business and college visits to talk with students so they can learn about options after they graduate.

Shelly is the media specialist at South Walton High School. She develops the school's yearbook and teaches journalism to students. Shelly also won the Liz Moya Life Skills and Citizenship Award.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Shelly for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH IDSARDI

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Sarah Idsardi, the Hardee County Teacher of the Year from North Wauchula Elementary School in Wauchula, FL.

Sarah integrates creative learning activities designed to engage her students and hosts virtual interactive cultural experiences joined by students from across the world. This innovative approach helps students interact with others outside their classroom. Her favorite part of teaching is reading to her students and sharing stories with them.

Sarah considers herself to be a servant at heart. Not only does she teach, she is also a licensed foster parent and organizes tutoring services for children in vulnerable neighborhoods.

Sarah is a fourth grade teacher at North Wauchula Elementary School. She volunteers for North Wauchula's afterschool activity programs, plans accelerated reader parties, manages the Cool Cat TV morning show, and coaches the Battle of the Books Team.

She graduated from the University of Florida with bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Sarah for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAYLA JACKSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Kayla Jackson, the Highlands County Teacher of the Year from Memorial Elementary School in Avon Park, FL.

Kayla is a mentor to new teachers. She works with them on connecting with students to ensure their success. Kayla has developed into the "go to" person for teaching at her school.

Kayla supports her school's Student of the Month program and leads professional learning events for her colleagues outside of the classroom. She also serves on the school's curriculum leadership team and develops lesson plans to best accommodate students.

Kayla is a fifth grade math and science teacher who has taught at Memorial Elementary School since its opening in 2008. For many consecutive years, she has been recognized as a high impact teacher, and her students have achieved significant gains on state assessments. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Kayla for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NEDA JACKSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Neda Jackson, the Monroe County Teacher of the Year from Key West High School in Key West, FL.

Math was the first subject Neda wanted to teach as she excelled in the subject as a student. She uses her understanding of mathematical concepts to teach her students various ways to learn and develop real-life situational applications. Neda puts her most significant emphasis on students who are at risk of not graduating. Often, she will devote her time and talents to focus on these students, working personally with them to help them succeed. Her peers credit Neda's high expectations of herself for receiving this award and her students' achievements.

For the past 21 years, Neda has taught at Key West High School, where she is the lead math teacher. Her classes range from algebra II honors to liberal arts math. She has served as a math coach, as a club sponsor, social media contact, and activities co-director.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Neda for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA MCFARLAND

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Angela McFarland, the Escambia County Teacher of the Year at the Escambia Virtual Academy and West Florida High School in Pensacola, FL.

Angela designs interactive lesson plans to prepare her students for business careers. She assists students with their projects, which consist of using PowerPoint and other software programs, to ensure they grasp the lesson material. Often, her students are among the school district's most prolific earners of industry certifications in the business field.

Angela's colleagues view her as a valuable asset, not only to their students, but also as a mentor to new business class instructors at the school. She coaches these teachers and presents them at various career and technical education teacher training sessions to ensure they are prepared to guide students to success.

Angela teaches business and multimedia classes at West Florida High School and has worked in the Escambia County School District since 1996. She previously taught at Pine Forest High School and Booker T. Washington High School. Since 2009, Angela also has taught at Escambia Virtual Academy.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Angela for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MCGINLEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Steven McGinley, the Lee County Teacher of the Year from Harns Marsh Middle School in Lehigh Acres, FL.

Steven believes students deserve great teachers and considers it his duty to provide his students with the same quality of education he received in Lee County. He attended the county's Allen Park Elementary School, Fort Myers Middle School, and Fort Myers High School and credits his teachers for his successful career.

Steven's ties to the county's schools drive his ambition to mentor and help raise quality educators. He holds that his school's success is only possible through its teachers, students, and the community's involvement. Steven also considers himself a lifelong learner and one where he learns from his students.

Steven is a peer collaborative teacher at Harns Marsh Middle School, teaching in the school district of Lee County for 8 years. He spends half of the school day teaching civics and the other half coaching and mentoring other teachers at his school.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Steven for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE MCSWAIN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Natalie McSwain, the Polk County

Teacher of the Year from Lake Gibson High School in Lakeland, FL.

Natalie adopted a family management style for teaching by ensuring every student she encounters feels appreciated. She devotes herself to helping students understand her lesson plans and often stays late to ensure they are learning. Natalie is willing to fill any need for her students. Her colleagues see her dedication and emulate her techniques to mimic in their classes.

For the past 8 years, Natalie has taught Spanish classes at Lake Gibson High School. She translates information for students with Spanish-speaking parents to keep them informed of their progress in her class. Natalie also volunteers to sponsor her school's girls' lacrosse team, the Spanish Club, and the Foreign Language Club. She serves as a new teacher mentor for educators who have yet to teach in a classroom previously.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Natalie for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE POWELL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Bonnie Powell, the Charlotte County Teacher of the Year from Lemon Bay High School in Englewood, FL.

Bonnie believes she holds the best job on her school's campus. Working with students gives her the honor of coaching them in reading, writing, and speaking. She knows these lifelong skills will apply to any subject they work on later throughout their lives.

In Bonnie's classes, she develops lesson plans that allow her students to explore perspectives, conduct research, and develop solutions to investigations they choose to study. Throughout the school year, she ensures they read, write, and discuss literature together in an atmosphere that offers the ability to learn from one another and be successful.

Bonnie is a graduate of Loyola University of New Orleans. She teaches Advanced Placement literature, freshman Advanced International Certificate of Education—AICE—English General Paper, and an Advanced Placement Seminar course at Lemon Bay High School, where she has taught since 1997. She also is the Creative Writing Club sponsor, an assistant for the Shout Out at the Bay poetry slam, and tutors students after school.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Bonnie for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ROYAL PRESTON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Royal Preston, the Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year from

Okaloosa Technical College in Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Royal believes this award celebrates more than just his work but all of the teachers at his school who spend their days going above and beyond to educate their students. He often joins colleagues in arriving early and staying late to tutor students, sponsor their clubs, and coach sports teams.

Throughout his career, Royal has led his colleagues, both locally and around the State, in training students to enter the building trades industry. Together, they ensure that when students leave their classes, they are prepared for real world work experience and success as they pursue their own American dreams.

Royal has taught career and technical education classes at Okaloosa Technical College for 30 years. He is a product of the Okaloosa County school system, graduating from Bay Area Vo-Tech School, the previous name of Okaloosa Technical College.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Royal for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO HALEY SHURACK

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Haley Shurack, the Broward County Teacher of the Year from Tropical Elementary School in Plantation, FL.

Haley loves the impact she can impart on her students' everyday lives. Students come to her not speaking much, unable to tell her if they are hurt, how they feel, or if they are hungry. By the end of the school year, Haley says she has trouble getting them to stop talking. She credits her ability to get students to open up by building trusting and positive relationships with students and their families.

Haley's students inspire her each day and being a teacher is one of the greatest joys in her life. Her ability to boost her student's self-esteem and help them to grow is a testament to Haley's commitment.

Haley teaches deaf and hard of hearing preschoolers at Tropical Elementary School, where she has taught for 3 of her 5 years in education.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Haley for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERRI SKIPPER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Sherri Skipper, the Washington County Teacher of the Year from Florida Panhandle Technical College in Santa Rosa Beach, FL.

Sherri works with students to develop their knowledge of computer concepts, how to change out hardware, and web development. She teaches these skills to familiarize her students with concepts that they will use in today's workforce.

Sherri also develops lesson plans for more advanced computer software usage, such as firewalls, networking, and ethical hacking. This consists of hacking computers, not for nefarious reasons, but to find weaknesses that can protect computer users through antivirus programming.

Sherri teaches applied information technology and applied cybersecurity programs at Florida Panhandle Technical College, where she has taught since 2012. She previously taught at Graceville High School and graduated from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in business teacher education.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Sherri for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KELLY SMITH-WILLIAMS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Kelly Smith-Williams, the Manatee County Teacher of the Year from Lakewood Ranch High School in Bradenton, FL.

Kelly wanted to be a teacher from a young age. Her passion for teaching carried her through grade school, college, and her first job. Throughout her career, she has impacted countless students, with many staying in contact after leaving her classroom and crediting her for their success.

Kelly is a teacher in every sense of the word. She designs lesson plans that introduce her students to innovative online learning tools. She also devotes time to serving as their adviser on various academic boards, and during the Summer months, she works with students to keep them on track for their graduation.

Kelly teaches anatomy and physiology honors classes at Lakewood Ranch High School. She has been with the Manatee County School District for 7 years.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Kelly for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LITAMARIE STANTON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Litamarie Stanton, the Citrus County Teacher of the Year from Citrus High School in Inverness, FL.

From an early age, Lita wanted to help children and be a teacher. Lita designs her lesson plans to ensure her students have a successful and enjoyable high school experience. Teaching is not a job she takes for granted; she knows she can change lives. She also enjoys working with other teachers whose classroom she once sat in, finding it to be an incredible experience.

For the past 7 years, Lita has taught algebra I inclusion and honors to 9th and 10th grade students at Citrus High

School. Prior to that, she taught math at Inverness Middle School for 6 years. Lita is also involved in school activities, serving as homecoming and prom coordinator, leading the student government, varsity cheer coach, girls' tennis coach, and graduation coordinator.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Lita for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID SWARTZFAGER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize David Swartzfager, the Sumter County Teacher of the Year from South Sumter High School in Bushnell, FL.

David credits his mother for earning this recognition, noting she taught him just about everything there is to know about Future Farmers of America teaching. He considers himself honored to represent his school and the Sumter County community.

Prior to his teaching career, David served in the U.S. Army from 2009 through 2021, where he taught classes to soldiers and deployed to Afghanistan. Whether teaching students or members of our Armed Forces, David has always worked to ensure others are prepared for a successful future.

David has taught agriculture at South Sumter High School since 2020 and previously taught at East River High School, Crystal River High School, and University High School. He graduated from the University of Florida, earning his bachelor's degree in agricultural education and communication and master's degree in educational leadership. David is also a Future Farmers of America student adviser and the department chair.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to David for his commitment to his students and his Nation. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY THEURER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Kimberly Theurer, the Pasco County Teacher of the Year from Gulf High School in New Port Richey, FL.

Kim designs her lesson plans to be relevant and understandable for her students and ensures they clearly understand the day's subject material. Students not in Kim's class talk to her when passing through hallways. They find her to be supportive and understanding. Kim devotes her time to any student and tells them she believes a sense of humor, respect, and approaching every day as a new day are vital for finding success.

Kim teaches government, law, and sociology classes at Gulf High School, her alma mater. She has taught for 34 years, and although she had planned to

retire this year, her students asked that she put off her retirement plans for at least another year.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Kim for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO AUBURN KENDALL WALTON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Auburn Kendall Walton, the Holmes County Teacher of the Year from Ponce de Leon High School in Ponce de Leon, FL.

Kendall's colleagues describe her as the queen of algebra because of her tireless efforts in teaching the subject to her students. She works with each student, ensuring they can fully grasp math making her assignments enjoyable and easy to learn.

Kindall finds the most rewarding aspect of teaching to be when her students finally realize they understand the subject material and have confidence in their work. Through their work together during the school year, she believes they can achieve the goals they set for themselves by putting in the time and effort to learn.

For the past 8 years, Kendall has taught math at Ponce de Leon High School. Altogether, she has been a teacher for a decade.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Kendall for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ADAM ZELE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Adam Zele, the Pinellas County Teacher of the Year from Azalea Middle School in St. Petersburg, FL.

Adam devotes his time to educating his students by creating engaging, memorable class lessons. Due to his commitment, he is often the last to leave the school at the end of the day. Adam enjoys being a middle school teacher as he finds himself making a difference in the lives of his students.

Adam's greatest sense of satisfaction is when a student discovers something new. The excitement he sees when his students conquer a lesson confirms his passion for teaching. Many of his former students still visit him at school, sharing their academic experiences with him and seeking his guidance as they continue their education.

Adam teaches pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry classes at Azalea Middle School. He also is the school math department chairman, sponsors students for the Take Stock in Children Program, and invites new teachers to lunch before they begin working so they have a familiar face on campus. Adam graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, a master's degree in divinity, and a doc-

tor of philosophy degree in history and religion from Duke University.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Adam for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

CERTIFICATION THAT IT IS IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXTEND THE PARTIAL TERMINATION DATE SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (i)(1) OF SECTION 130(i) OF TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, BY 180 DAYS—PM 31

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to subsection (i)(2) of section 130i of title 10, United States Code, I certify that it is in the national security interests of the United States to extend the partial termination date specified in subsection (i)(1) of section 130i of title 10, United States Code, by 180 days.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 14, 2023.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, 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. 593. An act to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Gibson, Dan James, William Sapp, and Frankie Smiley VA Clinic".

H.R. 786. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1105. An act to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1505. An act to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

H.R. 3506. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 7, title 20, and title 43, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors.

H.R. 3571. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and

title 52, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors.

H.R. 3578. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to provisions reclassified to title 34, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors.

At 6:12 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. 3496. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions which were formerly classified to chapters 14 and 19 of title 25, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors.

H.R. 6363. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 593. An act to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Gibson, Dan James, William Sapp, and Frankie Smiley VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1505. An act to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3496. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions which were formerly classified to chapters 14 and 19 of title 25, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3506. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 7, title 20, and title 43, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3571. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and title 52, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3578. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to provisions reclassified to title 34, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Bill Cassidy, John Thune, John Cornyn, Jerry Moran, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Tim Scott, Chuck

Grassley, James Lankford, Ron Johnson, Marco Rubio, Joni Ernst, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ted Budd, Mike Braun, Steve Daines, Mike Lee, Roger F. Wicker, James E. Risch, Eric Schmitt, Todd Young, Tom Cotton, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Deb Fischer, Tommy Tuberville, Mitt Romney, Mitch McConnell.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR (LEGISLATIVE DAY NOVEMBER 13, 2023)

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 786. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1105. An act to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME (LEGISLATIVE DAY NOVEMBER 13, 2023)

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 6363. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-2796. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 202 Direct Loan Technical Amendments" (RIN2502-AJ71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2797. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indorsement and payment of checks drawn on the United States Treasury" (RIN1530-AA22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2798. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13818 with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2799. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14059 with respect to global illicit drug trafficking; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2800. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibitions in Region 8, Southern Region" (RIN0596-AD52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2801. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards Under the NERC Standards Efficiency Review" ((RIN1902-AF69) (Docket No. RM19-17-001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2802. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of 21 Species From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BC98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2803. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Endangered Species Act Protections for the Gray Wolf (Canis Lupus) in Compliance With Court Order" (RIN1018-BD60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2804. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Recovery and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf in Colorado" (RIN1018-BG79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2805. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluation for EPRI Report 3002018337, 'Use of Data Validation and Reconciliation Methods for Measurement Uncertainty: Topical Report'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2806. A communication from the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, a report relative to United States forces conducted targeted strikes against facilities in eastern Syria used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and IRGC-affiliated groups, received

during adjournment of the Senate on November 10, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2807. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification that the Department of State is waiving the 15-day congressional notification period to respond to the situation in Egypt, Israel, and Gaza by directly and immediately strengthening land and maritime border security and surveillance to address related nonproliferation and counterproliferation threats stemming from the Israel-Hamas Conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2808. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments: Special Financial Assistance Withdrawal Liability Condition; SECURE 2.0 Act; and Other Updates" (RIN1212-AB56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2809. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Counsel, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Jagua (Genipin-Glycine) Blue" (Docket No. FDA-2020-C-2131) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2810. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in Specified Areas of the Dnipro Flight Information Region (FIR) (UKDV)" (RIN2120-AL95) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0225) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2811. A communication from the Chief for Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Incorporation by Reference; North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria; Hazardous Materials Safety Permits" (RIN2126-AC61) received during in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2812. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Des Moines, Iowa" (MB Docket No. 23-296) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2813. A communication from the Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Radiotelephone Requirements for Vessels on the Great Lakes" (FCC23-90) (WT Docket No. 23-357) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2814. A communication from the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unlicensed Use of the 6 GHz Band; Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 and 24 GHz" (FCC 23-86)

(ET Docket No. 18-295) (GN Docket No. 17-183) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2815. A communication from the Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Communications Commission released a Report and Order entitled Connect America Fund; Alaska Connect Fund; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications; Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support; Universal Service Reform - Mobility Fund" ((RIN3060-AK57) (FCC 23-87) (WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 23-328, 14-58, 09-197) (WT Docket No. 10-208) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. Res. 444. A resolution providing for the en bloc consideration of military nominations.

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. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3292. A bill to encourage the research and use of innovative materials and associated techniques in the construction and preservation of the domestic transportation and water infrastructure system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3293. A bill to provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3294. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act with respect to reimbursements under the child and adult care food program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3295. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a portal for maintaining digital records of former members of the Armed Forces and to establish an advisory committee regarding the maintenance of those records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3296. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify em-

ployer educational assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3297. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3298. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the rules of the Commission relating to general solicitation or general advertising, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3299. A bill to provide that United States citizens evacuating Israel shall not be required to reimburse the United States Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3300. A bill to require a report on the competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 3301. A bill to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3302. A bill to waive the guarantee fee for certain business loans made to veterans and spouses of veterans; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COONS, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3303. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. THUNE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 462. A resolution emphasizing the urgency of responding to attacks in Israel and the greater region from the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 463. A resolution recognizing Operation Green Light for Veterans for supporting veterans and raising awareness about important county resources available to help veterans transition to civilian life; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) 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. 234

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 476, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to protect access to genetically targeted technologies.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 930, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 971

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for outdoor learning spaces and to develop living schoolyards.

S. 1797

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1797, a bill to establish a demonstration program to allow States to test payment models for maternity care provided under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1886

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2557, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate interest on student loans, establish the Education Affordability Trust Fund, increase annual and aggregate loan limits, and for other purposes.

S. 2569

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful.

S. 2638

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2638, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 2662

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2662, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain activities relating to research for wood products, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and lifesaving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 2970

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2970, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Indigenous Peoples' Day as a legal public holiday, to replace the term "Columbus Day" with the term "Indigenous Peoples' Day", and for other purposes.

S. 3000

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3000, a bill to repeal Freedom Support Act section 907 waiver authority with respect to assistance to Azerbaijan.

S. 3028

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3028, a bill to continue in effect certain Executive orders imposing sanctions with respect to Iran, to prevent the waiver of certain sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran until the Government of

Iran ceases to attempt to assassinate United States officials, other United States citizens, and Iranian nationals residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3063

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3063, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3152

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3152, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3214

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3214, a bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 47, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice relating to "Office of the Attorney General; Home Confinement Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act".

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 454

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 454, a resolution designating November 8, 2023, as "National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Day" and celebrating the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in education and the workforce in the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3297. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023, along with my colleague from Michigan, Senator PETERS. Our bill would expand Medicare beneficiaries' access to medical nutrition therapy, or MNT, which is a cost-effective component of treatment for obesity, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and other chronic conditions.

At a time when the increased prevalence of diet-related chronic conditions is contributing to poor health outcomes and growing healthcare expenditures, increasing access to MNT should be part of the strategy to improve disease management and prevention for America's seniors. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act would make two important changes to support patients, improve health outcomes, and reduce unnecessary healthcare costs.

First, it would expand Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient medical nutrition therapy services to a number of currently uncovered diseases or conditions—including prediabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, HIV/AIDS, gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease, and cardiovascular disease. Currently, Medicare Part B only covers outpatient MNT for diabetes, renal disease, and post-kidney transplant.

Second, the bill would allow more types of providers—including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, and psychologists—to refer patients to MNT. This is especially critical for a rural State like Maine, where a NP or PA may be one's trusted primary care provider.

MNT counseling is provided by registered dietitian nutritionists, RDNs, as part of a collaborative healthcare team. It is evidenced-based and proven

to positively affect weight, blood pressure, blood lipids, and blood sugar control. Nutritional counseling by RDNs is recommended by the National Lipid Association to promote long-term adherence to an individualized, heart-healthy diet. Through MNT, individuals benefit from in-depth, individualized nutrition assessments. Follow up visits help reinforce important behavior and lifestyle changes and increase compliance.

Older Americans deserve improved access to this cost-effective medical treatment, but many older adults are missing out under the current Medicare policy. Marcy Kyle, a RDN from Rockport, ME, has seen many patients denied access to medically necessary MNT. One of her patients with prediabetes was referred by his primary care physician for MNT at age 64. At that time, his private insurance covered the service, and he booked the first available appointment the following week. That same week, this patient turned 65 and transitioned onto Medicare. You can imagine his surprise upon arriving for his appointment and learning that MNT would not be covered.

Another unfortunate example from Maine was a patient with a new celiac disease diagnosis complicated by severe weight loss. His private insurance covered MNT as celiac disease is a controllable disease with proper nutrition. But when transitioning from private insurance to Medicare, this patient, too, lost his access to MNT. The saddest situation this RDN has confronted is when an older cancer patient experiences such side effects from cancer treatment as severe weight loss or nausea, which could be prevented with MNT. As with prediabetes and celiac disease, however, Medicare does not cover MNT for cancer patients. This truly is a lost opportunity since we know early treatment with MNT can prevent future and more serious health complications and chronic conditions in older adults. These conditions should be covered.

In addition to leading to confusion and potential delays in care for patients seeking needed healthcare services, we must also consider the staggering economic impact of chronic diseases. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 90 percent of the \$3.8 trillion that the United States spends annually on healthcare goes to the treatment of people with chronic diseases and mental health conditions. Preventing chronic diseases or managing symptoms when prevention is not possible is one way to reduce these costs. This is particularly important for the Medicare Program, as more than two-thirds of seniors on Medicare live with multiple chronic conditions. As one registered dietitian nutritionist in Maine told me, "We all know a dollar spent on prevention saves many health care dollars in the long run and is the right thing to do for our seniors at a time when they have limited budgets."

MNT can help prevent chronic disease, such as type 2 diabetes. It can better control celiac and other gastrointestinal ailments. It can improve outcomes and the quality of life for those with cancer and other devastating diagnoses. The current Medicare restrictions on medical nutrition therapy coverage can be detrimental for older adults at a critical juncture in their journey to better health and should be changed.

The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023 is supported by more than 40 expert national organizations, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Diabetes Association, the Endocrine Society, and UsAgainstAlzheimer's.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to improve access to cost-effective medical treatment for Medicare patients with chronic diseases.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 462—EMPHASIZING THE URGENCY OF RESPONDING TO ATTACKS IN ISRAEL AND THE GREATER REGION FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND ITS PROXIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. THUNE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 462

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has provided financing, training, and other forms of support to Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and other proxies;

Whereas the current leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, has publicly confirmed and lauded the support the group receives from the Islamic Republic of Iran, stating "I give thanks to those who provided funds and weaponry to the courageous resistance, the Islamic Republic of Iran, [which] has not skimped in extending funds, weaponry, and technology to the resistance";

Whereas, on October 8, 1997, the Secretary of State designated Hamas and Hezbollah foreign terrorist organizations in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

Whereas, on September 20, 2023, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that "we can forge a historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia" and Prime Minister and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman stated that "[e]very day we get closer" to normalizing relations with Israel;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, in part to derail the normalization process, Hamas launched an unprovoked attack against the State of Israel, brutally murdering over 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, while injuring thousands more;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas committed war crimes by taking hundreds of innocent civilians hostage, including babies, children, women, elderly, and Holocaust sur-

vivors, and has proceeded to place innocent civilians around key locations as human shields;

Whereas, on October 8, 2023, Israel officially declared war on Hamas;

Whereas, on October 10, 2023, the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group arrived in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea to deter additional actors, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, the IRGC, and other proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran from escalating tensions in the region;

Whereas, on October 14, 2023, the Department of Defense announced the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group would be repositioned to join the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas, on October 19, 2023, the USS Carney intercepted missiles and drones that were launched by Iranian-backed Houthi militias towards Israel;

Whereas, on October 25, 2023, it was reported that in the weeks leading up to Hamas' attack on Israel, roughly 500 Hamas and PIJ militants received specialized combat training in the Islamic Republic of Iran from officers of the Quds Force, the foreign-operations arm of the IRGC;

Whereas United States troops and personnel stationed in Iraq and Syria have come under rocket and drone attack numerous times since October 7, 2023, resulting in the injury of over 50 servicemembers;

Whereas, on October 26, 2023, in response to attacks against United States troops and personnel in Iraq and Syria, the President of the United States authorized precision strikes on two facilities in eastern Syria used by the IRGC and affiliated groups;

Whereas, on November 9, 2023, the President of the United States authorized a precision strike on an IRGC weapons storage site in Syria to clearly communicate that there should be no escalation of hostilities in the region and that the President has no higher priority than the safety of United States troops and personnel;

Whereas, on November 12, 2023, the United States conducted precision strikes against a training facility and a safe house in eastern Syria used by the IRGC and affiliated groups;

Whereas Hezbollah reportedly has at least 150,000 missiles, some of which are precision-guided, that could be launched at Israel without warning, overwhelm the Iron Dome air defense system, and greatly expand the conflict;

Whereas Hamas, through its actions, has proven its goal is to destroy Israel, eradicate the Jewish population, undermine peace and normalization efforts in the region, cause severe economic decline and political unrest in the region, and curtail future investments that would allow Israel and other Middle Eastern states to grow and prosper; and

Whereas the Biden Administration must continue to clearly communicate to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the IRGC, that further attacks on Israel, the United States, or partners and allies by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, or other proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are unacceptable: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the President's efforts to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IRGC, Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, and other proxies from expanding the ongoing conflict, and recognizes deterrence is most credible when the President keeps all options on the table, including the use of military force in accordance with constitutional processes;

(2) recognizes Israel's right to self-defense and its operations to ensure Hamas can never again terrorize innocent Israelis and Palestinians;

(3) encourages the President to work to secure the safe release and return of all hostages held by Hamas;

(4) commends the President's decision to position military and diplomatic assets in the region to deter escalation of the conflict by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IRGC, Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, and other proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Iraq or Syria;

(5) recognizes that all responsible nations agree that Hamas is a terrorist organization that must be fought, dismantled and prevented from having the capacity to further terrorize Israel and the region; and

(6) urges the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Israel, with the support of the United States, to continue diplomatic negotiations to normalize relations and establish lasting peace, prosperity, and stability in the Middle East.

SENATE RESOLUTION 463—RECOGNIZING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS FOR SUPPORTING VETERANS AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT IMPORTANT COUNTY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HELP VETERANS TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 463

Whereas the United States owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the brave veterans who have served in the Armed Forces for safeguarding our liberties and upholding the principles upon which the United States was founded;

Whereas veterans often lack the resources needed to transition to civilian life;

Whereas the National Association of Counties, in collaboration with the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, established the Operation Green Light for Veterans campaign in November of 2022;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans encourages counties to illuminate their buildings with green lights from November 6 to November 12, 2023, to symbolize unwavering support, appreciation, and recognition of veterans;

Whereas this vibrant and symbolic gesture serves as a visible reminder to veterans that their service is seen, valued, and honored by their local communities;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans encourages counties to use press releases, community events, and social media to raise awareness about important county resources available to help veterans transition to civilian life, including mental health resources, employment and training programs, housing assistance, voter registration, peer-to-peer support services, and assistance from county veteran service officers on how to access earned Federal benefits;

Whereas the National Association of Counties encourages counties to adopt resolutions declaring their commitment to Operation Green Light for Veterans to reinforce the collective dedication of counties to the well-being of veterans;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans encourages counties to amplify the effect of their participation and encourage other counties to participate by collaborating with Members of Congress, local news media, and social media platforms;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans exemplifies the importance of collaboration between Federal, State, and local entities in ensuring that veterans successfully transition to civilian life;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans highlights the historical role of counties in serving veterans and providing important resources to help veterans transition to civilian life, including mental health resources, employment and training programs, housing assistance, voter registration, peer-to-peer support services, and assistance from county veteran service officers on how to access earned Federal benefits; and

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans aligns with the core principles of unity, gratitude, and respect that define the character of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Operation Green Light for Veterans and commends the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers for their unwavering support to veterans and their crucial role in raising awareness about important county resources available to help veterans transition to civilian life, including mental health resources, employment and training programs, housing assistance, voter registration, peer-to-peer support services, and assistance from county veteran service officers on how to access earned Federal benefits;

(2) encourages all counties to participate in Operation Green Light for Veterans by illuminating their buildings with green lights as a powerful symbol of appreciation and using press releases, community events, and social media to raise awareness about such resources; and

(3) urges its members to engage with their local communities to raise awareness about Operation Green Light for Veterans and to support its goals of honoring veterans and improving access to such resources.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

The Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following intern from my office be granted floor privileges until November 15, 2023: Kayla Fink.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 7:03 P.M. TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 7:03 p.m. today. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 7:03 p.m.