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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, Jr., a Senator from the State of Maine.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, ruler of our lives, help us today to trust You with all our hearts, minds, and strength. Lord, keep us striving to stay within the circle of Your will.

Today, empower the Members of this body to bring deliverance to captives, sight to the morally blind, and healing to those who are bruised by life's trials and setbacks.

Give our lawmakers the wisdom to follow Your providential leading, even when facing problems that seem too difficult to solve. Lord, help our Senators to be strengthened with Your peace, justice, and purpose as You fill this Chamber with Your presence.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ANGUS S. KING , JR., a Senator from the State of Maine, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3935, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Cantwell) modified amendment No. 1911, in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer amendment No. 2026 (to amendment No. 1911), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 2027, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 2028 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 2027), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 2029 (to amendment No. 2028), to add an effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the border, when it comes to fixing our southern border, the American people demand that elected representatives prioritize action over rhetoric.

It is the easiest thing in the world to do what many Republicans have done this year and done year after year: come to the floor, complain that the border is a mess, and then do just about nothing to fix the problem.

It is the easiest thing in the world to do what Donald Trump and his followers have perfected over the years: demonize immigrants, pay lipservice to our border agents, but ignore the work required to make change happen.

Democrats know that the situation at the border is unacceptable. We know

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

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that the status quo cannot continue. But Democrats also know that fixing the border requires bipartisan legislation from Congress.

Six months ago, Democrats sat down with our Republican colleagues to get to work on drafting the strongest border security bill Congress has seen in decades. It contained many of the biggest issues that our Republican colleagues have demanded: fixes to asylum, more money for border agents, and it increased the President's emergency powers to respond to high numbers of border crossings.

Our bipartisan bill was the closest Congress has been in decades to fixing our southern border—until Donald Trump blew it all up for political gain.

I have seen many cynical things around here over the years, but it is hard to think of something more cynical than Republicans blowing up their own border deal in order to help Donald Trump win an election because they think chaos will help him win. After all, how many times have we heard from Republicans that we need to fix asylum?

How many times did we hear Donald Trump say that our asylum system was ''archaic'' and that ''what Democrats should be doing now is . . . changing the loopholes''? That is Trump. Trump said that.

How many times did we hear our Republican colleagues say on the floor things like ''We've got to redo our asylum laws,'' as my colleague from Florida has said?

If my Republican colleagues care about fixing asylum, why did they vote to kill the best chance we have seen in decades to fix it? If my Republican colleagues care about our border agents, why did they vote against a bill that would have hired 1,500 more agents and given them more tools to stop the flow of drugs and weapons? If my Republican colleagues truly believe the system is broken, why did they vote against a bill that would have provided more immigration judges, more asylum officers, and had the support of the very conservative Border Patrol union? Two words is why: Donald Trump. It was Donald Trump who didn't like that Congress had finally reached a deal on the border that would have taken away a key issue for him on the campaign trail. It was Donald Trump who made clear that exploiting the border is great but actually fixing the problem is not.

I know this is a frustrating issue for millions of Americans. Many of us who want to solve the problem, on both sides of the aisle, are frustrated as well. Republicans are going to go on and on and on about the border, but facts are stubborn things. When Americans ask this year who is to blame for the continued mess at the border, they should listen to the words that came from Donald Trump himself. He said, ''Please, blame it on me.'' That is what Trump said.

TAXES

Mr. President, on taxes, yesterday, the CBO released a new report that should be a shot across the bow for all Republicans who supported the disastrous 2017 Trump tax cuts. The CBO reported that extending all of the Trump tax cuts, which Republicans support and Donald Trump has promised to do if elected, would add a whopping $4.6 trillion to the deficit. That is $4.6 trillion. Let me say that again. An extension of all of the Trump tax cuts would add a whopping $4.6 trillion to the deficit.

To the self-proclaimed fiscal hawks on the right who always complain about deficits, this CBO report about the Trump tax cuts is like a pie in the face.

This report should come as no surprise. We all saw what happened when Donald Trump and Republicans first pushed their tax cuts a few years ago. They blew a nearly $2 trillion hole in our deficit. They left American families out to dry, with no trickle-down stemming from the benefits for the very wealthy and the largest corporations. The Trump tax cuts were a dud for our economy and a political loser at the same time for the Republican Party.

So I ask my Republican colleagues: Are they really willing to double down on the disastrous Trump tax law and blow a $4.6 trillion hole in our deficit? Are our Republican colleagues, who claim to be the party of fiscal responsibility, so desperate to help the very wealthiest few and large corporations that they would add another $4.6 trillion to the deficit?

Do my Republican colleagues believe so deeply in giveaways to the ultrawealthy that they would let programs like Social Security and Medicare, which millions of Americans rely on every day—would they let them run dry? If nothing else, this shows how out of touch Republicans are with working-and middle-class America.

The American people don't want tax cuts that overwhelming favor the wealthiest few and corporations. They want a fair and equal Tax Code that works for everybody.

While Republicans keep pushing terrible tax giveaways for the wealthy and cuts to Social Security and Medicare, Democrats continue to deliver meaningful results for the American people.

This week, for instance, we learned that the United States will triple its domestic chip manufacturing by 2032, thanks to our Chips and Science Act. This is great news for both American jobs and the American economy. It is exactly what we envisioned when we were working on the bipartisan Chips and Science Act: a new wave of tech jobs, a new wave of scientific research, and a revival of Federal investment in the technologies of the future.

Under President Biden and Democratic leadership, America is on the right track.

H.R. 3935

Mr. President, on the FAA, later today, the Senate will vote on cloture on FAA reauthorization. We hope to get this done today to keep the FAA funded and operational before tomorrow's deadline.

The work we are doing on FAA is going to have practical consequences for millions of Americans who travel by air every single day. So Senators have every reason in the world to continue working together on a bipartisan basis to get this done.

If we let funding for the FAA lapse, it could be disastrous for the safety of our skies and the efficiency of our airports. Thousands of employees might be furloughed. Air traffic controllers will be forced to work longer and extra hours. Funding for infrastructure projects would be halted.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue working together so we can fund the FAA and avoid missing tomorrow's deadline.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, war is hell. It tears apart societies. It alters the course of entire civilizations, and innocent noncombatants suffer. Try as we might, humanity has not eradicated war or stripped it of its horrors.

But in the modern world, civilized nations hold themselves to the highest standards and take deliberate care to minimize harm to civilians. The United States is first among these nations, but even we make mistakes. On this administration's watch, precision military strikes have inadvertently killed civilians in multiple theaters of operations.

Our ally Israel goes to great lengths to avoid civilian casualties. Over decades of grinding conflict to preserve its security, a circumstance most Americans can hardly imagine, Israel routinely accepts great risk to its own soldiers to avoid endangering innocent civilians.

But the forces sworn to erase Israel from the Earth follow a different code. To Hamas, civilian casualties are not tragedies; they are tools of the trade. To these savages, kidnapping, torture, rape, and murder aren't crimes; they are tactics. For terrorists around the world, human suffering is the weapon of choice, and Hamas seeks to magnify it.

These are the facts, and any serious conversation about the war in Gaza needs to start here.

If war could be avoided entirely, so could its terrible costs. Israel tried to avoid this war. It negotiated a cease-fire with the savage terrorists bent on destroying the Jewish State, all to try to avoid the war.

The terrorists used this cease-fire to plan and prepare for war, and, on October 7, Hamas launched it. It also chose how Israel would be forced to fight it, putting fighting positions in hospitals, schools, and United Nations facilities; directly attacking humanitarian aid crossings. This doesn't just contravene the laws of war. It exploits human suffering.

Why does Hamas behave this way? Because it works. Because they know the media will cover it—''if it bleeds, it leads.'' Because they know it creates an international rush—rush—to blame Israel. Because leftist columnists and useful idiots of university campuses will play at revolution and express solidarity with the terrorists. Because the President of the United States will be forced to choose between his supposedly ''ironclad'' commitment to an ally under attack and the will of his leftist political base. And because they bet that the President would choose the latter.

Well, it would seem that Hamas bet correctly. President Biden is withholding urgent military assistance to Israel.

But he cannot have it both ways. He cannot claim his support for Israel is ironclad while denying Israel precisely the weapons they need to defend themselves.

The President is old enough to remember 1968, but he seems to have learned the wrong lesson from that pivotal year. Caving to the college radicals will only whet their appetite to spend the summer demanding further anti-Israel concessions at his party's convention.

I fought for months to secure passage of the national security supplemental to support Israel, Ukraine, and vulnerable Asian partners, and to make important investments in our own military. I stood up to the opposition in my own party to do the right thing.

If the Commander in Chief can't muster the political courage to stand up to the radicals on his left flank and stand up for an ally at war, the consequences will be grave. Other allies who rely on ''ironclad'' guarantees from America will question our commitment. Nations on the fence in the middle of a major power competition for influence will look elsewhere for their own security, and our enemies will be emboldened.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL ABDULLAH MANGI

Mr. President, on a different matter, I have spoken many times about Adeel Mangi, President Biden's nominee to the Third Circuit. I have covered his shocking and deep association with virulent anti-Semites and how he misled the Senate about them.

I have also covered his association with anti-police radicals. Just last week, it was revealed that Mr. Mangi introduced one of his anti-cop friends to the head of the Rutgers Center for Security, Race, and Rights so they could ''collaborate'' on a project.

Democrats can't rebut these disqualifying associations because they are facts. So, instead, they have mounted an all-out campaign to gin up leftwing support for Mr. Mangi and force our Democratic colleagues to walk the plank on this nomination. And in so doing, they have given the Senate reason to move from Mr. Mangi's judgment to questioning his ethics.

After the biggest police unions came out in opposition to his nomination, Mr. Mangi complained, in an extraordinary letter to one of my colleagues, that the groups opposing him ''never spoke to'' him about his ''position'' or ''views.''

Really? What would these outside parties have learned about his views had they asked?

Well, we don't actually have to guess. For the past few months, Democrats have paraded Mr. Mangi in front of liberal interest groups in order to secure their endorsements. For example, a group of leftwing law enforcement organizations met with Mr. Mangi and then praised his commitment to ''help ensure equity'' in law enforcement.

Equity in law enforcement, what on Earth does that even mean? Are those his views? These are questions our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee might have liked to ask Mangi; but, unfortunately, these meetings took place after—after—his hearing.

More recently, 125 congressional organizations sent a letter supporting Mangi. How many of these leftwing organizations had Mangi met with? Did he meet with the AFL–CIO? What views did he discuss with them? We will never know.

You see, nominees have to disclose in their questionnaires whether or not they have made any promises during their confirmation process. Committee Republicans also ask written questions about meetings and coordination with leftwing dark money. But what Mangi has found is that if he makes the sales pitch after—after—the committee process is over, as he did with certain law enforcement groups and maybe to others, nothing needs to be disclosed.

This is particularly troubling given that these small law enforcement groups seem to almost be almost always based in very Democratic New Jersey counties like Middlesex and Hudson. Hudson County, of course, is the home to one of the last old-style Democratic political machines. Are the ward bosses taking care of Mr. Mangi? What do they expect in return?

Compare this to the behavior of Judge Quraishi, the Nation's first Muslim district judge, whom I supported and have mentioned before. Judge Quraishi recently made headlines by striking down—down—New Jersey's unique—and uniquely corrupt—primary balloting system.

In other words, he drained the lifeblood of the same Hudson County Democratic machine while it was calling in favors for Mr. Mangi. As I have said, there is a better way in New Jersey, if only the Biden administration would care to look.

It is the role of the Senate to provide advice and consent. We ask nominees questions and evaluate their answers. We judge nominees on that political record.

Mr. Mangi's closed-door meetings with interest groups short circuits that process and calls into question what fairness we might expect from him.

It is yet another reason the Senate should not, cannot confirm Mangi.

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

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

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, one of our important responsibilities in Congress is to protect American consumers. But allies of Big Business and Wall Street, who always fear threats to their bottom lines, have been working overtime to convince consumers that a bill that I have introduced with Senator MARSHALL, the Credit Card Competition Act, will do more harm than good.

Their latest tactic, they are recruiting allies from the airline industry. United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby recently said that our bill would ''kill rewards programs.''

Let me be very clear. This is false. Moreover, this past July, Forbes published an article saying that compared to other nations, airline rewards programs in the United States have made it more challenging to earn and redeem miles.

Because while the airline industry is trying to argue that my bill would stifle competition and their loyalty programs, it is actually their own questionable practices that threaten American consumers' ability to redeem rewards.

Let me explain. The airline industry knows how much consumers value rewards programs that over 100 million Americans participate in. These programs originated as a way to reward true frequent flyers for their loyalty and patronage. And, today, millions of Americans participate.

But these programs have evolved to include cobranded credit cards that focus on dollars spent using those cards.

The Presiding Officer and I spend a big part of our lives on airplanes. I don't know about your experience, but I will tell you what mine is: As soon as they have us in our seats buckled in, they start advertising their credit cards.

I have seen times when the flight attendants walk up and down the aisles

passing out brochures for people to consider enlisting in their credit card program. And then as you are leaving the plane, they are once again passing them out.

They seem to focus as much on credit cards as they do on safety in these airplanes. You have to ask yourself why. It turns out there is one basic reason for it. Airlines make more money off the cobranded credit cards they issue than they do from aviation programs.

At the same time, they are showing troubling reports that airlines use their loyalty programs to engage in abusive, unfair, and sometimes deceptive practices.

Airlines incentivize Americans to purchase goods and services, obtain certain credit cards, and spend as much money as they can on the cards in exchange for promised rewards. And all the while, they retain the right to strip consumers of these rewards or alter the terms of these programs at will.

For example, there are troubling reports that airlines may be devaluing the miles that you accumulate making it harder for consumers to ever achieve promised rewards.

At certain times, the cost of purchasing points from airlines' websites may be up to three times the value of the points at redemption. This is a ripoff with wings. We must do more to protect American consumers.

In October, I wrote to the Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. I expressed my concern about these unfair practices, and in March, he replied. I was pleased to read that DOT's Office of Aviation Consumer Protection is using its authority to initiate a review of airlines' rewards programs.

DOT has been meeting with major U.S. airlines to get more information on exactly how these frequent flyer programs work. Secretary Buttigieg shared with me that DOT has the necessary authority to investigate these programs and take enforcement action where appropriate.

The Secretary also announced a joint hearing with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. That is good news for consumers. That meeting took place this morning to discuss airline credit cards and frequent flyer programs with industry representatives, labor leaders, and consumers. These are important steps forward in the conversation, and I thank Secretary Buttigieg for showing this initiative. Just last week, I had a chance to raise the issue directly with him at an open hearing during the Senate's Appropriations Subcommittee. Once again, I was glad to hear the Department of Transportation also is concerned with airline shady practices and seeks to protect Americans.

This week, the Senate has been considering the FAA reauthorization bill. I support a provision, which made the final bill, that would create a Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary for the Department of Transportation's Office of Aviation Consumer Protection. I think it is important to put someone in this post to have better oversight of frequent flyer programs for the consumers of America.

We should pass the reauthorization bill as quickly as possible to ensure there is no lapse in resources for our Nation's airports, air traffic controllers, aviation industry, and all the passengers.

Employed by the credit card and airline industries, critics have accused me of jeopardizing Americans' airline rewards with my idea of competition among credit cards. This isn't true. Modern-day airlines have become credit card companies that also happen to own airplanes. It is their deceptive practices that threaten Americans' ability to redeem rewards that they have earned. I am committed to holding both industries accountable for exploiting hard-working consumers to further line their own pockets.

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.

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

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

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion with respect to the substitute amendment numbered 1911, as modified, be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Cantwell substitute amendment No. 1911, as modified, to Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Martin Heinrich, Gary C. Peters, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Laphonza R. Butler, Angus S. King, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 1911, as modified, offered by the Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], to H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hagerty	Reed
Blackburn	Hassan	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Booker	Hickenlooper	Romney
Boozman	Hirono	Rosen
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Kelly	Sanders
Butler	Kennedy	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Capito	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Carper	Lankford	Shaheen
Casey	Luján	Smith
Collins	Lummis	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Sullivan
Cornyn	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Thune
Cotton	McConnell	Tillis
Cramer	Menendez	Tuberville
Crapo	Moran	Warnock
Cruz	Mullin	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—13

Cardin	Johnson	Van Hollen
Cassidy	Kaine	Vance
Daines	Lee	Warner
Ernst	Merkley	
Hawley	Schmitt	

NOT VOTING—3

Braun	Scott (FL)	Sinema

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 13.

Three-fourths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2040

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2040 to the text proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York, [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 2040 to the text of the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1911.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 2041 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2040

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I call up second-degree amendment No. 2041.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Ms. CANTWELL], for Mr. SCHUMER, proposes an amendment numbered 2041 to amendment No. 2040.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike ''7 days'' and insert ''8 days''.

Ms. CANTWELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN HOSTAGES

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak for a few moments about the urgent—the pressing—matter of Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad and about a specific positive recent development to make sure that when they are released and freed, they are welcomed home in a positive and meaningful way.

Today, there is somewhere between 30 and 40 Americans wrongfully detained abroad, and they range all over from their backgrounds to the countries in which they are held.

I have met repeatedly with Rachel and Jon, who are the parents of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an American Israeli who was attending a music festival in Israel when he was attacked, badly injured, kidnapped by Hamas terrorists, and dragged to Gaza where he is still today hostage beneath Gaza in tunnels.

Ryan Corbett has been held in Afghanistan for years, an NGO worker who was abducted by the Taliban.

Mark Swidan has been held in China on narcotics trafficking charges, a sentence upheld recently but not yet imposed.

And, of course, Evan Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter currently imprisoned in Russia whose mother I met with recently and who I join with his family in continuing to pray and work for his release.

There has recently been a positive step forward in how we welcome home these hostages.

First, I have to tell you something disturbing about how we have long welcomed home hostages. Jason Rezaian is a Washington Post reporter who was taken prisoner in Iran and, ultimately, served a year and a half—544 days—in prison in Tehran before he was released. And I want you to guess what was the first thing Jason got from the U.S. Government when he returned home? It was a tax bill with fines and penalties for his failure to file and pay his taxes on time.

Jason came to meet with me and recounted to me that when he pointed out to the IRS that it was front-page news in the Washington Post that he was unjustly imprisoned—of course, he couldn't pay his taxes on time—they said: We would like to help you, Mr. Rezaian, but Congress needs to act in order for us to stop imposing tax penalties on American hostages.

So today I am here to celebrate that my dear friend MIKE ROUNDS, Republican Senator, and I have introduced and the Senate has now passed a bill with a catchy title, Stop Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act. It cleared unanimously—thank you. We now await House action.

This is the latest in a number of actions several of us have taken together. There is now a National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day. It was recognized by a bill that was passed in the Defense authorization bill last year and signed into law by President Biden. That was March 9.

We are also working on legislation to repair the credit score of those who are wrongfully imprisoned, held hostage, or detained. As you can imagine, if you spend years in prison in Russia or in Iran or being held captive in Afghanistan or in Gaza and you aren't making payments on your bills, your credit score suffers. Senator TILLIS and I are next hoping to move the Fair Credit for American Hostages Act.

Let me conclude by saying this: We have to do more together to deter hostage-taking, to restore to the United States those who have been wrongfully detained, to cooperate across our government.

I am grateful that the Biden administration has increased its focus on this urgent moral issue and that 47 wrongfully detained Americans have been brought home so far under the present administration. But, frankly, all of us should be working together to hold in our prayers and thoughts those who are hostages, those who are wrongful detainees and their loved ones, and to work together, as Senator ROUNDS and I have in recent weeks and as the Congress as a whole will in coming days.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. COONS. The Senator will so yield.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I have a great deal of respect for the Senator from Delaware, and we work well together on the Judiciary Committee and always operated in good faith, even though we sometimes have differences of opinion. I know he spends a lot of time thinking about national security and foreign relations affairs, and he has traveled the world and knows more leaders of the different countries around the world than I ever will.

But I do know that since he shares the concerns about the status, particularly the American citizens who are hostages in Gaza, I would just like to get some idea from him what his thoughts are about the administration's pause on weapons delivery to Israel.

Let me just predicate this by saying, I remember back when, of course, we were concerned about al-Qaida in Fallujah where the marines fought a terrible battle. And, unfortunately, any time there is a conflict, there are going to be civilian casualties. Obviously, the goal is to minimize those casualties; likewise, in places like Mosul where ISIS made its last stand in Iraq.

I would like to get an idea from the Senator, if he would be so kind, if he would share what his thoughts are about what Israel is supposed to do in Rafah, obviously, to satisfy the concerns about civilian collateral damage but also in a way that allows Israel to eliminate the terrorist threat.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to what is a pressing concern for so many of us.

I will simply reflect on my last in-person meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant in Israel, now many weeks ago. It was part of a visit I made to a number of countries in the region. I spoke directly to this, and I believe what I am saying also reflects the views of the administration.

Of course, the United States stands strongly behind Israel and its defense and its security. Secretary of Defense Austin, when asked this same question about what it might mean if there were pauses or reviews of weapons deliveries—what that might mean. Just yesterday, he said that the administration, the United States, retains an ironclad commitment to Israel's security and defense, as just demonstrated a few weeks ago when we worked together with Israel, with the UK, with France, with Saudi Kingdom, and with Jordan to provide their defense against 300 missiles and drones launched at Israel by Iran.

So what is it that we are saying with regard to Rafah? What I said to the Prime Minister was: You don't just have the right to defend the Israeli people against Hamas; you have the obligation. After October 7, you have to restore a sense of security and deterrence against this terrorist organization that massacred more Jews, more civilians—1,200 people of a wide range of backgrounds, in fact. It is the worst day for Jews since the Holocaust. But many who are still held captive in Gaza by Hamas are from a dozen different nations, languages, and religions.

You have to go after them and finish the job. You have to go into Rafah, go

after these four remaining battalions, and you have to secure Gaza and make certain Hamas does not reemerge as a fighting force that can ever threaten Israel again.

And given that there are a million civilian refugees who have flown down to the very bottom of Gaza and are now up against the hard border with Egypt, and given that Egypt will not allow any of them into Egypt, you have to provide a pathway for civilians to leave Rafah before you go in at scale with a bombing campaign—a ground campaign—to minimize civilian injuries and deaths. If there are 10,000 or so Hamas fighters remaining in Rafah, and if the multiplier—to use a crass term—has been 2-to-1 civilian deaths for every Hamas fighter killed, to contemplate 20 or 30,000 more civilian deaths in Rafah is to contemplate a horrifying outcome.

But it is not acceptable to leave Hamas in control of a segment of Gaza and capable of returning.

So what is it I am hoping and expecting Israel will do? To relocate all of the civilians in Rafah, north in Gaza, screen them so that none of the leaders of Hamas or the fighters of Hamas escape; to provide for humanitarian aid and for shelter in another part of Gaza; and then to go in in scale, get into the tunnels, secure the release of the hostages, if possible, and finish the job. That is difficult but, in my view, doable.

For us to ignore the consequences of using American weapons at scale in a very heavily concentrated place where there are a million refugees there because they were told to move south, as the IDF carried out its justified campaign against Hamas over the last 6 months, would be to undertake a tragic loss of life that is needless.

Madam President, at this point, I am inclined to yield unless the Senator has a follow-up question for me.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I appreciate the comments from my friend and colleague from Delaware.

I am reassured by his commitment to make sure that Israel will have the capacity to actually eliminate the terrorist threat, which is, of course, an existential threat. Hamas, a proxy of Iran, wants to wipe Israel off the map. This is not a conflict of choice. It is an existential fight by the Israeli people. And, of course, no one wants any civilian casualties, collateral damage.

And from the news reports that I read and see, it looks to me like the Israelis are trying to provide a safe passage for many of the refugees who, as the Senator says, have moved south, but now they are up against the hard border of Egypt with nowhere else to go. My hope is, as he said, that they will be given safe passage, if they can, to someplace where they won't be in harm's way.

But, again, to me, the bottom line is we have to give Israel the flexibility they need to eliminate the threat. We would ask for nothing less if it were us as it has been in places like Mosul and Fallujah in the past.

I appreciate the Senator for responding. Again, I am reassured by his comments. But I hope—I hope—we never are so arrogant or so full of hubris as we think we can dictate or micromanage a conflict in a foreign country thousands of miles away when they are in a fight for their lives.

Thank you very much. I appreciate my colleague.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, if I might extend my remarks briefly, then conclude.

There is another path a bipartisan group of us worked hard to support, and I hope is still possible. This path forward, which I also discussed directly with Prime Minister Netanyahu, was given real life just 2 weeks ago—3 weeks ago—when Iran attacked Israel.

Israel's defense against these Iranian missiles and drones was, yes, primarily provided by missile systems and by Israeli jets but also by the cooperation and assistance of the Saudis, the Jordanians, the Americans, and the British.

There is another path forward where ending Hamas in Gaza and the region is the joint project of the Saudis, the Egyptians, the Jordanians, and that there is an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It was exactly that prospect that helped precipitate the Hamas attack of October 7.

Yes, Hamas is a hateful terrorist organization dedicated to eradicating Israel and killing Jews. But the timing, the timing of the October 7 attack was very closely aligned to when a final next step in the Saudi-Israel reconciliation was about to move forward. They have been determined to prevent peace.

There is a way forward whereby Hamas may be eliminated from having any role in Gaza and the West Bank and, in the future, of the region by a regional cooperation which could be facilitated by achieving peace. That is also much to be hoped for and worked for.

I yield the floor and thank my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the information of the Senate, cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit and the amendments thereto fall.

H.R. 3935

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the Senate has spent much of the past couple of years rushing to complete high-stakes bills before long-awaited deadlines arrive. Matter of fact, we have been very bad about meeting those deadlines. We keep kicking the can down the road in a number of cases. That was the situation last month, when one of our Nation's most vital intelligence tools was in danger of expiring on the 19th of April. It was the case last spring, when the United States hit the debt limit and nearly defaulted on its debts while Congress debated solutions. It was the case for fiscal year 2024 appropriations, when Congress had to pass multiple eleventh-hour funding bills to avert a government shutdown.

It seems like we have lurched from one deadline to another up against the wall, where we have postponed making important decisions on a timely basis, so there is no more time, no more flexibility, and we have lurched, as I said, from potential shutdown to potential shutdown.

But the big item on the Senate's agenda this week is the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, and to my point, it is set to expire tomorrow night.

The Federal Aviation Administration is vital to the safety and the efficiency of our Nation's air travel system that millions of us depend on, on a daily basis. From certifying aircraft and pilots to overseeing air traffic controls, this Agency touches on virtually every aspect of the aviation industry, and its operations have a major impact on all the American people. On an average day, the Agency serves more than 45,000 flights involving 2.9 million passengers. That is a staggering number—45,000 flights, 2.9 million airline passengers a day.

A highly functioning FAA is vital to the country, but it is clear that the Agency has fallen short in a number of respects in recent years. Travelers have dealt with widespread flight cancelations and paralyzing staffing shortages. They have experienced jarring safety issues, such as near collisions on airport tarmacs, including one at the Austin airport, where I live. All of these incidents have underscored the need to pass a strong FAA reauthorization bill that prioritizes safety, efficiency, and consumer confidence.

My friend Senator CRUZ, the junior Senator from Texas, is leading the reauthorization effort on this side of the aisle, and he has worked with the chairwoman, Senator CANTWELL, to help craft a bipartisan, bicameral bill that will make flying safer and more convenient for all airline passengers.

This reauthorization bill importantly includes a range of reforms and will modernize and improve the FAA. It strengthens safety standards, enhances consumer protections, invests in technologies to improve efficiency, and expands training programs to meet the workforce demands of the rapidly growing air travel industry.

I am glad this legislation also delivers a major win for Texas and in particular, San Antonio, where I was raised. San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the United States, and it is known as Military City USA because of the large presence of our Armed Forces. As a matter of fact, that is the reason my family moved to San Antonio when I was a freshman in high school—because my dad was a career Air Force officer stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Despite the fact that we are talking about the seventh largest city in the country, you can fly directly from Washington, DC, from Reagan National Airport, to Houston, to Dallas, to Austin, but you can't fly directly to San

Antonio. You have to go through a major hub, like Dallas-Fort Worth. This is because of this archaic and really quite inappropriate perimeter rule which limits the number of gates available for aircraft to fly in and out of Washington, DC, at Reagan National Airport.

This makes it difficult for military personnel serving in places like San Antonio or businesspeople who want to come back and forth or simply families who want to come visit the Nation's Capital. This makes it unnecessarily difficult for each of them, but I am optimistic this will change soon as a result of the underlying Federal Aviation Authorization Act. This legislation will allow five additional long-haul flights into Reagan National Airport, giving airlines the ability to establish a direct route between, in this case, San Antonio and the District of Columbia.

Again, I want to commend Senator CRUZ for his leadership on this legislation. He knows how important this is to San Antonio and the entire State of Texas. It is also important for consumers to have a competitive choice when it comes to the airlines they choose to fly on because the more competition, it means that the prices will have to be better, more affordable for consumers, and it will force everybody to be better. He and Senator CANTWELL and our colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee have crafted a strong bill to modernize the FAA and promote safety for the American people, so I just want to say a few words about how much I appreciate their hard work.

I hope the Senate will pass this bill soon, perhaps as early as this evening.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Madam President, on another matter, while all these big, deadline-driven bills often get the most attention, they aren't the only pieces of legislation moving through the Senate and across the Capitol to the House and then to the President's desk. This Chamber, the Senate, has been very productive in producing countless bipartisan bills that address some of the biggest challenges our country is facing.

One example is the need to protect our kids online. The social media platforms that were designed to connect people have become breeding grounds for exploitation and abuse of children.

Out of every great technology that has made our lives easier and made us more prosperous, unfortunately, there always seems to be a dark side that is exploited by bad actors and evil people.

Last year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received over 36 million reports of suspected child exploitation.

Let me say that again. Last year alone—NCMEC, it is called—the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 36 million reports of suspected child exploitation online.

Predators are increasingly using these social media platforms to groom and exploit vulnerable children. Republicans and Democrats—again, this is not a partisan issue—Republicans and Democrats on the Judiciary Committee have taken these threats seriously. We have held multiple hearings on this topic, and my colleagues and I have introduced a range of bills to build a safer world online for all of our children.

One of those bills is the Project Safe Childhood Act, which gives Federal prosecutors and law enforcement more tools to go after online child predators. This legislation that I introduced and passed the Judiciary Committee passed the Senate unanimously last October, but it is still awaiting action in the House of Representatives after all these many months.

Sadly, it is not the only such bill. The House is also sitting on another important bill to protect children called the Jenna Quinn Act. This legislation carries the name of an inspiring young Texas woman who is a survivor of child sexual abuse. Jenna was the driving force behind a 2009 law in Texas that required training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children in schools on how to identify, prevent, and report child sexual abuse. Given the amount of time our children spend in class, it is important that our teachers and our counselors and people who work with them in their schools are trained to identify the signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse.

Since the Jenna Quinn Law passed in Texas in 2009, a number of States have passed similar laws, but this training lacks funding typically, and that is where the Jenna Quinn Law comes in. The bill I introduced with Senator HASSAN to finally back the Federal training will come with Federal grant funding attached.

Again, this bill, like the previous bill I mentioned, passed the Senate unanimously, but it is still awaiting action in the House of Representatives.

But I am not done yet. The House is also holding up another bill that would reauthorize Project Safe Neighborhoods through the Department of Justice. This is another bill that I introduced. This program fosters partnerships between Federal, State, and local law enforcement to help reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer.

It was inspired by a successful program that started just down the road in Richmond, VA, called Project Safe Neighborhoods. Actually, I think it was called Project Exile at that time. But it also is something that, when I was attorney general a few years ago, we scaled up for a statewide effort, and it helped reduce crime rates across our State.

The Federal program is called Project Safe Neighborhoods, and it has, during its tenure, helped reduce violent crime in large cities and small towns across America.

Given the growing concerns about crime in our country, including right here in the Nation's Capital, in the District of Columbia, there could not be a more important time to make this program better, stronger, and more effective.

So these are three bills that were bipartisan and basically voted unanimously out of the Senate and are sitting, waiting for action in the House. Each one passed the Senate, as I said, with unanimous support, and each one would go a long way to help reduce crime, support survivors, and make our country safer. But there are a total of 10 bills which I have authored that have passed the Senate but are awaiting action in the House, including these 3. So when you add the other bills that have been introduced by many of my colleagues, we have a serious legislative logjam on our hands. The House is sitting on bills to protect children, improve public safety, promote efficient trade, and so much more.

I am here to plead with the House to take up and pass these bills. Many of them are, as they were in the Senate, not controversial. There shouldn't be any reason for any more unnecessary delay.

We know here we are 6 months before the next election, and legislating only gets harder each day, the closer and closer we get to the November election. Including this week, the Senate is scheduled to be in session for only 12 weeks between now and election day, and the same is true for the House of Representatives. In that time, we will need to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, pass the Defense authorization bill, pass the farm bill, and fund the government, among many other things. Of course, those are just the must-pass bills. There are countless other items, like the ones I mentioned, that we should be working on together.

So we have a lot to accomplish in the next 12 weeks, and I would encourage our friends in the House to take up these commonsense, bipartisan bills that are noncontroversial and send them to the President's desk as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the indispensable contributions public service workers across the Nation make every single day.

I would like to start by thanking Senators SINEMA and LANKFORD—thank you so much—for championing the 2024 reintroduction of their Public Service

Recognition Week resolution of which I am a proud cosponsor.

For more than four decades, the first week of May has been set aside to show appreciation to the Federal, State, county, and local government employees who form the backbone of our country. As we mark the 40th anniversary of this tradition, we have a renewed opportunity to salute those working behind the scenes in small towns and big cities, many of whom have dedicated their entire professional careers to giving back to their community and to this country.

California is home to more public servants than any other State in our Nation. As one of the two Senators representing more than 40 million Californians, I could not be prouder of that fact. Whether it is here in the Halls of Congress or in the pockets of our Nation, I stand shoulder to shoulder with millions of public servants who get out of bed every morning, committed to shaping our world for the better. From our teachers to our librarians, our elected officials and our election workers, our people in uniform who fight crimes and fight fires, they and so many others exemplify some of our Nation's highest ideals.

I am inspired by the stories of hardworking Californians who have dedicated their lives to public service. They are the reason our communities are kept safe. They are the reason our students are kept on the right track. They are the reason democracy endures against attempts to erode it. And they don't get nearly enough credit or thanks for the sacrifices that they make to keep our country moving forward.

My office performed direct outreach to communities up and down our State, inviting people to nominate those working in local, State, and Federal offices they believe best define what it means to be a public servant. We received hundreds of nominations—extraordinary people from all across California who embody the spirit of public service—and though each and every one of them deserves their own recognition, I would like to share a few of those stories today.

The first is Roxana Samame.

Roxana is a multilingual cultural academic language coach for the L.A. Unified School District. She is nominated by Geraldine Hernandez-Abisror. Geraldine met Roxana this year from Geraldine's work in community engagement and as a parent liaison for the Reseda Community Schools.

A member of United Teachers Los Angeles, Roxana is a single mom, nominated for having the biggest heart and the best gift for working with students from underserved communities. She was a former dean of students at West Adams Prep School, has worked with students involved in gangs, and has provided meaningful support to keep our kids on the right path. She currently serves as a coach for title III multilingual and cultural language students in Los Angeles, which is the second largest school district in our Nation. In addition, she works in supportive services for the English Language Development Program at William Mulholland Middle School.

Congratulations, and thank you, Roxana.

Veronica Marbella from Los Angeles, CA.

Veronica is a nurse practitioner at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center in Los Angeles, CA. She was nominated by Guadalupe Alvarado.

Veronica is a proud union member of SEIU Local 721, and she was Guadalupe's first supervisor in 2001 at Charles Drew Medical Center. She has served for 30 years as a nurse practitioner, including the supervision of the Trauma Intensive Care Unit at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital in LA. She built a track record of training nurses on how to best advocate for their patients and for each other. She also worked closely with Dr. Meade, who was the ICU director and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, to orient and train both interns and residents in the surgery program.

Veronica has dedicated her life to serving others in the most complex environments. In the words of Guadalupe, ''She reminds us of the compassion, dedication, and skill involved in providing excellent patient care.''

Thank you, Veronica and Guadalupe.

Joy Murphy from Santa Clara, CA.

Joy works at NASA's Ames Research Center and was nominated by her cousin, Geraldine Hernandez-Abisror.

Joy has been a public servant for more than 26 years and was the first Filipina-African American to serve as the Deputy Director of the Office of Human Capital at NASA's Ames Research Center. She now serves as the Director for California Human Resources and Chief Human Capital Officer at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, CA.

Joy is a mother who has dedicated her life to serving her community and, according to Geraldine, has a heart of gold and talent that words cannot describe.

Thank you, Joy, for all that you do to make California and our Nation great.

Josh Hoines from Shasta, CA.

Josh works for the National Park Service and was nominated by Erin Ryan, who works with Josh in serving California constituents. A public servant for more than 18 years, Josh currently serves as the Whiskeytown Park Superintendent.

Erin told us that Josh came into his role during a very difficult time. Over 90 percent of the park had burned in a wildfire, and he was dealing with COVID shutdowns and a lack of funding. Despite these obstacles, Josh has returned to the park, and he has returned the park to an effective recreation area. According to Erin, Josh has done great work with staff and the community and our office. She adds that the community is fortunate to have him in the district. I know I am fortunate to have Josh in our national parks as a representative of this government.

I am grateful, Josh. Thank you and congratulations.

Finally, Diego Rivera.

Also from Los Angeles, Diego is a firefighter. He is a firefighter at the U.S. Forest Service, Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles, CA. He was nominated by Robert Garcia, who served as his boss, the fire chief.

On August 16, 2023, Diego was fighting fires in the Six Rivers National Forest in Northern California when he was struck by a fallen tree and was severely injured, rendering him paralyzed. Since his injury, Diego continues to defy a lot of his medical prognoses, exceeding any expectation that medical professionals have made. Despite his paralysis, he remains engaged with his firefighting team and the U.S. Forest Service's fire agency to continue to motivate and inspire firefighters to believe in themselves and in each other.

In closing, service is the rent we pay for living or, as Shirley Chisholm reminded us, it is the great price that we pay for living. I am grateful to the thousands of public servants across the State of California for their continued service to the people of this Nation. Choosing a life of dedicated service to others is a decision that demands the highest respect and the greatest gratitude. Far too often, people in this line of work go unsung and underpaid.

So, as we use this moment to recognize the critical role they play in holding our Nation together, let's recommit ourselves to understanding that they are needed, ensuring that they are protected, and making the path to public service smoother for those who choose to walk it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, regulations have been coming thick and fast from the Biden administration lately as the administration races to squeeze in regulations before the deadline, after which they could be overturned by a new Congress.

In fact, a recent spate of regulations brought the total regulatory costs imposed by the Biden administration in 2024 to over $1 trillion—$1 trillion—in just one year.

All told, the Biden administration has imposed a staggering $1.47 trillion in regulatory costs since the President took office—$1.47 trillion.

Compare that to President Trump, who had actually reduced regulatory costs by this point in his administration. But, perhaps, I am not being fair. Perhaps, it is not surprising that a Republican President didn't impose a staggering regulatory burden.

Let's compare President Biden to his Democratic predecessor, President Obama. By this point in his first term,

President Obama had imposed regulations costing $303.5 billion—certainly, of course, more than President Trump, but, I am afraid to say, still a long way away from President Biden. The total cost of President Obama's regulations at this point in his first term doesn't come anywhere close to President Biden's total.

In fact, the total cost of President Obama's regulations to this point was roughly 20 percent of the cost of President Biden's—20 percent.

The Biden administration has imposed regulations costing almost five times as much as President Obama's. President Biden is bringing new meaning to the phrase ''the heavy hand of government.''

What do we mean when we refer to regulatory costs? What do those look like in practice? They can look like forcing electric generation facilities to spend millions of dollars to install costly carbon capture systems, as the Biden administration is doing with its new powerplant rule.

They can look like an additional $7,000 in construction costs for new homes. See President Biden's energy efficiency requirements for affordable housing.

They can look like imposing new vehicle emission standards, effectively forcing car companies to spend enormous amounts of money to rejigger their supply chains and factories to produce a lot of new electric cars, even though Americans are not exactly clamoring for electric vehicles.

They can look like forcing farmers and ranchers and other private landowners to spend tens of thousands of dollars for permits or penalties concerning water features on their private land. And for that, I would have you see the Biden administration's waters of the United States, or what we call the WOTUS, rule.

I could go on.

All of these regulatory costs have consequences. It just stands to reason, if your family is facing a major, unexpected medical bill, for example, there is a good chance you are going to have to account for it somehow—either by cutting back spending, dipping into savings, or picking up extra hours at work, or perhaps a second job to increase your income.

Similarly, if you are a South Dakota nursing home facing a Federal requirement to hire additional staff—and for that, I would have you see the Biden administration's new nursing home staffing regulation—you are likely going to have to do something like reduce the number of patients that you care for or close your doors altogether, which is becoming already way too common in my State of South Dakota.

Or if you are a small business facing the new overtime rule the Biden administration recently put in place—which imposes a massive 65-percent increase in the overtime exemption threshold—you may be faced with the unappealing prospect of either increasing prices on the goods or services that you provide, reducing the number of positions you have available, or lowering the base pay you offer to create room to be able to pay overtime wages.

Or take President Biden's powerplant regulations. His so-called good neighbor rule and his new carbon capture and emissions regulations will not only drive up energy prices for American families and businesses, they are also likely to result in a less reliable energy supply.

Our current assumption that we will automatically have the energy we need to power our businesses, operate our heating and air conditioning systems, run our appliances, and light our homes may not survive the long-term imposition of President Biden's powerplant rules.

Then there are still other costs. American taxpayers are now being forced to pay for abortion services at the VA—in defiance of Federal law—thanks to a Biden administration regulation.

This is far from the only attempt by the Biden administration to impose its far-left social agenda through Federal regulation and endanger conscience rights in the process.

We are facing serious consequences from the Biden regulatory regime, from threats to conscience rights to questions about the future stability of our energy supply to immense financial costs for families and businesses—$1.47 trillion in regulatory costs in less than 4 years. I shudder to think what that number will look like should we see another 4.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a program of critical importance to my State and to a number of people all across the country, and that is the Affordable Connectivity Program—something that doesn't generate a lot of headlines; something that doesn't generate a lot of partisan debate; and something for which, gratefully, there is a bipartisan group of Senators who would, I think, extend the Affordable Connectivity Program for this country, but, unfortunately, it looks like the leadership does not want to give us a vote on it.

So I want to talk about why this program is important and talk about why it is important that we hopefully, sometime in the future, authorize this important program, which just expired a matter of a few days ago.

Now, this is a town where, often, the things that generate headlines are sometimes the most partisan fights, the things that are most pressing and most relevant. And, of course—the Presiding Officer knows me—I participate in those debates just as well or just as much as anybody.

But sometimes—hopefully, most of the time—this body should be geared toward actually accomplishing things for the constituents that we represent. In the State of Ohio, the Affordable Connectivity Program benefits over a million households. That is not a million people. A million households in the State of Ohio benefit from this program. And my cosponsors from Vermont, from New Mexico, Democratic colleagues, and from a number of Republican States as well, I think, testify to how important this program actually is.

Let me just sort of try to identify a couple of the reasons why it is important. So the first reason it is important is because we know that connectivity is actually one of the important and necessary parts of living life in the 21st century. We may not like this. We may think that this is a negative trend. But, look, kids can't do their schoolwork without access to high-quality broadband. A lot of parents can't do their work from home if they don't have access to high-quality broadband. Teachers can't prepare lessons for the next day.

And, increasingly, especially in a country that is as constrained by budget and fiscal matters as ours, one of the great ways to lower healthcare costs in our country is telemedicine. Yet you can't do telemedicine, of course, if you don't have an internet connection at home.

The Affordable Connectivity Program solves this problem by ensuring that our low-income residents all across the country can afford their internet bills.

Now, it is not just about the consumers; it is not just about our citizens who need a high-quality connection because the guarantee that consumers will be able to pay their internet bills, regardless of their income level, is one of the things that makes it possible for a lot of companies to invest in rural broadband infrastructure.

Now, I talked to a number of companies, a number of businesses that do rural broadband infrastructure just in the State of Ohio, and it costs a lot of money. Right? You lay a mile of fiber in a place like Cleveland, Columbus, or Cincinnati, and you instantly have thousands upon thousands of people who are ready to tap into that connection; but you lay a mile of fiber in rural southeastern Ohio, and maybe, if you are lucky, you have a few people who are willing to tap into that connection. So it is more expensive in the parts of our country that are more sparsely populated.

I think it is one of the reasons my Democratic colleague from New Mexico is as passionate about this as I am—Senator LUJÁN because you have, of course, large numbers of reservations

all over New Mexico and a large number of rural areas that are in reservations. And, look, you need to be able to access the stuff. You need to be able to access internet connection in the 21st century. It is important for economic development. It is important for people to be able to live their lives.

But in order to ensure that people are willing to actually invest in that broadband infrastructure, to pay for that mile of fiberoptic cable, we have to make sure that, on the other end, there are customers who are willing to actually access and pay for those services.

So this is an important thing, and it is already expired. And it hasn't expired because of partisan bickering. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation that wants to reauthorize this program. It hasn't expired because we don't have the resources. This is a very, very small amount of money in the grand scheme of the Federal budget. The reason it is expired is because sometimes in Washington, people are too busy arguing about public policy and not actually busy enough doing public policy.

We have the votes. We have the need. We have the necessity. But the reason why this program has fallen, the reason why this program has lapsed, the reason why it has gone offline—if you will forgive a pun—is because we can't actually vote on it. And that, unfortunately, I think, is a reflection on Senate leadership; it is a reflection on the brokenness of this town; and it is a reflection on the fact that, too often, so many good public policies for the people of our country fall through the cracks because other things take priority.

Well, this should take priority. This is important. And I think, unfortunately, a lot of people in Ohio are about to find out how important it is when they start to see the effects of it expiring.

So one of the things, Mr. President—I am mindful a little bit of the time here. I received a number of letters about this. One of the really fascinating dynamics of becoming a U.S. Senator—I have been here for all of 18 months—is that your constituent letters very often tell you the issues that the people you represent, the people you serve, actually care the most about. I expect a lot of constituent mail—positive and negative—and sometimes I am surprised by it.

I am always surprised that anytime an issue of animal rights comes up, that is when I get maybe the most mail. People in Ohio really love animals, and rightfully so. And this issue I have gotten a lot of letters on. Again, it doesn't gather a lot of headlines, but it matters to a lot of people.

This is one letter I received from a constituent:

Senator VANCE: I am writing to you today to stress the importance of Congress providing continued funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) as soon as possible. My household, along with a special needs person that relies on GPS for tracking his whereabouts could be life-threatening if I cannot find him.

Think about that, right?

I am his legal guardian and look over his well-being so as when he wanders off, I would not be able to find him through his cell phone device. More than 21 million other vulnerable households in the United States—

Mr. President, 21 million, 8 percent or so of our population, rely on this program to pay for broadband services.

Without the support provided by this program, my home and many others would struggle to afford a broadband subscription.

The support provided by the ACP program has kept my family and families like mine online through these difficult economic times.

I am going to read a second letter here, but I just want to highlight what an extraordinary testament that is: the legal guardian of a special needs person who needs broadband access to be able to keep tabs on this person when they need to. And the program that they desperately need has already expired, and they are about to start feeling it. It only expired a week ago, so they haven't maybe noticed it yet, but they certainly will. And this person needs access to this program to keep track of a special needs person. And you wonder, Will they have it without this continued program?

I am going to read another letter here. This is from Poland, OH:

Dear Senator VANCE, I represent the Ohio Connectivity Champions, a group of technology experts who were hired by the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network during the pandemic to help Ohio families find affordable internet.

We originally focused on parents of students who needed internet so that their children could complete schoolwork. Since then, we have focused on all Ohioans and helping them with enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program as well as other technology related assistance.

We have heard from thousands of Ohioans on how much the ACP has helped them with affordable internet.

I know that budgetary issues are very difficult right now and that government expenditures are at the top of everyone's list of priorities, but the ACP is one of the most successful social programs in a long time.

The pandemic opened everyone's eyes to the digital divide in this country and the ACP has allowed for millions of Americans to participate in the 21st century economy. I know that the ACP will most likely be adjusted through negotiations in Congress, and that is fine, but to not fund the program completely would affect many Ohioans. We would appreciate your support of the ACP as we continue to help Ohioans with finding affordable internet.

Another letter comes from Columbus, OH. And though one of the things I really admire and like about the ACP program is it induces investment in rural broadband infrastructure, we also know that there are a lot of people in our urban areas who could not afford their internet bills without the ACP program.

So this is from Natalie in Columbus, OH:

We receive a $30 credit each month on our internet connection. This is scheduled to end in early 2024 unless the Affordable Connectivity Program is fully funded. This makes a significant difference in our monthly budget as we are on food stamps. Both my husband and I are disabled. This credit makes a significant difference in our lives. Without it that $30 will have to come out of our food budget as we don't have anywhere else to squeeze the budget. Food costs have gone up. Every month, we end up spending more on food than we get in food stamps. When we got that extra $95 at the end of the month it really helped. However, that program was discontinued. Now, another program is scheduled to end that directly impacts those Americans on the bottom end of the economic scale.

So two people—a husband and wife—disabled, who are actually going to forgo food because this program has expired in my home State of Ohio. What a shame that we have failed Natalie and her husband by failing to reauthorize this program, and what an opportunity to actually get off our rear ends and make sure that we do it when we get the opportunity.

This is another letter I am going to read from Mansfield, OH:

I am 73 years old.

Mansfield, OH. Speaking of pets, this is actually where my wife and I got the very first dog that we ever owned together.

Without the ACP, I would not have internet.

So, I am writing to you today to stress the importance of Congress providing continued funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) as soon as possible.

The support provided by the ACP program has kept my family and families like mine online through these difficult economic times. We use it to stay connected to work, school, and healthcare providers, in addition to family and friends. Without ACP, the reality is we may no longer be able to afford to be connected and that would be an added hardship.

Think about this. I know that, like a lot of Americans with young kids at home, probably the most important thing that I use my broadband connection for is so that my three little kids can call their grandparents and call their aunts and uncles.

So this 73-year-old from Mansfield, OH, I wonder whether she will be able to contact her grandkids, whether she will be able to keep connected with her family who are not easy to get to if this program disappears.

One final letter I want to read. I am sorry. Mr. President, given the time, I will not read the last letter that I have. But the point that I think these letters drive home is that real people are going to suffer when this program goes away. You have people who have to pick between food service and internet connectivity. You have an elderly woman who may not be able to connect to her friends and family. You have people worried about their telemedicine and healthcare visits.

And on the point about Federal spending, it sort of breaks my heart when a constituent who can't afford internet service is writing to us apologizing for a program's budgetary hit

when it is a tiny, tiny slice of the American Federal budget. And I know this is a controversial comment with some of my colleagues, but if we can afford to fund military conflicts the world over, can't we afford to provide basic connectivity and services for our own people? Disabled people choosing between food and internet connection—that is the choice that we have foisted upon them by not authorizing this program. I am disappointed by that, Mr. President, and again I will say that it presents an opportunity for us to do the right thing—to make reforms to the ACP program where it needs to be reformed but to do the right thing: Reauthorize this program, and ensure that Ohioans and people all over our country don't have to choose between internet service and food. We can do that. We just have to do our jobs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

H.R. 3935

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this is a little like deja vu all over again. Here we are dealing with another piece of legislation. It is an important piece of legislation. It is important legislation that deals with a lot of things important to a lot of Americans, affecting something that is uniquely, distinctively within our legislative jurisdiction as Federal lawmakers; that is, the work of the Federal Aviation Administration.

It has been part of the interstate network from the dawn of the Republic. Article I, section 8, clause 3, the commerce clause, has been interpreted, among other things, to give Congress regulatory—legislative jurisdiction over channels and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, and air travel happens to be one of those things.

This important FAA reauthorization bill that has a lot of provisions in it—some of which I like, some of which I am not wild about—was processed by the Senate Commerce Committee. The Commerce Committee—the chair and especially the ranking member—did yeoman's work in incorporating into the base text amendments from a wide array of Members, and I have appreciated the hard work they have put into it.

It is important to remember that no matter how hard a committee chair and ranking member work—certainly the ranking member, my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from Texas—have done in this case on this bill, it still doesn't obviate or supplant the need for robust consideration of amendments to be offered on the Senate floor because, remember, any one Senate committee, including the Commerce Committee, contains at most, you know, a few dozen Members of this body—a couple of dozen is about all—and there are, of course, 100 of us. Every one of us holds an election certificate.

One of the most fundamental rules in the Constitution—a rule that, by directive of the Constitution itself, can't be changed—is the principle of equal representation among the States in the Senate. So to give life and vitality to that, it is absolutely imperative that individual Senators be given the opportunity to have meaningful input into legislation whether they sit on the committee of jurisdiction or not.

To that end, throughout the nearly 2½ centuries of the existence of this body, the U.S. Senate, our rules have given pretty broad deference to individual Members and given certain prerogatives to each and every Senator, no matter how junior or how senior, whether a Member is with the minority party or with the majority party.

The whole basis of traditions in the Senate built into our rules—things like the filibuster, like the cloture standard—they are all designed to allow Members to engage in robust debate. You can't really have meaningful debate and meaningful input from every Member of this body who wants to participate unless you have something of an open amendment process on the floor.

Now, this was always the norm in the history of the Senate. It was even when I arrived here. I was sworn into office at the beginning of 2011. The Presiding Officer, of course, joined us not too long after that, and thus commenced the golden era of the U.S. Senate with the arrival of the current Presiding Officer.

When we arrived here in the Senate, there were still real, live, significant vestiges of the way the place always operated; namely, when we had a significant bill—especially a significant, must-pass legislative vehicle like the FAA reauthorization bill we are considering now—it was still normal, still to be expected that an individual Senator could come down to the Senate floor, call up his or her amendment, and make that amendment pending.

Once an amendment is made pending, then the Senate has an obligation eventually to dispose of that amendment either by passing it or voting on it and declining to pass it or tabling it or something like that. There are not many options, but it had to be disposed of once it was made pending.

We have gotten into a bad pattern since then. Unfortunately, both political parties have played a role in this. We have had increased prevalence of a situation in which the majority leader will come to the Senate floor, file cloture on the bill to bring debate to a close, set that process for bringing debate to a close in motion, and fill the tree.

Fill the tree. Filling the amendment tree is what that refers to. That is fancy Senate terminology that just means the majority leader has some tricks at his disposal to make it nearly impossible to get amendments made pending by individual rank-and-file Members.

It was fairly common that we could make our amendments pending as recently as 2011 and 2012, when I arrived and then when the Presiding Officer arrived in the Senate. It is almost unheard of now because filing cloture and filling the tree have become almost automatic, almost reflexive. They are almost self-perpetuating. And it is relentless to the point that many Members who have joined us since then haven't ever even really experienced the Senate the way it is more properly expected to function. Individual Members have to beg and plead, go on bended knee to political leaders of both parties in the Senate, asking: Please, please, may I have a chance to do this? Without the acquiescence of the majority leader, the only way you can get your amendment pending in many circumstances involves coming to the floor and asking unanimous consent to make it pending. That consent is too routinely denied now, very often by the majority party—typically by the majority party; sometimes not.

What that results in is really a truncation, an abbreviation, a short-circuiting of the legislative process as it has always functioned here, as it was designed to function in the Senate rules, as I imagine it to have been envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

There are 100 Members of this body, and they should all have the opportunity to fight publicly for their constituents, to make improvements to the bill, to take away things they consider harmful, and to add things that have not been included that they think should be included.

This bill has not been amended on the Senate floor. That is why I opposed cloture moments ago. Like I say, there are some things in this bill that I really like, and there are other things that I don't like, but the biggest single reason to oppose cloture on the bill is that I don't know how you can in good conscience vote to bring debate to a close when debate has effectively not happened—at least not on the Senate floor.

I don't believe debate can happen meaningfully, effectively on an amendable vehicle like this one where there has been no opportunity to amend. The bill hasn't been amended on the Senate floor.

The Senate shouldn't simply agree to rubberstamp this so-called four corners agreement.

''Four corners agreement'' is a term that can refer to several different things. Very often it means that it has been blessed—depending on the nature of the bill, very often it has been blessed by the law firm of SCHUMER, MCCONNELL, JOHNSON, and JEFFRIES or perhaps the law firm of SCHUMER, MCCONNELL, JOHNSON, and JEFFRIES accompanied by the chair and ranking member of the appropriate legislative committee or committees.

But we are not a rubberstamp for one or more committees or for the firm; we are each elected by the voters in our respective States and should stand accountable to them. In order to do our jobs, we have to stand here and be willing to debate. If you don't want to

fight fires, for heaven's sake, don't become a firefighter. If you don't want to cast votes, including lots of votes on amendments to legislation, even where you don't feel like taking the vote, even where you would rather be kicking back, drinking a root beer or something—you would be really doing your constituents a disservice if you subjugated your own desires—your own desire for bliss and for inaction and you preferred those over your duty to your constituents who elected you.

We are not here to celebrate somebody's birthday. We are not here to rubberstamp what the committees do or what the law firm suggests. We are here to legislate.

We are not really legislators; we are a gigantic rubberstamp to the extent that we ourselves don't have the opportunity to vote for amendments. That is why I call upon all Senators within the sound of my voice, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican or something else, a liberal or a conservative, whether you have been here for a few years or a really long time—it doesn't matter; you should want your job that you worked really hard to get elected to—you should want to be able to do your job.

I want to be clear. There are a lot of amendments that have been prominently featured and touted in connection with this bill, amendments—the sponsors of which have really aggressively argued for. A lot of those amendments are not amendments I support. In fact, a number of them are things that I strongly oppose and would really hope would not pass. Some of them, I would support; others, I wouldn't.

But notwithstanding the fact that some of them really are awful, call me old fashioned, Mr. President, but I think that is our job, is to take votes, to try to make legislation better, and to offer improvements to it, and that means amendments.

Look, I understand that in the House of Representatives, things operate a little bit differently. You have 435 people over there. It is a lot harder to have—this is why we have always bragged about our status as the world's greatest deliberative legislative body.

On paper, we are. Historically, we certainly have been. Today, we are not. We are kidding ourselves. We are delusional if we want and expect the American people to believe otherwise, because we are not that.

But here is the good news: We still are that entity on paper. We still are that entity as it is envisioned, as it is created, as it is established and outlined by the Constitution. We still are that entity with our own rules, our own precedents, and our own customs.

But, alas, the best rules, the best constitutional provisions will amount to dead letter if we ourselves refuse to exercise our own rights and our prerogatives. The muscle of legislative procedure begins to atrophy with nonuse—especially, deliberate, willful, chronic nonuse—always ultimately to the benefit of the firm, to the benefit of a small handful of Senators and to the exclusion, to the effective disenfranchisement of everyone else—most importantly, those who elected us to do a job that we are neglecting, that we are outsourcing to third parties. Sometimes, it is third parties in the executive branch of government. Sometimes, it is individual Senators within our own ranks, within our own body, our own party leaders within our respective legislative Chambers.

Here is my closing plea. I hope and I humbly ask Senators—and I have great affection for the Presiding Officer and consider him a dear friend, even though he and I don't agree on every political issue. We have different positions on everything from the consumption of meat to whether I waited too long to shave my head. But the Presiding Officer and I are good friends, and even though we have different ideas for a lot of things, I think we both agree on the fact that the Senate could do a better job and would be doing a better job if we were voting more on his amendments, more on my amendments, more on the amendments that anyone else wants to file.

Sure, it takes a little bit more time, perhaps. Sure, it requires a little bit of effort. But that way we are doing our job. And not everything we want will always pass. And, yes, that way the law firm of SCHUMER, MCCONNELL, JOHNSON, and JEFFRIES wouldn't be able to control as much as it does. But it was never intended to be that way.

We are intended to make laws, not other lawmakers—certainly not legislative oligarchs who stand in for everybody else while the muscle of legislative and constitutional procedure continues to atrophy.

So, in short, the next Senate Republican and Democratic leader, regardless of who holds the majority, I hope, including and especially the next majority leader of either political party—I certainly hope he or she, whoever holds that position, will plot out a course that is different than the one that we have been on for the last few years and plot out a course that allows and encourages and enables each and every Senator to do his or her job.

We are all going to work better if everyone is allowed to do his or her job, and that means the leader needs to stop filling the tree reflexively, consistently, instinctively every time and boxing out rank-and-file Members.

Now, look, I get it. There are times when the majority party may see fit to do that, and those decisions have to be made in realtime. But I don't think it should be done often. I don't think it should be done for lighter, transient reasons. It should be the rare exception, rather than the norm.

But regardless of who the next majority leader is and to which party that leader may belong, it is not as though we are hopeless, passive observers, subjects to be acted upon here. No, we can be a part of this process.

Wherever, whenever there is an effort to lock out amendments, to fill the tree and exclude individual rank-and-file Members from the amendment process, any 41 Senators—Republicans, Democrats, or a combination of the two—can respond to that by proposing cloture and prohibiting the process from resulting and bringing debate to a close, unless or until each Senator is allowed the opportunity to offer, call up, and make pending their amendments.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Missouri.

RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I am, again, on this floor, this afternoon, because it is, again, apparent that Congress will fail to pass the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. Congress will, again, fail to compensate those Americans who have been exposed by their own government to nuclear radiation, to nuclear testing, to nuclear waste.

Why is Congress failing to act again? Well, because the House doesn't want to vote on it. The House doesn't want to vote on the radiation bill as part of the FAA. The House doesn't want to vote on the radiation bill as part of anything. The House just doesn't want to vote at all.

The only problem with that is that there is only 1 month remaining before this vital program—this commitment that this Nation has made to the working people of this Nation, to the veterans of this Nation who have served this country—before this commitment runs out, before it goes dark, before people exposed to nuclear waste by their own government get nothing. We have 1 month to go, and the House is not acting.

And so I am here, again, to remind this Congress, again, why it is vital, why it is a moral imperative that Congress—the House, in particular—act without delay.

So let me once more remind the House and all of those listening of just a few of the stories of the good Americans who have given their health—and, in many cases, I am sad to say, their lives—in an effort to help this country's nuclear program and as a result of what this country, what this government, what the military did in pushing forward with the nuclear program, including uranium processing and mining, without telling and informing the American people of what they were doing.

Let me just start in the State of Missouri. I could start in any number of

States because this was a nationwide effort that stretches all the way back to the Manhattan Project. And now most of America has seen that movie about Dr. Oppenheimer that won all those awards, and that is fine, and I am sure Dr. Oppenheimer deserves all the credit.

But let's just be clear that the real people who won not just the Second World War, the people who won the Cold War, the people who have fought and won every conflict that this Nation has been involved in, the people who are truly responsible and get the credit for the success of the Nation's nuclear program and military writ large are the working people of this country, who were not featured in that movie, who have not won awards, who are not getting plaudits from Hollywood or Wall Street or anybody else but are instead dying because of the radiation their government exposed them to.

In St. Louis, the government opened the uranium processing site in the 1940s, at the height of the Manhattan Project. St. Louis was a so-called secret city because it wasn't known that it was a site for uranium processing, and that went on for years.

When the government finally decided to close down the site, they didn't dispose of the nuclear waste. Instead, they allowed that waste to leak out of trucks that were supposed to transport it. They set it out in barrels in a parking lot, where it was exposed to the elements for years on end. Eventually they ended up dumping it—or some of it—in a public landfill.

You heard that right. Our government dumped nuclear waste in St. Louis into a public landfill, where, by the way, it still is. All these years later, it hasn't been cleaned up.

And as for the rest of it, the nuclear waste that sat out in barrels exposed to the elements, that was negligently transported in trucks, what happened to that? Well, it ran off into local creeks. It ran off into the soil. It helped pollute the air. And because of that, for 50 years and running, the people of St. Louis and St. Charles, which is right next door, and the entire region have been subjected to nuclear radiation in their homes, in their creeks—yes, in their schools—and it is still happening today.

What has the Federal Government done? Nothing. Nothing but mislead the people of my State. In fact, mislead is really too nice. They have out-and-out lied to them.

The government said for years that there was no nuclear contamination in Coldwater Creek in the St. Louis area. They said to the people of North County St. Louis: Your homes are fine. Your schools are fine. You are paranoid. Don't worry about it.

It turned out that was all a lie. The soil was contaminated. The water is contaminated as I stand here tonight. And now we have got the Army Corps of Engineers testing underneath people's basements because that is how deep the nuclear radiation, waste, and contamination, have sunk. That is how deeply embedded it is, really in the entire region.

And that story has been repeated over and over in places like Tennessee to Kentucky, to Alaska, to New Mexico and Utah and Nevada and Wyoming and many another State, in the West, in Ohio, in Pennsylvania.

Now, it is a pattern because this government's refusal to take responsibility for what it did is a pattern that continues to this day, and it is time to break it.

Because of what the government did, people like Zoey from St. Louis, she was born, this little girl, with a mass on her ovary—born with it. Why? Well, because her parents lived right near the creek that has been contaminated with nuclear radiation for decades and decades.

She had to have surgery to remove that mass from her body when she was 3 weeks old—3 weeks. She is 5 years old now, and she continues to experience regular complications from this disease that she was born with because of what the Federal Government did.

She is not the only one, not by a stretch—a long stretch. There is Zach Visintine. Zach was born with a rare brain tumor, one known to be caused by radiation. He had his first surgery when he was 1 week old. He started chemotherapy when he was 3 weeks old.

Zach died when he was 6. Why? Well, because his parents lived in that same region of St. Louis, right along that creek that the government poisoned, right along that waterway that the government contaminated, right along that area where the government said, for decades: totally fine, totally safe.

People played in the water. They built their homes right along the creek. Schools were built there. It was contaminated the entire time, and now Zach's family is left to mourn.

Or there is Claire. Claire's parents also grew up in the St. Louis area. Claire's parents grew up near another nuclear site called Weldon Spring, which is out in St. Charles, MO. For those who don't know the State, it is just to the west there of St. Louis. Claire was diagnosed as a baby with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma when she was only 2 years old.

This is happening not just in Missouri. We could talk about the victims of the Trinity Test, the original Oppenheimer test, like Bernice Gutierrez. Bernice was 8 days old when Trinity was detonated, 8 days. What we now know was—despite the government telling people at the time that there was no danger to their lives or property or persons, despite their saying it was fine—the nuclear fallout, the radiation, generated a cloud so large nearly the entire State of New Mexico was covered, and Bernice lived just miles from the test site.

Forty-four members of Bernice's family—44—have been diagnosed with cancer or radiation-linked diseases. Her mother had cancer three times—three times. Three of her brothers have had cancer. Her sister has had cancer, and she has a thyroid disease that is radiation induced. Her oldest son passed away from radiation illness; her daughter died of thyroid cancer; and 36 additional relatives—additional—have died of cancer and radiation-linked thyroid disease.

What has Bernice received from the U.S. Government? An apology? Nope. Recognition? Nope. Compensation? Not a dime. Not a dime.

Then there is Leslie Begay, who is a Navajo marine. Leslie is so typical of so many of the Navajo Nation. Did you know the Navajo Nation volunteers to serve this country in our Armed Forces in a proportion greater than any other community in the United States of America? It is extraordinary.

And when the time came during the Cold War to open mines to mine for uranium, guess who did more mining than any other community in the United States of America. It was members of the Navajo Nation. You want to talk about patriots? These are patriots. They have served this Nation at every hour of need, and Leslie is a prime example.

What did Leslie get when he went to the uranium mines? This is after he served the country in the Marines now. He goes to the uranium mines to continue serving this country. Did the government support him? No. Did they warn him? No. Have they compensated him for the diseases and cancers he has suffered? No. No.

Let me give you just one more example. These are young men and women—very young—elementary students at Jana Elementary School back in the St. Louis area. This picture was taken just a year or so ago. Their school was closed in 2022, closed, because independent, verified, third-party testing discovered dangerous levels of radiation in the dust on the windowsills at the school, in the dust covering the desks at the school. Why is that? Because Jana Elementary sits right next to that contaminated creek that the government poisoned all those years ago. And now these kids are told not only can they not go to school any longer in the neighborhood where they grew up—for months they were without a school entirely. Now they are told: Who knows what they have been exposed to. Who knows.

What has the government done about it? Have they rebuilt the school? No. Have they cleaned it up? Nope. Have they helped any of these children? No.

It is the same story. And I could give you 6 more examples or 60,000 or 600,000 because that is the minimum number of the good Americans who have been poisoned by their government, exposed by their government and the government's negligence to nuclear radiation.

Now, I will say this: The Senate did the right thing just a couple of months ago when we finally passed legislation

to right this decades-long injustice. This body finally passed—by an overwhelming, bipartisan margin, I might add—legislation to compensate these families, to compensate these good Americans, these brave Americans, to acknowledge them and their service, to elevate them to the stature that they deserve. These are American heroes. They deserve to be honored. They deserve to be elevated. They deserve to be compensated. This legislation, our legislation, would do it, and this body has passed it.

And now, now it waits for action in the House. Now, Speaker JOHNSON said, upon passage of the Senate's legislation 2 months ago—I have his statement in front of me. He said that he would work to move forward and act on the reauthorization measure, move forward and act on a reauthorization measure.

That was March of 2024; this is May. What has the House done? Nothing. How has the House voted? Not at all. What action has the House taken? None. And in 1 month—1 month—if the House does not act, this program goes dark. These children are not helped. These good Americans are not compensated. One month to go.

So I say again today: It is time for Speaker JOHNSON to keep his commitment not to some politician somewhere; it is his job to keep his commitment to the American people. It is his job to keep his commitment to the good people of this Nation who are waiting for him to act. And I will just say that weakness in the face of injustice is not commendable. Vacillation in the face of injustice is not to be praised. Indecision in the face of injustice is nothing to be proud of. This is the time to act and to move. This is the time for the House to keep its commitments and for the Speaker to keep his commitments.

We need politicians who are less concerned about how long they will hold their office and how many votes they have to support them in some election for office and more concerned about delivering justice for the American people.

Now, I will say this: I know there are some in the Speaker's party, my party, who would urge him to turn back and to reject what this body did in honoring and compensating the American people who so deserve it. I see these remarks from today published, remarks made by the junior Senator from Utah, Senator ROMNEY. Here is what Senator ROMNEY said. He does not like the bill passed by the Senate compensating these Americans. He said it costs too much, and he goes on and says that any compensation should be reserved for people ''who have been determined to actually be suffering''—to actually be suffering—''as a result of radiation exposure.''

I have to tell you, I don't understand this statement at all. I do not understand it. I do not understand why it is not good enough for these children and their suffering to matter. I don't understand why the thousands and tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of Americans poisoned in my State and other States, why that isn't good enough for this body to act. We have evidence. We have studies. This has been years of research done on the scope of the government's tests, on the scope of the downwind exposure to radiation, on the uranium processing done in Missouri and in Tennessee and in Kentucky and so many other States, Ohio. We know what the facts are. That is why this body finally acted.

And I would just say to the Speaker: It is incumbent now on you to act. Do not turn back and do not listen to those who would tell you to put people last and money first. Make no mistake. The bill for this program has been paid. The bill for this radiation has been paid. It has been paid by the American people. They are the ones who are paying the costs. They are the ones who are dying. They are the ones who are having to forgo cancer treatments, treatments for their children, because they can't afford it because their government has exposed them to this radiation negligently and now won't do anything about it. They are paying the cost. It is time the government bore its share.

Now, this is a moment of truth for Congress and also for the party of which I am a Member. It is a moment of decision. If you want to be the party of working people, you have to stand up for working people. If you want to be the party of those who have fought and died and bled and given their health for this country, you have to stand up for them. This is the time. This is the time. This is a test, and it is time for my party to rise to it, along with the rest of this Congress to honor the people who have built this Nation.

So, yes, I am in earnest about it. And, yes, I do feel a heaviness of heart about this today because, yes, the clock is ticking. I know that the lives we have lost we can never get back. I realize that. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't act now to help those who are suffering now. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't act now to right the wrong.

It was wrong for the government to poison the American people, lie to them about it, and do nothing about it. That was wrong. But we can right that wrong. This is America. We can make it right. The bill the Senate passed makes it right. This is a moral matter. It is a moral commitment.

I call on the House to act without delay. I call on them to do the right thing without hesitation. I urge the Speaker: Do what is right for the American people. Do what is right for the working people of this Nation. If you do, the Nation will commend you and stand with you.

Courage in the service of justice is what we need now, and I urge them toward it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, some of my Republican colleagues held a press conference today, criticizing President Biden for his decision to stop sending additional bombs to Israel due to the Netanyahu government's apparent decision to launch a major military assault on Rafah.

One of my Republican colleagues even said:

> Joe Biden objectively favors a Hamas victory over Israel. It's just that simple.

Which sounds rather amusing given the fact that, for the last 40 years, there has probably been nobody here in Washington, DC, more strongly supportive of Israel than Joe Biden, as a Senator and a President.

We all know that President Biden has been very clear about his opposition to an attack on Rafah for many, many months and for good reason: An offensive—a major military offensive—in Rafah would worsen an already horrendous humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

I am not quite sure—I know a little bit about politics, but I am not quite sure whom my Republican colleagues think they are speaking for when they attack the President.

The truth of the matter is that the American people—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, progressives, conservatives, moderates—are increasingly sick and tired of the massive destruction that is now taking place in Gaza. That is not BERNIE SANDERS' opinion; that is what poll after poll after poll shows. What those polls show is that the American people want an immediate cease-fire, and they do not want more U.S. military aid going to the war machine of the rightwing extremists' Netanyahu Government.

Let me just take a second to mention a few of the polls that are out there showing where the American people are on this issue.

Just this week—a few days ago—a Data for Progress poll found that 70 percent of voters, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, support the U.S. calling for deescalation and a cease-fire in Gaza. Deescalation is not a massive assault on Rafah, and a majority of voters, including 68 percent of Democrats and 55 percent of Independents, support suspending all U.S. arms sales to Israel until it stops blocking U.S. humanitarian aid from entering Gaza.

An April 14 POLITICO/Morning Consult poll: 67 percent of Americans support the U.S. calling for a cease-fire.

An April 12 CBS poll: 60 percent think the U.S. should not send weapons and supplies to Israel. Those are all, for my Democratic colleagues, disproportionately higher among Democratic supporters.

An April 10 Economist/YouGov poll: 37 percent support decreasing military aid to Israel; just 18 percent support an increase. Overall, 63 percent support a ceasefire, and 15 percent oppose.

So I am not quite sure where my Republican colleagues are coming from and who they think they are representing.

Let me just take a moment to tell you why the American people are opposed to more military aid going to the Netanyahu Government.

Almost 35,000 Palestinians have already been killed in the 7-month war, and more than 78,000 have been wounded, over two-thirds of whom are women and children—two-thirds of whom are women and children. As we speak right now, according to humanitarian organizations, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children face the possibility of malnutrition and starvation.

No. The American people do not want to see an increase in destruction in Gaza. They want to see an end to this horrific war.

Mr. President, as I am sure you know, the Netanyahu government has already destroyed the civilian infrastructure of Gaza. There is virtually no electricity, virtually no clean water, and raw sewage is running through the streets, spreading disease.

The housing infrastructure of Gaza has been demolished. Over 60 percent of the housing units have been damaged or destroyed, including 221,000 housing units that have been completely decimated, leaving more than 1 million people homeless—almost half the population of Gaza.

The healthcare system has been systematically annihilated—healthcare—at a time when you have tens and tens of thousands of people who have been injured, 26 out of 36 hospitals in Gaza have been made inoperable, and more than 400 healthcare workers have been killed.

The educational system in Gaza has been virtually destroyed. Every one of Gaza's 12 universities has been bombed, 56 schools have been destroyed, 219 have been damaged, and 625,000 children have no access to education.

Some of my Republican friends think that this is not enough violence, that this is not enough destruction? They want Netanyahu to go into Rafah and kill more people, making it impossible for humanitarian aid to get out to starving people. Maybe some of my Republican colleagues think that is a good idea. I do not believe the American people agree with them.

Last year at this time, the population of Rafah was about 300,000. Today, it is about 1.3 million. In other words, the population has quadrupled—quadrupled—in a 7-month period, with people who have been driven out of their homes throughout Gaza now landing in Rafah. That is why an attack on Rafah would make an unspeakable humanitarian disaster even worse. There are 1.3 million people, including 600,000 children, sheltering in that area. That means there are some 50,000 people per square mile. It is enormously densely populated.

This is also Rafah, where the vast majority of humanitarian aid is received and distributed and where most of the few remaining medical facilities are located.

In other words, at a time of massive humanitarian disaster throughout Gaza, an attack on Rafah would not only greatly add to the death toll, it would severely hinder the ability of humanitarian aid to get through to desperate and starving people.

Let me conclude by saying this: The United States does and should stand by its allies, but our allies must also stand by the values and the laws of the United States of America. That is what an ally is.

We must now use all of our leverage to prevent the catastrophe in Gaza from becoming even worse, and that means holding back all offensive military aid, including billions in recent funding, until the Netanyahu government withdraws from Gaza, restores humanitarian aid to people who are now facing starvation, ends the disastrous war, and stops killing Palestinians in the West Bank.

The United States of America must not be complicit in this atrocity.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a few moments, I will make a unanimous consent request on a bill on airline slots, sponsored by Senators WARNER and KAINE.

I am here for the sake of fairness—fairness. There are very strong feelings on both sides of this issue. It is not partisan but, rather, different people have different opinions. The proper and fair and only right thing to do is have a vote and let the body decide.

I yield to the senior Senator from Virginia to explain his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for making this UC request.

I have been in this body since early 2009. This issue which we are debating about—slots at DCA—is a perennial one. People feel very strongly on both sides. There has never been a time since I have been in the Senate that there was not either a bipartisan agreement to resolve this issue before it came to the floor or a debate on the floor which resulted in a vote. Sometimes it is part of the States—Virginia and Maryland—that don't want additional slots. We have been successful. Sometimes we have not. But each and every time, there has been a vote.

As a matter of fact, if we look over at the proceedings on this bill, in the House, managers of those bills thought they had some sense of what should be included in or not included in, in a slot debate. But the House of Representatives actually had a vote, and to the surprise of the managers of the bill, slots were completely eliminated from that piece of legislation.

I am not going to sit here and rehash all of the statistics. What is clear, though, is that the single busiest runway in the United States of America is not at DFW; it is not in New York; it is not in Seattle; it is not in Atlanta; it is at National Airport—an airport that was originally constructed for 15 million passengers, with 3 runways to allow some distribution of those flights. Now, because of the lack of turbo planes and prop planes, we have an airport that handled 25 million passengers last year—90 percent of all that traffic on a single runway.

My friends who don't agree with this—and as the majority leader said, it is not a partisan issue; it comes from both sides—have said: No, no, Senator KAINE, Senator WARNER, you are wrong. This won't add to the delay. It won't add more cancellations. It was a one-off a few weeks ago when two airplanes came within a few hundred feet of a collision. It won't add any additional safety concerns.

So in an effort to try to meet folks halfway, we have amended the original Kaine amendment, which said, no, let's just have an up-or-down vote on slots, and said, no, let's allow the five slots if and only if the Secretary of Transportation certifies that no additional safety concerns will be raised, the traveling public won't be impaired, there won't be any additional cancellations, and there won't be any additional delays—all things the opposition has said: Add these slots. There is no problem.

Well, let's not have Congress weigh in on something that, frankly, we don't have the expertise to weigh in on in the first place. Let's give it to the Secretary of Transportation to make that determination on passenger safety, on cancellations, on delays. Let's let the professionals make that decision. That is what our amendment does.

Again, I am going to yield now to my friend, my fellow Senator from Virginia, Senator KAINE.

Again, I thank the majority leader for making this request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Thank you, Senator WARNER.

I also want to thank the Senate majority leader.

Mr. President, I have spoken on the floor a number of times about this, and I don't need to rehash the deep concern I have about the excessive delay that already exists at Reagan National, the excessive cancellations that already exist at Reagan National, and the excessive need to put planes into holding patterns circling over a city with very restricted airspace at Reagan National.

I deeply oppose the jamming of more flights onto this runway, and I oppose that it was done with no involvement from Virginians whatsoever, no opportunity for us to weigh in. We are not on the Commerce Committee. So the only way we have to have an impact on this is to have an amendment on the floor. We may win it or we may lose it, but this is our hometown airport. It is all

being done without us. The only impact we have is to be able to do something on the floor.

So the proposed amendment that I introduced was simply to strip the slots, to follow the advice of the FAA, to follow the advice of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, to follow the advice of people who know what they are doing so as to avoid a potential catastrophe.

I am not going to get that amendment. I am not going to get that amendment. So, instead, what Senator WARNER has done, together with our Maryland colleagues, is propose a compromise. We will accept the 5 slots—5 slots are equal to 10 flights—if, as Senator WARNER indicates, the Secretary of Transportation says with respect to each slot: It will not increase delay, it will not raise the risk of cancellation, and it will not risk passenger safety.

We should all want that, not only for the airport that the Capital region uses but for all airports—not increasing delay, not increasing the safety risk, not increasing the cancellation risk. That is what this amendment is.

We want a vote on our amendment about our hometown airport, and we have offered a compromise to protect safety and the convenience of passengers.

And I would hope that my colleagues would see fit to allow the home State Senators in whose territory this airport is to at least have an amendment vote.

And, with that, I yield back to the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, let me just reiterate: For the sake of fairness, it is only the right thing to do to allow a vote. We don't know what the outcome will be, but it is very fair to have a vote.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the only amendment in order to the Cantwell-Cruz substitute amendment No. 1911, as modified, be Warner amendment No. 2057 and that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the amendment; further, upon disposition of the Warner amendment, all postcloture time on substitute amendment No. 1911, as modified and as amended, if amended, be considered expired and all remaining amendments be withdrawn; that upon disposition of the substitute amendment No. 1911, as modified and as amended, if amended, the cloture motion with respect to the underlying bill be withdrawn; that the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with a 60-vote-affirmative threshold required for passage and with 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote, all without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any objections?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me say I appreciate the passion of my colleagues from Virginia. I have served with both of them for 12 years. Senator KAINE and I both were elected together in 2012. He and I have worked together on many issues, and I anticipate we will work together on many issues going forward.

On this issue, he and I see the issue very differently. This bill that is before the Senate is a bill that moved forward the right way. It moved forward, frankly, a way I wish a lot more legislation proceeded in the Senate. This bill proceeded through regular order.

It began in committee. The Commerce Committee took it up. We had a series of markups scheduled over several months. In the process of drafting this bill, we solicited the input, initially, of every Senator on the Commerce Committee. And every single Senator—Democrat and Republican—has priorities that are reflected in the underlying bill that were adopted.

After the bill came out of the Commerce Committee, we solicited the input of every other Senator, those not on the Commerce Committee, for their ideas, their priorities for their respective States.

This bill contains over 200 Member priorities, from Democrats and Republicans, reflecting the different needs and the different priorities of our 50 States.

In addition to all of those, this week, we added nine more amendments in a managers' package when the majority leader laid down the substitute earlier this week. This is an amendment that reflects the consensus view of this body, which is why I anticipate shortly we will see an overwhelming bipartisan vote passing the FAA bill.

Now, on the question of slots, in the committee initially, an amendment was offered by Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK, a Democrat from Georgia, to expand the number of slots at DCA Reagan airport by 28 slots. That was an amendment that had a lot in its favor, but it also prompted furious lobbying on the other side. Ultimately, what the committee did is work to seek common ground, work to seek a compromise.

Senator WARNOCK's amendment of 28 slots was not adopted. Instead, what was adopted was an amendment that I drafted, working hand in hand with the chairman of the committee, Senator CANTWELL, that went down from 28 slots to merely 5 slots.

Now, several arguments have been raised against creating any additional slots at Reagan. One argument is pointing to the recent near miss at DCA Reagan as evidence that no additional flights can go into or out of Reagan. However, it is worth noting that the FAA experts have recently clarified that this near miss had absolutely nothing to do with traffic on the runway; that it was unrelated issues that produced the near miss. And I might note those unrelated issues include what this underlying bill addresses, which is ensuring we have sufficient air traffic controllers to monitor the traffic and protect safety.

Another argument used by opponents of adding new flights to Reagan is the argument that DCA was originally designed to accommodate 15 million passengers annually and that in 2023 it served 25.5 million passengers. What that argument fails to acknowledge is that DCA has made significant investments to increase capacity, including adding more gates and expanding terminals.

Opponents of additional flights have also claimed that DCA is overburdened by its current flights and that DCA flights are already delayed. What that argument omits is the fact that DCA has a better on-time arrival rate than either Dulles or BWI. It has the best on-time arrival rate of the three airports in this immediate vicinity.

I would note, the most voracious opposition to this amendment comes from lobbying on behalf of United Airlines, and the reason is not complicated to ascertain. United has a near-monopoly position at Dulles airport, and United understandably wants to preserve its monopoly profits. Five new flights into and out of Reagan airport would provide additional competition—competition that would, predictably, lower the price of tickets. It is not surprising that United Airlines doesn't want tickets to go down; they want to continue charging monopoly prices.

I will point out, for the people of Virginia and the people of Maryland and the people of DC, limiting supply, allowing United to reap monopoly profits, and raising prices is not a good outcome. And for that reason, this bill, as drafted, with the new flights, will benefit the people of Virginia, the people of Maryland, and the people of DC. Indeed, in a recent poll, 67 percent of Northern Virginians support adding flights to DCA.

This bill improves competition. And in terms of the overall traffic, there are right now 800 slots at DCA Reagan. When this bill is adopted, it will go from 800 to 805. So it is a small, reasonable increase.

I would also point out, DCA Reagan is the only airport in the country that has Federal slot control and a restriction on long-haul flights. This restriction is in no other airport in the country, and there is a long, protectionist history as to why this one airport is subject to these restrictions.

I want to make one final point. In addition to being a benefit for everyone going to our Nation's Capital or from our Nation's Capital, a benefit that impacts the entire country—Americans from all 50 States travel to Washington, DC, to our Nation's Capital, whether it is schoolkids coming to tour the Capital, whether it is families coming to the Smithsonian, whether it is people coming to the Holocaust museum or the Lincoln Memorial, whether it is people coming to see the cherry blossoms.

Everyone coming to and from DC will benefit from this provision, but there is also a very particular benefit to my home State of Texas, and that, understandably, is near and dear to my heart. This issue first came to my attention about 3 years ago, and it came to my attention because a delegation from the city of San Antonio came to my office. That delegation included business leaders; it included committee leaders; it included elected leaders in San Antonio, most of whom are Democrats. And to a person, they were deeply, deeply dismayed that the city of San Antonio does not have even one direct flight to DCA Reagan.

Now, San Antonio is, today, the seventh largest city in America. San Antonio is the second largest city in Texas. San Antonio actually has a higher population than Dallas, TX. San Antonio also has an enormous military population. Indeed, the city's nickname is ''Military City USA.'' And there is an enormous population of Active-Duty military and veterans who live in San Antonio. DCA Reagan is right next to the Pentagon, and it is right next to Arlington National Cemetery.

I can tell you, the community of San Antonio is united on a bipartisan basis that San Antonio deserves a direct flight to and from Reagan, that it will save money for residents of San Antonio, that it will generate jobs for residents of San Antonio, and that it is only fair for residents of San Antonio that they be able to come directly to DCA Reagan. And as a result of this bill that the Senate is preparing to vote on, San Antonio is going to win a major bipartisan vote to get that flight.

And my final observation: Senator WARNER said in the past a bipartisan compromise had been reached on this issue. I would note that happened here too. This bill that was voted out of committee was a bipartisan compromise. It was a compromise that was negotiated between me, the ranking member on the committee, and Senator CANTWELL, the chairman of the committee—a Republican and a Democrat—and this provision was added to the bill and voted out of the committee unanimously. Every Democrat voted for it; every Republican voted for it because it is a reasonable provision that benefits consumers and is fair.

Therefore, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The majority leader.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The majority leader.

H.R. 3935

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, after months of painstaking work, the FAA reauthorization is passing the Senate today.

Aviation safety has been front of mind for millions of Americans recently, and this FAA bill is the best thing Congress can do to give Americans the peace of mind they deserve.

Passing this FAA bill preserves critical funding for airport security, training for more air traffic controllers and safety inspectors at manufacturing plants.

Passing FAA means avoiding costly delays to airport infrastructure projects, and passing FAA means avoiding the furlough of over 3,000 Federal employees. I am especially proud that this FAA bill keeps in place the 1,500 hour rule for airline pilots, which I promised would not be weakened.

Thank you to Chair CANTWELL—she worked so hard on this bill—and to Ranking Member CRUZ for their work to finish this bill.

Thank you to all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who contributed to making this bill stronger.

Without everyone working together and being willing to reach consensus, this very difficult bill would not have gotten done.

So I know of no further debate on the substitute amendment No. 1911, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on amendment 2041.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I withdraw my amendment No. 2040.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I withdraw my amendment No. 2026.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the substitute, the cloture motion with respect to the bill—H.R. 3935—be withdrawn, and that the bill as amended, if amended, be read a third time, and that the Senate vote on the passage of the bill as amended, if amended, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold required for passage, and with 2 minutes for debate prior to the vote, all without further intervening action or debate.

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1911, AS MODIFIED

The question is on agreeing to the substitute Amendment No. 1911, as modified.

The amendment (No. 1911), in the nature of a substitute, as modified, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion is withdrawn, and the clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield back that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) would have voted ''yea'' and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted ''yea.''.

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Leg.]

YEAS—88

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Butler	Johnson	Schmitt
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Carper	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Tuberville
Crapo	Merkley	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Warnock
Daines	Mullin	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young
Gillibrand	Paul	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—4

Cardin	Van Hollen
Kaine	Warner

NOT VOTING—8

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Manchin	Sinema
Britt	Menendez	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). On this vote, the yeas are 88, the nays are 4.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 3935), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 579.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 579, Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Debbie Stabenow.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 570.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 570, Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Laphonza R. Butler, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, John W. Hickenlooper, Chris Van Hollen, Mark Kelly.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 460.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 460, Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 9, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

H.R. 3935

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate has tonight passed this vital legislation. The House of Representatives should next week take it up and quickly pass it and send it to the President's desk for signature.

This legislation is a strong, bipartisan, bicameral bill that includes hundreds of priorities for Senators and Representatives, both Republican and Democrat. This bill gives the FAA the safety tools it needs at a critical time to help bring new aerospace technologies to market.

I want to take a moment to recognize the staff who has spent countless hours hammering out this legislation. This was no easy task. As I stated earlier, this bipartisan product was the result of many, many months of hard work, late nights. There were many times it appeared this bill was not going to make it over the finish line, and the hard work of the staff is a big part of the reason we are where we are tonight.

I want to thank my staff for their tireless efforts to get this bill passed into law. Many thanks to Simone Perez, who is next to me and who has not slept in about 6 months. I will note that she broke her foot stepping on a dump truck of her young son, but I personally said she got the foot boot from kicking hindquarters.

Since the Presiding Officer is also a pastor, I will make sure to speak in a way that would be appropriate in front of a pastor.

I want to thank Duncan Rankin, Andrew Miller, Matt Swint, Hannah Hagen, Ryan Cannon, Melissa Braid, Christian McMullen, Amanda Thompson, Liam McKenna, Nicole Christus, Brad Grantz, Omri Ceren, and Aaron Reitz.

I am also thankful to Chairwoman CANTWELL and her staff. The chair has worked tirelessly as well. Her staff has worked tirelessly. We have worked hand in hand navigating issues—some contentious, some passionate, some that seemed would take the entire bill down—and then we went back and worked out a compromise. They have been terrific partners with us, and I look forward to our committee continuing to produce strong, bipartisan products in the near future, in the weeks and months ahead.

I would be remiss if I also didn't thank Senators MORAN and DUCKWORTH, who serve as the leaders on the Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation Subcommittee. I appreciate both Senator MORAN and Senator DUCKWORTH and their staff for working collaboratively with us on this bill.

Finally, I would like to thank Senate legislative counsel—specifically, John Goetcheus, Ruth Ernst, and C.J. Murphy, who worked long hours and late nights to make this bill happen.

And now, Mr. President, I look forward to going to Ronald Reagan National Airport, getting on an airplane, and flying home to Texas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I, too, want to thank our colleagues for their hard work and their overwhelming support for the passage of this legislation.

This legislation will now, hopefully, go to our House colleagues on the consensus calendar, on Tuesday, and then very shortly after that to the President's desk.

This is historic bipartisan-bicameral legislation that not only invests in the Federal Aviation Administration but in the National Transportation Safety Board for the next 5 years. It is a record reauthorization to make sure that our safety regulators and our safety investigators make aviation the safety gold standard of the world.

This bill not only provides those authorizations, but I believe it helps give consumers the right kind of refunds for tickets after 3 hours of delay. It also puts the right safety people on the job, both at our air traffic controller system and at the FAA oversight of manufacturers.

By ensuring that we have the safest aviation system in America, we are investing in our economy. Aviation contributes more than 5 percent to our GDP—$1.9 trillion of economic activity—and it supports over 11 million jobs. If you ask me, the best way to the middle class is to get an aviation job, coming in as working class and leaving as middle class, as many manufacturing jobs in my State represent.

Our bill invests in the growth and well-being of that aviation workforce to try to continue to thrive by making education investments in controllers, machinists, engineers, mechanics, pilots, flight attendants, baggage handlers, maintenance workers, and all those who are the backbone of the aviation economy.

I want to thank my colleague and partner in this, Senator CRUZ, the ranking member of the Commerce Committee, for everything that he has done to help pass this landmark legislation. It really was a bipartisan effort, and his efforts were instrumental in helping us get this legislation over the goal line.

I, too, want to thank many of our colleagues. He mentioned our two colleagues, the chair of the subcommittee, Senator DUCKWORTH, and Senator MORAN, who both played a long and terrific advocacy role on very key sections of this bill, including the Essential Air Service Program and expanding the aviation workforce in our country.

I want to thank House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN, from my State, for their leadership and dedication to making this a bicameral product and certainly for making it bipartisan.

I also want to thank President Biden, Secretary Buttigieg, and Administrator Whitaker for their input as we moved through this legislation, and Senator SCHUMER for helping us get this bill to the last phases here and over the goal line.

I also want to thank Senators SCHUMER and THUNE, DUCKWORTH and SINEMA, for helping to negotiate key positions of this bill related to pilot training. Nearly 3 million passengers fly in and out of our airports, and making sure that we have the safest skies by the FAA doing its job is exactly why we needed this bill.

This bill implements new safety improvements in that workforce and codifies, as I mentioned, strong consumer protections like refunds, and it provides direction and resources to build a well-trained FAA workforce.

I want to thank the hard work of Senators CASEY and FETTERMAN in this bill that helps the FAA require airlines to have a secondary cockpit barrier to ensure that the safety and security of our flight deck is there.

I want to thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for advancing the aircraft runway traffic and landing technologies to prevent near misses—a conversation that has been very much part of this debate.

The air surface detection technology helps prevent close calls, and at only 43 airports, this bill was about expanding that as soon as possible because the NTSB said that was one of their No. 1 recommendations. Our bill will now require the deployment of this technology that will help prevent runway close calls at medium- and large-hub airports within the next few years.

Building on the Aircraft Certification and Accountability Program, we help provide for significant improvements in the design process so that the public is more informed.

We have also directed the FAA to require training programs for those organizational design authorities. These are the ODA units that oversee the manufacturer. This includes strengthening those unit members' understanding of safety management systems—something the committee has held a lot of hearings on—and we know how important the safety management system is, according to our expert review panel, to implement into law.

We have authorized money for the next 5 years to boost the FAA's programs in safety, in factory inspections, and have implemented a revised model that really helps us with our air traffic controller system, which is so critical because, right now, we need more air traffic controllers and we need them to be rested on the job.

This bill also includes an important safety provision from Senator SCHATZ: a helicopter safety bill which brings standards to the commercial air tour systems in Hawaii.

Another major safeguard in safety is Senator BALDWIN's provision, with Senators WELCH and CAPITO, called the Global Aircraft Maintenance Safety Improvement Act, which helps oversee the safety inspections at our overseas airports. There are nearly 1,000 FAA-certified maintenance and repair stations outside of the United States, and they need to make sure that they have the proper oversight. This helps raise those safety standards worldwide.

Specifically, these technicians are now required to undergo background checks and alcohol testing, and foreign repair stations are now subject to surprise inspections.

As I mentioned, NTSB authorization is critical, and I want to thank my colleague Senator LUJÁN for his leadership on helping get this in the bill.

But also one of the No. 1 requirements as to why we wanted to get this done now with the NTSB is that one of their key recommendations is now in this statute—a 25-hour cockpit voice recording requirement that was also championed by Senators BLUMENTHAL and WYDEN. This means, when accidents happen, the NTSB will no longer be stifled by not getting the recording. They will have this recording, and it will be required to be held for more than 25 hours.

I mentioned the workforce issues which, to my State, are paramount. We need to continue to train and skill the best workers. Certainly, that means air traffic controllers and aviation safety inspectors.

Besides the increase in air traffic controllers to help deal with the staffing gap, we are making sure that they have the best technology to work with as well. Our colleagues Senators KLOBUCHAR, DUCKWORTH, MORAN, THUNE, PETERS, and KELLY helped us to recruit and retain the next generation of workforce. So I can't thank all of my colleagues enough.

As mentioned and much discussed, Congress is setting for the first time in statute a refund standard for consumers to get a refund on nonrefundable tickets after 3 hours of delay in the United States and for 6 hours on an international flight. These statutory rights are a big win for consumers. Passengers can just reject vouchers and alternative flights and get a hassle-free refund.

I want to thank Senators MARKEY and VANCE for their provision of the bill that says you cannot charge families extra dollars to sit next to each other and for the fact that they are championing, as Senators MARKEY and SCHATZ did, a new office at the Department of Transportation to make sure that airlines receive fines if they don't adhere to those provisions.

I also want to thank Senator DUCKWORTH. I can't thank her enough, not just as the ranking member of the committee but also for her key leadership on so many aspects of this bill. Not only is she a pilot, but she understands the needs of handicapped individuals and made sure that this legislation did a better job of training and skilling people at our airports. She is a true champion of the provisions of this bill dealing with wheelchair damage on flights and in ensuring that passengers can safely evacuate a plane if necessary. We will be forever grateful for her many leadership provisions of this legislation.

I want to just finally thank Senators TESTER, FISCHER, and SULLIVAN, who also worked on Essential Air Service and infrastructure financing improvements to make sure that our airports in rural communities continue to grow, and thank Senators PETERS, BALDWIN, and WARNOCK for championing additional Federal resources to help airports dispose of harmful chemicals and replace them for firefighters.

My colleague from Texas mentioned the great investments in next-generation technology. Thanks to Senators HICKENLOOPER, ROSEN, MORAN, THUNE, YOUNG, WARNER, and WICKER for advancing drone technology so that the United States can compete on a world stage and for providing next-generation research for companies like Universal Hydrogen and ZeroAvia, which are making great products.

Also thanks to Senators THUNE and WARNER—our colleague from Virginia—for the creation of a regulatory path for drones to operate beyond the visual line of sight. That means, yes, we are going to move forward on how drones are going to start delivering home products to us. I thank them for their hard work.

I thank Senator ROSEN for her hard work on a grant program so that States and local governments are using U.S.-manufactured drones in repairing and fixing critical infrastructure.

And I thank Senator BLACKBURN for her leadership on ensuring that the FAA is not funneling any drone funding to American adversaries.

The Presiding Officer was part of this process. I thank him for his leadership, certainly for expanding capacity at airports and getting more flights, but also for his great contributions, as I mentioned in this legislation, on PFAS and many other things.

This was a committee process. It really was the way the Senate is supposed to work. It really was bipartisan and bicameral, and lots of people got their issues addressed. They got their issues addressed because we had great staff who were willing to accommodate and work hard and implement those legislative ideas.

So I want to thank from our team the staff director of the Commerce Committee, Lila Helms; our general counsel, Melissa Porter; Rachel Devine, who literally came back about 6 or 7 months ago to rejoin the Congress, and, literally, we would not have this bill today if Rachel Devine had not rejoined the effort to work on the Hill. So I thank Rachel for her hard work and dedication.

I want to thank Alex Simpson and GiGi Slais. GiGi has been at this for so long, working under many people, and she knows every detail of this bill, and I so appreciate it.

Doug Anderson, Lucia Mastrangelo, our current Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant fellow Amber Willitt, Tricia Enright, Ansley Lacitis, Jami Burgess, Maurie Mueller, and Drew Hammill.

I certainly want to thank Meghan Taira, from Senator SCHUMER's office, for helping us through many phases of this.

I want to thank our former staffer Ronce Almond and detailee from the FAA's Office of Airports, Rob Hawks, and our first Samya Rose Stumo fellow, who is now over at the FAA, Rukia Hassoun, for their hard work on this legislation.

I also want to thank Senator CRUZ's team because, in all of these negotiations, it was critical to not only have a great understanding of FAA issues but of our colleagues and their priorities in continuing. I am not saying the Republicans came up with more amendments, but it certainly felt like that for a long time. It felt like they all had a lot of them. We had a pilot on our side, and they had a few pilots on their side. We processed a lot of amendments.

So I, too, want to thank Brad Grantz, Nicole Christus, Simone Perez, Andrew Miller, Matt Swint, Hannah Hagen, and Liam McKenna for their work and, of course, Matt Weisman and Ben Rhodeside from Senator DUCKWORTH's team, and Lauren Bates from Senator MORAN's.

This is a big moment in aviation. We have been through a lot. We have been through a COVID crisis and having to manage our aviation system while we were in that crisis and coming out of the COVID crisis when we may not have had everything correct in the order of how to keep flights and regain the capacity where we were. We certainly know that we have had safety issues and concerns so that we needed to make a big investment. This legislation is that investment in safety standards, in protecting consumers, and in advancing a workforce and technology that will allow the United States to be the gold standard in aviation.

I thank my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 162, on passage of Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935, an act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, on April 30, 2024, I missed vote No. 155, which was Motion to Invoke Cloture on Georgia N. Alexakis to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea. On May 2, 2024, I missed vote No. 156, which was confirmation of Georgia N. Alexakis to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Had I been in attendance I would have voted yea. On May 2, 2024, I missed vote No. 157, Cloture on the Motion to Proceed to H.R. 3935. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea. On May 3, 2024, I missed vote No. 158, which was on the Motion to Proceed to H.R. 3935. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea.

TRIBUTE TO JULIANNE BEECH

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Julianne Beech for her hard work as an intern in my office in Cheyenne, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Julianne is a native of Cheyenne. She is a freshman at Laramie County Community College, where she studies political science and international studies, with a minor in international relations and comparative politics. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Julianne for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO REESE DAVIES

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Reese for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Reese is a native of Laramie. He attends The University of Wyoming, where he studies international studies and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Reese for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGETTE ''GIGI'' GODWIN

● Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Georgette ''Gigi'' Godwin, president and chief executive officer, for her nearly two decades of leadership in service to Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Godwin's extensive experience in government, business, and nonprofits has been a tremendous asset to the chamber and to the broader Montgomery County community. Ms. Godwin has been a tireless advocate for the greater metropolitan area's business community. She has successfully championed policies that promote economic growth and job creation and has fostered strong partnerships with elected leaders and stakeholders in her community and across the country.

Through her leadership, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce created the National Veteran Institute for Procurement, a free technical training program that has graduated roughly 2,500 veteran-owned businesses from all 50 United States and territories, and the GovConNet Council, which advocates for small business Federal Government contractors, and spearheaded the Small Business Runway Extension Act.

Ms. Godwin's organization has been a go-to thought leader for both the Senate and House Small Business Committees, and I am proud to have been able to observe the advocacy of this fine organization firsthand.

Her dedication is not limited to office hours. Throughout her career, she has served on committees and on the boards of numerous organizations, demonstrating her dedication to public service. These organizations include the Montgomery College's board of trustees, the Montgomery County Business Roundtable on Education, Committee for Montgomery, the Montgomery County Executive's business advisory board, and Imagination Stage.

In conclusion, I. extend my gratitude to Gigi Godwin for her outstanding leadership and her many contributions to not only Montgomery County, MD, but to servicemembers and business leaders across the country. She is a true champion for every group she touches, and we are all grateful for her service and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA MANDELL

● Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work of local educator and mentor Joshua Mandell, a teacher at Granada Hills Charter High School—GHCHS—in Granada Hills, CA.

A Bay Area-native, Mr. Mandell holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in educational technology from the California State University, Northridge; a California Single Subject Credential in English and social science; and a Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development—CLAD—Certificate.

Across his 7 years as an educator, whether teaching students in his ninth grade English, English Second Language, and International Baccalaureate Standard Level World Religion classes or serving as an adviser for the GHCHS Model United Nations—MUN—team, Mr. Mandell has helped countless students discover a love for learning.

At conferences across the Nation—from Berkeley MUN in California or across the country to Dartmouth MUN or National High School MUN in New York City—Mr. Mandell empowers his students to look beyond the walls of GHCHS to the world around them.

But back at home, for students at GHCHS, Mr. Mandell's classroom is where they feel most comfortable. Because of his unwavering empathy and passion for the subjects he teaches, his classroom has become a place for students to feel accepted, to feel part of a larger community, and to pursue their interests—wherever they might take them.

Today, on behalf of the students and the community he serves, we are grateful for the lifechanging dedication of Joshua Mandell.●

RECOGNIZING GREYLOCH LLC

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Greyloch, LLC as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for May 2024.

Custom Oak Furnishing, a custom cabinet and furnishing shop, began in Shaun Fickes' father's garage in 1991. A few years later, Shaun renamed the business Greyloch Custom Cabinetry after a peak near Lowman, ID, where his grandfather worked as an Idaho forest ranger. Over 20 years, Greyloch grew from a two-man shop to more than 35 employees. In 2015, Shaun began to explore the potential for automation in the industry. While he visited manufacturing plants all over the world, his vision for a first-of-its-kind cabinet manufacturing facility in North America came to life. With a dream that became reality, Shaun rebranded once more to Greyloch, LLC, in anticipation of the unlimited potential for the company's growth.

Greyloch most recently opened a 96,909-square-foot advanced cabinet manufacturing facility in Star, ID. The new facility provides opportunities to establish relationships with schools and educators about technical training. Facility tours shed light on the advancements of automation in manufacturing and insight into where the classroom meets the real world.

As a family-owned and operated business, Greyloch has made family a key aspect of its operations. Shaun's four children—Harrison Fickes, Brennon Fickes, Sydney Peel, and Tyler Moorhouse—grew up with Greyloch and now work full-time alongside their father. Shaun established a supportive work environment for his 73 employees and prioritizes the well-being of his employees who are proud of their work.

Congratulations to the Fickes and all the employees at Greyloch, LLC on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for May 2024. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO CHESCA BARNETT

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, Chesca Barnett of Brierfield went to the U.S. Air Force Academy at age 17, thinking that she would one day become an astronaut. Little did she know that her time in the military would take her on a completely different career path. Due to some medical setbacks, Chesca was told she wouldn't be able to go to flight school, as she had originally planned. She recalls feeling devastated at having to give up on a dream she'd had since she was 6 years old.

This setback led her to discover an unexpected passion that would allow her to help those who need it most. A military career coach encouraged Chesca to become a pharmacy tech. She found that she loved the work. After 8 years in the military, Chesca began studying to become a pharmacist.

She chose to specialize in pediatrics because she believes our children deserve the best care available. And for the last 20 years, she has been serving as a pharmacist at Children's of Alabama. She also helps at Cooper Green Mercy Help Services.

A colleague at Children's said that Chesca is ''an excellent pediatric pharmacist with a strong focus on patient safety and a team player who willingly shifts her schedule or comes in for extra shifts to ensure patients are taken care of.''

Chesca feels she has a ''duty'' to serve, which she attributes to her time in the military. But her impact spans far beyond the medical field. Chesca also teaches courses at Jefferson State Community College and Samford University. There, she helps students who are facing personal challenges, reminding them that if she overcame her struggles, they can, too. Chesca is also a proud mom of four.

We are thankful for Chesca's devotion to helping Alabamians in need. Her story is an inspiration to anyone who is facing a difficult circumstance. It is my honor to recognize her as the May Veteran of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE SMITH

● Mr. WICKER. Madam President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I submit this statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor the public service of Ms. Louise Smith. She has dedicated her life to the success of students in her hometown, Pascagoula, MS.

Louise earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music and education, both from the University of Southern Mississippi. She subsequently put that knowledge to work at Gautier Middle School, where she is completing her 22nd year teaching band.

Time and again, Louise's bands have achieved successes. Like all great teachers, she has brought out the best in her students. Her bands have earned superior ratings in concert and sight reading, and they have been invited to perform at the Louisiana Concert Band Invitational. Her students frequently merit high marks in solo and ensemble performances. They earn placements in band clinics and the Mississippi Lions All State Band.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Louise's students clearly feel fondly toward her, since several have followed in her footsteps. She has inspired students to become band leaders at other schools in Mississippi and Alabama.

Over the last few years, Louise's giftedness has been recognized at even higher levels. The Mississippi Department of Education named her the 2023 Mississippi Teacher of the Year. More recently, she was one of just five educators nationwide to receive the Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence. Both awards commemorate her impact on Mississippi students, and they give her opportunities to share her wisdom with other teachers.

Louise's response to these awards characterizes her commitment to public service. She praised Mississippi teachers, rather than herself. For that reason, I am eager to praise her today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 2925. An act to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4143. An act to amend the National Construction Safety Team Act to enable the National Institute of Standards and Technology to investigate structures other than buildings to inform the development of engineering standards, best practices, and building codes related to such structures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7109. An act to require a citizenship question on the decennial census, to require reporting on certain census statistics, and to modify apportionment of Representatives to be based on United States citizens instead of all individuals.

H.R. 8063. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Army to posthumously award the Distinguished Service Cross to William D. Owens for his valorous actions from June 6, 1944, to June 8, 1944, during World War II at La Fiere Bridge in Normandy, France, while serving with the 505th Parachute Infantry.

H.J. Res. 109. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to ''Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121''.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 870. An act to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, May 9, 2024, she had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 1042. An act to prohibit the importation into the United States of unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation, 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. 2925. An act to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4143. An act to amend the National Construction Safety Team Act to enable the National Institute of Standards and Technology to investigate structures other than buildings to inform the development of engineering standards, best practices, and building codes related to such structures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 7109. An act to require a citizenship question on the decennial census, to require reporting on certain census statistics, and to modify apportionment of Representatives to be based on United States citizens instead of all individuals; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 7109. An act to require a citizenship question on the decennial census, to require reporting on certain census statistics, and to modify apportionment of Representatives to be based on United States citizens instead of all persons.

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–4465. A communication from the Management Analyst of the Policy and Regulations Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Seizure and Forfeiture Procedures'' (RIN1018–BF19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4466. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Statutory Updates to the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program'' (RIN1901–AB60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4467. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mandatory Transmission and Distribution Planning Support Activities'' (RIN1930–AA01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4468. A communication from the Executive Assistant, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commercial Visitor Services; Concession Contracts'' (RIN1024–AE57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4469. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy'' (RIN1004–AE78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4470. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of

Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska'' (RIN1004–AE95) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4471. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products'' (RIN1904–AF57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4472. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Water Heaters'' (RIN1904–AD91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4473. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Project-Area Wage Standards in the Labor Cost Component of Cost-of-Service Rates'' (Docket No. PL24–1–000) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4474. A communication from the Director of Regulations, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Renewable Energy Modernization Rule'' (RIN1010–AE04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4475. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process'' (RIN1004–AE80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4476. A communication from the Executive Assistant, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Systematic Processes for Disposition or Repatriation of Native American Human Remains, Funerary Objects, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony'' (RIN1024–AE19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4477. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coordination of Federal Authorizations for Electric Transmission Facilities'' (RIN1901–AB62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4478. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces'' (RIN1904–AD20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4479. A communication from the Management Analyst for the Policy and Regulations Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—Applicability and Scope; Tongass National Forest Submerged Lands'' (RIN1018–BC96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4480. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Uninterruptible Power Supplies'' (RIN1904–AF11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4481. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4482. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers'' (RIN1904–AE12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–107. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress and President of the United States to repeal or amend the Antiquities Act of 1906; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2008

Whereas, the Antiquities Act of 1906 (Antiquities Act) directs the President of the United States to limit the designation of national monuments to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected; and

Whereas, the Antiquities Act is inconsistent with the principles of a government by and for the people; and

Whereas, the Antiquities Act was intended to preserve only historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest; and

Whereas, the Antiquities Act has been misused repeatedly to set aside enormous parcels of real property; and

Whereas, 46% of all land in the coterminous Western States is already under federal management, and the majority of Arizona's lands are restricted from public access and recreation; and

Whereas, the establishment in 1996 of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah set aside 1.7 million acres of land despite the objections of public officials in the State of Utah, making it the largest national monument in the continental United States; and

Whereas, in 2017, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears were reduced by 50% and 85%, respectively; and

Whereas, the 2021 overreaching restoration of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears will result in the loss of significant economic resources for the public schools and the taxpayers of the State of Utah; and

Whereas, this designation clearly violates the spirit and letter of the Antiquities Act, which requires monument lands to ''be confined to the smallest area'' necessary to preserve and protect historical areas or objects; and

Whereas, the greatest threat to the lands of Arizona is the intrusion and overreach of the federal government, including the economically harmful 30x30 initiative, which will only further prevent Arizona from deciding what is best for its citizens; and

Whereas, land is a significant asset for states, and the President and the United States Congress should repeal the Antiquities Act or at the very least amend it to require congressional approval of, as well as state and local approval and consent of, any future monument of federal designation.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress act by repealing the Antiquities Act of 1906 or amending it to reaffirm that entire landscapes, animate life, such as birds and mammals, and common plants and vegetation not be considered landmarks, structures or objects under federal law.

2. That any proclamation made by the President of the United States be stated publicly and shall specifically name and describe the location of each landmark, structure and object to be protected.

3. That the limitation on extending or establishing a national monument, which requires the express authorization of Congress and is currently offered only to the State of Wyoming, be offered to all Western States.

4. That no new national monument or federal reservation or expansion of an existing national monument or federal reservation be established in Arizona, unless with:

(a) The express authorization of the Arizona State Legislature while in session.

(b) The express authorization of the members of the county board of supervisors in all the counties that would be impacted by the monument or reservation.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–108. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the President of the United States to rescind or revoke the designation of the ancestral footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument and opposing any such future designation in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2007

Whereas, for decades, radical environmental activist groups and others have sought to remove state and federal land in Arizona from economic production, to permanently ban critical mineral and metal mining, cattle grazing and other multiple-use activities on federal controlled lands in

this state and to acquire or otherwise exert additional political and economic control over Arizona's land, water, and natural resources, especially in the resource-rich area in Northern Arizona; and

Whereas, multiple attempts have been made in Congress to permanently ban critical mineral and metal mining and other multiple-use activities outside the Grand Canyon area that would permanently set aside millions of acres of federally controlled lands both north and south of the Grand Canyon National Park; and

Whereas, multiple attempts by radical environmental activist groups have been made to direct the United States Secretary of the Interior or the President of the United States to circumvent Congress and unilaterally declare the establishment of national monuments that would permanently withdraw mining and other multiple-use activities in the Grand Canyon area; and

Whereas, under the Obama Administration, the United States Department of the Interior exercised unilateral authority to effectuate temporary bans on all new mineral and hardrock mining claims in the Grand Canyon area, including a two-year ban in 2009, a six-month extension and a 20-year ban in 2012; and

Whereas, radical environmental activist groups and others have stated publicly that the goal is to obtain a permanent withdrawal of mineral and mining rights on the land; and

Whereas, to effectuate such a ban, radical environmental activist groups in 2016 proposed the establishment of a national monument to set aside up to 1.7 million acres of land north and south of the Grand Canyon National Park, including approximately 64,000 acres of Arizona state trust land and 22,000 acres of private land; and

Whereas, by locking up 64,000 acres of state trust land, the national monument would have denied the Arizona State Land Department the ability to put such lands to highest and best use and, therefore, has reduced by hundreds of millions of dollars the amount of monies available to state trust beneficiaries, including K–12 education; and

Whereas, in 2021, it was estimated that the economic impact of establishing this national monument would be $29 billion in lost economic activity and as many as 4,000 jobs destroyed; and

Whereas, in 2023, despite vehement state opposition, President Joe Biden designated Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni—Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument near the Grand Canyon National Park; and

Whereas, this designation restricts access to approximately 1 million acres of state and federal land located in Northern Arizona in a remote region of the state known as the ''Arizona Strip,'' which provides world class opportunities for ranching, farming, mining, logging, hunting, recreation and other multiple uses that local communities depend on for social and economic support; and

Whereas, the portion of Northern Arizona in the Arizona Strip and other areas surrounding the greater Grand Canyon region contain some of the nation's best uranium deposits as a result of the unique collapse breccia pipe uranium mineralization, which is a natural part of the environment in this region; and

Whereas, uranium mining on the Arizona Strip has been a major source of economic development in previous years, and there are as many as 10,000 existing mining claims on United States (U.S.) Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land near the Grand Canyon for all types of hardrock mining; and

Whereas, the designation of the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument blocks the production of uranium from domestic sources and other reasons, making the United States alarmingly reliant on foreign countries for enriched uranium and requiring the importation of approximately 95% of our nation's uranium from foreign countries, including Russia and Kazakhstan; and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the United States produces only 5% of the uranium it needs; and

Whereas, Arizona news sources indicate one of the main purposes of designating the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument was to extend the current moratorium on uranium mining indefinitely, which would continue and potentially exacerbate U.S. reliance on foreign imports of enriched uranium; and

Whereas, if allowed to stand, the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument will forever close this area to new uranium production and will continue America's reliance on uranium supplied from foreign nations, reducing our ability to provide for the defense of our nation and increasing the cost of delivering safe and reliable power to customers nationwide; and

Whereas, a plain reading of the Antiquities Act of 1906 reveals that the President may declare a national monument only to protect eligible objects, which are limited to ''historic landmarks,'' ''historic'' or ''prehistoric structures,'' or ''other objects of historic or scientific interest,'' (54 United States Code (U.S.C.) §320301(a)) and that, in reserving land related to the national monument, the President may reserve only the ''smallest area compatible with the proper care and management'' of the eligible objects (54 U.S.C. §320301(b)); and

Whereas, since 1906, U.S. Presidents have used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish 18 national monuments in Arizona, totaling 3.7 million acres and increasing in size each designation; and

Whereas, at nearly 1 million acres, the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument represents the largest, single designation of a national monument in Arizona history in terms of land mass, yet the Monument fails to indicate any ''objects'' eligible for designation as a national monument, as defined in the Antiquities Act of 1906; and

Whereas, significant portions of the acreage within the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument are already protected through wilderness designations or successfully managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in a multiple-use framework and partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service; and

Whereas, withdrawing federal Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land from multiple use would impact not only uranium mining in the area but also other multiple-use activities, such as hunting, fishing, logging, and cattle grazing on federal grazing allotments; and

Whereas, Arizona's great strength lies in the value of its public and private lands and the ability of the public to access and use those lands for a variety of economic and recreational uses; and

Whereas, in total, local, state, tribal and federal governments control over 81% of all land in Arizona, which leaves only 18% of all Arizona land to private owners; and

Whereas, the designation of additional special use areas, including the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, further restricts Arizona's ability to maximize economic production for the national interest and recreation for the people and visitors of Arizona; and

Whereas, multiple legislative measures have been proposed to protect Arizona's land, water, and natural resources and send a clear message to the United States that responsible economic production of these resources, including uranium, minerals and aggregate mining, cattle grazing and other multiple uses, are critical to the U.S. economy, food and energy supply, and national interest; and

Whereas, no additional federal land reservation or special use designation should be made or declared in Arizona without the express vote and consent of Congress, the Arizona Legislature and the local communities that will be impacted.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the President of the United States rescind or revoke the designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

2. That the United States President oppose the designation of any future permanent federal land or mineral withdrawal that seeks to limit critical mineral, metal and aggregate mining, cattle grazing, or multiple-use activities in the Arizona Strip.

3. That the President of the United States not designate any national monument, park, wildlife refuge, conservation area, area of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic river, wilderness or wilderness characteristic area or any other federal special use designation or land or mineral reservation or withdrawal in Arizona without having the express authorization of each of the following:

(a) The United States Congress.

(b) The Legislature of the State of Arizona while in session.

(c) The members of the county board of supervisors in each county that would be impacted by the designation, reservation or withdrawal.

4. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of the United States Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–109. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress and President of the United States to enact legislation to give Western States a percentage of federally owned lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2005

Whereas, the federal government is the largest landowner in the United States, controlling almost one-third of the entire land in the country, over 90% of which is located in Western States; and

Whereas, conveying title and jurisdiction of federal public lands to the states was promised in congressional resolutions in 1780, the Land 0rdinance of 1784 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, among others; and

Whereas, it was not until the enactment of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 that Congress unilaterally declared a change in federal public lands policy to one of permanent federal ownership; and

Whereas, once land is taken by the federal government, it is often squandered, locked away forever from economic production; and

Whereas, federal ownership of vast amounts of lands elimlnates or restricts reasonable and thoughtful use of these natural resources for multiple purposes, such as recreation, grazing, mining, energy development and forestry; and

Whereas, the promise and duty of the federal government to timely dispose of the

public lands is the same in the enabling acts for all newly created states both east and west of Colorado; and

Whereas, because of the breach of states' enabling acts, and the resulting damages, the United States Congress should immediately dispose of the public lands lying within the State of Arizona and other Western States directly to those states; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona is composed of 113,417 square miles of land, of which 42% is federally owned, nontribal land that is unavailable for economic development and not part of the property tax base; and

Whereas, the great strength of Arizona and other Western States lies in the value of their lands and the ability for the public to access those lands for a variety of economic and recreational uses; and

Whereas, the low percentage of private and state lands in the West places these states at a significant economic disadvantage and restricts their ability to adequately provide for the future; and

Whereas, the federal government has done an exceedingly poor job of stewarding these resources as a result of decades of dysfunctional federal bureaucracy. The federal government has mismanaged public lands economically and ecologically, while handcuffing local control; and

Whereas, state ownership of public lands is more efficient, thoughtful, accountable and locally driven, which improves public access, environmental health and economic productivity.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress immediately pass and the President sign legislation that requires 30% of all federally controlled lands in the West to be given to their respective states by 2030 under the equal footing doctrine as enshrined in the United States Constitution.

2. That the United States Congress engage in good faith communication, cooperation, coordination and consultation with Western States regarding the immediate disposal of the public lands directly to those states.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–110. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress and President of the United States to enact legislation that requires the federal government to provide an acre-for-acre offset when acquiring public land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2006

Whereas, at the time of Arizona's Enabling Act, the course and practice of the United States Congress with all prior states admitted to the Union had been to fully dispose, within a reasonable time, of all lands within the boundaries of such states, except for those Indian lands, or lands otherwise expressly reserved to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States; and

Whereas, the authority of state and local governments to promote the highest value and use of land is critical to funding education and other essential government services; and

Whereas, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, federal land policy changed from one of disposal, in which land would enter the state tax rolls, to permanent federal retention as untaxable public land; and

Whereas, nearly 50% of all land in Arizona is already under federal management, and the majority of Arizona's lands are restricted from public access, recreation and economic development; and

Whereas, imposing federal preservation management on Arizona lands obstructs this state's land management objectives and principles; and

Whereas, the United States Congress empowered the Department of the Interior to acquire any interest in lands, water rights or surface rights to lands, inside or outside of existing reservations, to provide land for tribal governments and individual Indians. Off-reservation lands acquired through these processes potentially raise jurisdictional uncertainties in local communities, complicate land use planning and provision of services and cause economic consequences for surrounding communities; and

Whereas, Arizona should have had total control over its public lands from 1912, plus a reasonable time for disposition of the lands; and

Whereas, had the national government disposed of the land in or about 1912, Arizona would have generated, from that point forward, substantial tax revenues to the benefit of its public schools and to the common good of the state; and

Whereas, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and this responsibility extends to all lands within Arizona to ensure abundant wildlife resources for current and future generations; and

Whereas, recent federal initiatives attempt to erode property rights, pilfer more public land and redesignate multi-use land as conservation land; and

Whereas, Arizona has been damaged by the inordinate cost and substantial uncertainty regarding the national government's infringement on Arizona's sovereign control of public lands within its borders; and

Whereas, the greatest threat to the lands of Arizona is the intrusion and overreach of the federal government.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress immediately pass and the President sign legislation that requires the federal government to give one of the following to the applicable county or the state for every acre of county or state land acquired or federal public domain land expressly reserved or withdrawn by the federal government:

(a) An acre of land of equal or greater size and value, as determined by the applicable county or the state.

(b) In the absence of land of equal or greater size and value, both of the following:

(i) Land of a size and value as proximate as possible to the size and value of the acquired, reserved or withdrawn land, as determined by the applicable county or the state.

(ii) In lieu payments to the applicable county or the state for the value of the difference, as determined by the applicable county or the state.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1560. A bill to require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–170).

S. 1835. A bill to require the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a campaign program to raise awareness regarding the importance of cybersecurity in the United States (Rept. No. 118–171).

S. 2032. A bill to require the reduction of the reliance and expenditures of the Federal Government on legacy information technology systems, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–172).

S. 2150. A bill to establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–173).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 3029. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–174).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Kevin Gafford Ritz, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Jeannette A. Vargas, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. VANCE:

S. 4295. A bill to establish that institutions of higher education shall be ineligible for funds under the Higher Education Act of 1965 due to campus disorder; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 4296. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide more opportunities for mothers to succeed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. VANCE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 4297. A bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4298. A bill to provide that certain water beads products shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4299. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule relating to the collection of crashworthiness information under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4300. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4301. A bill to grant States and Indian Tribes the authority to waive the 2-year foreign residence requirement for educators in rural and Tribal areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 4302. A bill to provide that individuals convicted of certain crimes relating to institutions of higher education are ineligible for Federal student financial assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4303. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of food and limit the presence of contaminants in infant and toddler food, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4304. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicaid program for services provided by doulas and midwives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 4305. A bill to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 4306. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a working group to develop and coordinate an artificial intelligence initiative among the Five Eyes countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4307. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to modify requirements for citizen suits under those Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4308. A bill to reform the antitrust laws to better protect competition in the American economy, to amend the Clayton Act to modify the standard for an unlawful acquisition, to deter anticompetitive exclusionary conduct that harms competition and consumers, to enhance the ability of the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to enforce the antitrust laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 4309. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an evaluation of relocation assistance programs available to members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 4310. A bill to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 4311. A bill to limit funds to the United Nations and other organizations that provide any status, rights, or privileges beyond observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 4312. A bill to establish a United States Senate Commission on Mental Health for the purpose of providing to Congress and the President independent, expert policy recommendations to improve access to and affordability of mental health care services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 4313. A bill to provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 4314. A bill to establish the position of National Roadway Safety Advocate within the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4315. A bill to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in all ADA-accessible bathrooms on passenger rail cars; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 4316. A bill to authorize urbanized area formula grants for service improvement and safety and security enhancement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 4317. A bill to appropriate funds for the Federal Communications Commission's ''rip and replace'' program and Affordable Connectivity Program, to improve the Affordable Connectivity Program, to require a spectrum auction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4318. A bill to provide for an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) integration strategy; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4319. A bill to provide for progress reports on the national transition plan related to a fluorine-free firefighting foam; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4320. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Bessie Coleman Women in Aviation Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 680. A resolution condemning the violent, anti-American and anti-Israel protests that are occurring on campuses of institutions of higher education nationwide; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 681. A resolution supporting the designation of May 10, 2024, as ''National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. Res. 682. A resolution condemning the decision by the Biden Administration to halt the shipment of United States made ammunition and weapons to the State of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 683. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 29 through

May 3, 2024, as ''National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 657

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 657, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) 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. 1481

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1481, a bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes.

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1529, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure Medicare-only PACE program enrollees have a choice of prescription drug plans under Medicare part D.

S. 1803

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise payment for air ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 2397

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2397, a bill to amend section 495 of the Public Health Service Act to require inspections of foreign laboratories conducting biomedical and behavioral research to ensure compliance with applicable animal welfare requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3020

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3020, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the charitable mileage rate with the business travel rate.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3565

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3565, a bill to appropriate funds for the Affordable Connectivity Program of the Federal Communications Commission.

S. 3810

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3810, a bill to prohibit conflict of interests among consulting firms that simultaneously contract with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the United States Government, and for other purposes.

S. 3834

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3834, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure veterans may obtain a physical copy of a form for reimbursement of certain travel expenses by mail or at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3933

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3933, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

S. 3977

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3977, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care; to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes.

S. 4001

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4001, a bill to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4292, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 676

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 676, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2024.

AMENDMENT NO. 2023

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2023 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2024

At the request of Mr. LUJAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2024 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2034

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2034 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3935, a

bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4301. A bill to grant States and Indian Tribes the authority to waive the 2-year foreign residence requirement for educators in rural and Tribal areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 4301

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

SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (36), by striking ''and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands'' and inserting ''the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and each Indian Tribe''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(53) The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

''(54) The terms 'Tribal government' and 'Tribal entity' mean the recognized governing body of an Indian Tribe.

''(55) The term 'State educational agency' has the meaning given that term in section 8101(49) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(49))''.

SEC. 2. EXCHANGE VISITOR VISA EXTENSION FOR EDUCATORS IN RURAL AND TRIBAL AREAS.

Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s)(1) If the Governor of a State or a Tribal government requests a waiver of the 2-year foreign residence requirement under section 212(e) on behalf of an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) of that section who is a primary or secondary school teacher or an education specialist in that State, the Secretary of Homeland Security may not grant such a waiver unless—

''(A) in the case of an alien who is otherwise contractually obligated to return to a foreign country, the government of such country furnishes the Director of the United States Information Agency with a statement in writing that it has no objection to such waiver;

''(B) the grant of such waiver would not cause the number of waivers allotted for that State for that fiscal year to exceed 30;

''(C) the alien demonstrates a bona fide offer of full-time employment as a teacher or an education specialist at a primary or secondary school in a rural or Tribal area in that State; and

''(D)(i) in the case of a request made by a Governor, the alien agrees to begin employment with such a primary or secondary school not later than 90 days after receiving such waiver, and agrees to continue to work for a total of not less than 3 years (unless the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that extenuating circumstances exist, such as closure of the school or hardship to the alien, which would justify a lesser period of employment at the school, in which case the alien must demonstrate another bona fide offer of employment at a primary or secondary school for the remainder of such 3-year period), in rural and underserved area (as defined by the State educational agency); or

''(ii) in the case of a request made by a Tribal government, the alien—

''(I) agrees to begin employment with such a primary or secondary school of an Indian Tribe, including any Bureau of Indian Education funded school operated pursuant to a grant under the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) or a contract under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), not later than 90 days after receiving such waiver; and

''(II) agrees to continue to work for a total of not less than 3 years (unless the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that extenuating circumstances exist, such as closure of the school or hardship to the alien, which would justify a lesser period of employment at the school, in which case the alien must demonstrate another bona fide offer of employment at a primary or secondary school for the remainder of such 3-year period).

''(2)(A) Notwithstanding section 248(a)(2), the Secretary of Homeland Security may change the status of an alien who qualifies under this subsection and section 212(e) to that of an alien described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b). The numerical limitations contained in subsection (g)(1)(A) shall not apply to any alien whose status is changed pursuant to this subparagraph, if the alien obtained a waiver of the 2-year foreign residence requirement upon a request by an interested Federal agency or an interested State agency.

''(B) No person who has obtained a change of status under subparagraph (A) and who has failed to fulfill the terms of the contract with the primary or secondary school named in the waiver application shall be eligible to apply for an immigrant visa, for permanent residence, or for any other change of nonimmigrant status, until such person has resided and been physically present in the country of his or her nationality or his or her last residence for an aggregate of at least 2 years following his or here departure from the United States.

''(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, the 2-year foreign residence requirement under section 212(e) shall apply with respect to an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) of such section who has not otherwise been accorded status under section 101(a)(27)(H), if at any time the alien ceases to comply with any agreement entered into under pursuant to paragraph (1)(C).

''(4) Any spouse or children of an alien granted a waiver under this subsection shall be included in such waiver.

''(5) In the case of a request submitted under paragraph (1) by a Tribal entity, the Governor of the State in which the Tribal entity is located may endorse such request.''.

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

S. 4310. A bill to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 4310

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Chugach Alaska Land Exchange Oil Spill Recovery Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE; FINDINGS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to authorize, direct, and expedite the exchange of land and interests in land between Chugach Alaska and the United States; and

(2) to consolidate Federal ownership of the surface and subsurface estate of Federal land and interests acquired under the Program.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on March 24, 1989, the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska, spilling 11,000,000 gallons of crude oil, spreading in the months that followed and covering approximately 1,300 miles of coastline, with immense impact for fish and wildlife and their habitats, and for local industries and communities;

(2) civil settlement funds of $900,000,000 paid by Exxon to the United States and the State of Alaska were used to establish the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (referred to in this section as ''EVOSTC'') and to develop the Program;

(3) through the Program, the EVOSTC dedicated nearly 60 percent of the funds to acquire fee title of, and conservation easements on, the surface estate of more than 600,000 acres in the area impacted by the oil spill, including 241,000 acres of surface estate land and conservation easements in the Chugach Region, giving the United States ownership of, and conservation easements on, 241,000 acres of formerly Native-owned land within the Chugach Region;

(4) the conflict described in the Chugach Region Land Study Report and in this Act occurred when surface estate was purchased by the EVOSTC for conservation purposes while development rights remained for the subsurface (dominant estate) owned by Chugach Alaska, which shall be resolved by Chugach Alaska trading 231,036 acres of subsurface estate under surface fee and conservation easements on surface land owned by the Federal Government for 65,403 acres of fee simple land owned by the Federal Government;

(5) most of the surface land and conservation easements on surface land in the Chugach Region described in paragraph (3) that were acquired by the EVOSTC were purchased from 4 Alaska Native Village Corporations—

(A) Chenega Corporation;

(B) the English Bay (Nanwalek Corporation);

(C) the Eyak Corporation; and

(D) the Tatitlek Corporation;

(6) in accordance with section 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613), when a Village Corporation selects and receives title to the surface estate to fulfill its land entitlement, the Regional Corporation receives title to the subsurface, resulting in split ownership between Alaska Native entities from the same region;

(7) Chugach Alaska holds the dominant subsurface estate to approximately 241,000 acres of surface land acquired by the EVOSTC from the Village Corporations

under paragraph (5) that is protected under the Program;

(8) none of the acquisitions described in paragraph (5) by the EVOSTC included the subsurface interests owned by Chugach Alaska, despite awareness by the EVOSTC of the provisions in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) creating split ownership and the existing right of the subsurface owner to use the surface if it constitutes reasonable use in the development of subsurface resources;

(9) due to the split estate ownership described in paragraph (8), which became a split between Chugach Alaska and the Federal Government, there is a clear conflict with the preservation goal of the Program and the responsibility of Chugach Alaska, on behalf of the Alaska Native shareholders of Chugach Alaska, to develop the subsurface estate under the land;

(10) recognizing the conflicts between the mandates in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) on Native Corporations and the goals of the Program, and the significant social and economic impact of the Program on the region and on Chugach Alaska and the land held by Chugach Alaska, Congress directed, in section 1113 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9; 133 Stat. 614), that the Bureau of Land Management conduct a study and identify accessible and economically viable Federal land that could be exchanged with Chugach Alaska, and to recommend exchange options that would consolidate ownership of the surface and subsurface estates of land in the Program;

(11) the Bureau of Land Management submitted the Chugach Region Land Study Report to Congress in December 2022, over a year after the 18-month deadline;

(12) in the Chugach Region Land Study Report, the Bureau of Land Management explained that the Program acquisitions have greatly increased the complexity and the costs of any development by Chugach Alaska of its subsurface interests, significantly reduced Native-owned land and Native control over management of land in the region, and, along with the larger oil spill cleanup effort, highly disrupted the socio-cultural environment and economies in the Alaska Native communities in the region;

(13) the Chugach Region Land Study Report identifies land available for exchange from both the Federal Government and Chugach Alaska to inform a land exchange to address the impact of the Program on Chugach Alaska and the ability of Chugach Alaska to meet its responsibilities to its Native shareholders under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

(14) the land exchange between Chugach Alaska and the Federal Government in this Act—

(A) furthers objectives under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), including balancing land selections between areas that are significant in cultural history and traditions and areas that have potential economic value for development; and

(B) facilitates more efficient Federal land management of the Program by Federal acquisition of nearly 231,000 acres of subsurface estate that underlies federally owned surface fee and conservation easements to perfect conservation of the surface, which is the purpose of the Program; and

(15) the land exchange in this Act, based on the findings in this section, is in the public interest.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ANSCA TERMS.—The terms ''Native Corporation'', ''Regional Corporation'', and ''Village Corporation'' have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(2) CHUGACH ALASKA.—The term ''Chugach Alaska'' means the Chugach Alaska Corporation, a Regional Corporation.

(3) CHUGACH REGION LAND STUDY REPORT.—The term ''Chugach Region Land Study Report'' means the report and recommendations submitted to Congress by the Secretary pursuant to section 1113 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9; 133 Stat. 614).

(4) FEDERAL EXCHANGE LAND.—The term ''Federal exchange land'' means the approximately 65,403 acres of fee simple land located in the Chugach Region as described in section 4(e).

(5) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''non-Federal land'' means the parcels of subsurface land comprising approximately 231,000 acres—

(A) owned by Chugach Alaska and conveyed to Chugach Alaska pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

(B) described in section 4(f); and

(C) for which—

(i) the United States has acquired fee title to the surface estate or a conservation easement on the surface estate pursuant to the Program; or

(ii) the State has acquired fee title to, and the United States has acquired a conservation easement in, the surface estate pursuant to the Program.

(6) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Habitat Protection and Acquisition Program of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Alaska.

SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, if Chugach Alaska offers to convey to the Secretary all rights, title, and interest in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall accept the offer and convey in exchange all rights, title, and interest of the Federal Government in and to the Federal exchange land.

(b) CONDITION ON ACCEPTANCE.—Title to the non-Federal land exchanged in subsection (a) shall be in a form that is acceptable to the Secretary.

(c) TREATMENT OF LAND CONVEYED.—Except as otherwise provided, any land conveyed to Chugach Alaska under subsection (a) shall be considered to be land conveyed by the Secretary under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(d) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.—The conveyances under subsection (a) shall be subject to any valid existing rights, reservations, rights-of-way, or other encumbrances of third parties in, to, or on the Federal exchange land or the non-Federal land as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL EXCHANGE LAND.—On receipt of title to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall simultaneously convey to Chugach Alaska—

(1) all rights, title, and interest in and to the National Forest System land of the Forest Service identified in the Chugach Regional Land Study and Report, comprising approximately 63,443 total acres, comprising—

(A) T. 3 N., R. 10 E., Seward Meridian, Drier Bay Parcel, comprising approximately 2,996 acres of surface estate;

(B) T. 17 and 18 S., R. 7 and 8 E., Copper River Meridian, Kushtaka Lake Parcel, comprising approximately 7,876 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(C) T. 2 N., R. 1 and 2 E., Seward Meridian, Snow River Parcel, comprising approximately 11,462 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(D) T. 17 and 18 S., R. 8 W., Copper River Meridian, Hinchinbrook Island Parcel, comprising approximately 2,646 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(E) T. 17 S., R. 7 E., secs. 5, 8, 18, 19, and 30 through 33, Copper River Meridian, Kushtaka Lake Parcel, comprising approximately 6,375 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(F) T. 18 S., R. 7 E., secs. 6 and 7, Copper River Meridian, Kushtaka Lake Parcel, comprising approximately 1,280 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(G) T. 16 S., R. 5 E., secs. 24 through 26 and 36, Copper River Meridian, Martin River Parcel, comprising approximately 2,240 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(H) T. 16, S., R. 6 E., secs. 16, 19 through 21, and 25 through 36, Copper River Meridian, Martin River Parcel, comprising approximately 8,305 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(I) T. 17 S., R. 6 E., secs. 1 through 4, and 10, Copper River Meridian, Martin River Parcel, comprising approximately 3,170 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(J) T. 16 S., R. 4 E., secs. 1 through 4, 9 through 13, and 24, Copper River Meridian, Johnson River Parcel, comprising approximately 5,200 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(K) T. 16 S., R. 5 E., secs. 5 through 9, and 15 through 22, Copper River Meridian, Johnson River Parcel, comprising approximately 6,165 acres of surface and subsurface estate; and

(L) T. 19 S., R. 15 E., secs. 12 through 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 33, and 34, Copper River Meridian, Robinson Mountains Parcel, comprising approximately 5,728 acres of surface and subsurface estate; and

(2) all rights, title, and interest in and to the Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service identified in the Chugach Regional Land Study and Report, comprising approximately 1,960 total acres, comprising—

(A) T. 21 S., R. 24 E., Copper River Meridian, Taan Fjord Parcel, comprising approximately 450 acres of surface and subsurface estate;

(B) T. 21 and 22 S., R. 24 E., Copper River Meridian, Kageet Point Parcel, comprising approximately 310 acres of surface and subsurface estate; and

(C) T. 9 S., R. 2 W., secs. 5 and 6, Copper River Meridian, Thompson Pass Parcel, comprising 1,200 acres of surface and subsurface estate.

(f) CONVEYANCE OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) CONVEYANCE.—The non-Federal land to which Chugach Alaska may convey to the Secretary all rights, title, and interest, that the Secretary determines to be applicable, includes—

(A) the approximately 130,469.93 subsurface acres, which comprises—

(i) T. 13 S., R. 1 W., sec. 19, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 467 acres;

(ii) T. 13 S., R. 2 W., secs. 23 through 27, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,627 acres;

(iii) T. 15 S., R. 2 W., secs. 3 through 9, 17 through 19, and 29 through 33, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 8,277.36 acres;

(iv) T. 16 S., R. 2 W., secs. 1 through 4, and 6, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,373.34 acres;

(v) T. 14 S., R. 3 W., secs. 32 and 33, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 240 acres;

(vi) T. 15 S., R. 3 W., secs. 3 through 7, portions of secs. 8 and 9, and secs. 12, 13, 18, 19, 24, 25, 35, and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 3,486.36 acres;

(vii) T. 16 S., R. 3 W., secs. 1, 11, and 15, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 962 acres;

(viii) T. 13 S., R. 4 W., secs. 26, 27, and 32 through 34, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,494.05 acres;

(ix) T. 14 S., R. 4 W., secs. 1 through 11, 15 through 21, 25, 30, and 31, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 6,750.98 acres;

(x) T. 15 S., R. 4 W., secs. 8 through 12, 16 through 22, and 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 5,839.15 acres;

(xi) T. 13 S., R. 5 W., secs. 3, 9 through 11, 14 through 20, a portion of sec. 21, and secs. 31 and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 4,216.36 acres;

(xii) T. 14 S., R. 5 W., sec. 1, a portion of sec. 2, secs. 6 through 12, 14 through 21, 29, and 30, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 9,057.6 acres;

(xiii) T. 15 S., R. 5 W., secs. 23 and 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 292.97 acres;

(xiv) T. 12 S., R. 6 W., secs. 11, 13, 14, 23, and 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,980.69 acres;

(xv) T. 12 S., R. 7 W., secs. 32, 34, 35, and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 343 acres;

(xvi) T. 13 S., R. 7 W., secs. 1 through 22, 24, 25, and 27 through 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 17,234.88 acres;

(xvii) T. 14 S., R. 7 W., secs. 2, 3, and 6, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 203 acres;

(xviii) T. 13 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1, 9 through 11, 13 through 29, and 32 through 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 9,282.25 acres;

(xix) T. 14 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1 through 5, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 629.25 acres;

(xx) T. 13 S., R. 9 W., sec. 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 10 acres;

(xxi) T. 10 S., R. 10 W., sec. 32, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1.19 acres;

(xxii) T. 3 N., R. 7 E., secs. 1 through 4, 8 through 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 29, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 9,314 acres;

(xxiii) T. 4 N., R. 7 E., secs. 11, 14, 15, 21 through 28, and 33 through 36, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 8,684.96 acres;

(xxiv) T. 3 N., R. 8 E., secs. 4 through 7, 18, and 19, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1,120.50 acres;

(xxv) T. 4 N., R. 8 E., secs. 29 through 32, and 36, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1,404.25 acres;

(xxvi) T. 1 N., R. 10 E., secs. 5 and 8, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 743 acres;

(xxvii) T. 3 S., R. 2 W., secs. 22, 23, 25, 26, 33, 35, and 36, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 2,125 acres;

(xxviii) T. 4 S., R. 2 W., secs. 2, 3, 4, and 11, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1,225 acres;

(xxix) T. 5 S., R. 3 W., secs. 18, 19, 20, 23, 26 through 29, and 32 through 36, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 3,670 acres;

(xxx) T. 5 S., R. 4 W., sec. 13, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 380 acres;

(xxxi) T. 6 S., R. 4 W., sec. 7, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 613 acres;

(xxxii) T. 5 S., R. 5 W., sec. 33, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 620 acres;

(xxxiii) T. 6 S., R. 5 W., secs. 4, 9, 28, 29, 32, and 33, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 3,205 acres;

(xxxiv) T. 7 S., R. 5 W., sec. 4, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 230 acres;

(xxxv) T. 8 S., R. 6 W., secs. 7 through 12, 14 through 22, and 27 through 34, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 6,797.39 acres;

(xxxvi) T. 7 S., R. 7 W., secs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 through 14, 16, 17, 23, and 24, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 6,031.78 acres;

(xxxvii) T. 8 S., R. 7 W., secs. 24, 25, 35, and 36, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 705.65 acres; and

(xxxviii) T. 7 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 26 (lots 1 through 4), 27, 28, and 29, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 6,831.97 acres;

(B) the approximately 24,911.65 subsurface acres in which the fee title to the surface estate has been acquired by the State, and a conservation easement in the surface estate has been acquired by the United States, pursuant to the Program, which comprises—

(i) T. 16 S., R. 4 W., sec. 6, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 157.49 acres;

(ii) T. 15 S., R. 5 W., secs. 35 and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,280 acres;

(iii) T. 16 S., R. 5 W., secs. 3, 4, 10, 11, and 12, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,479 acres;

(iv) T. 11 S., R. 8 W., secs. 4 and 9, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 579 acres;

(v) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., sec. 1, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 130 acres;

(vi) T. 9 S., R. 9 W., secs. 26, 27, 33, 34, and 35, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,524.26 acres;

(vii) T. 10 S., R. 10 W., secs. 15, 16, 22, 23, 27, 28, 32, and 33, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,183.65 acres;

(viii) T. 4 N., R. 7 E., secs. 12 and 13, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1,145 acres;

(ix) T. 3 N., R. 8 E., secs. 12 and 13, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 304 acres;

(x) T. 4 N., R. 8 E., secs. 1 through 5, 7 through 30, and 33 through 35, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 14,712.25 acres; and

(xi) T. 4 N., R. 9 E., secs. 6, 7, 17, 18, and 19, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1,417 acres; and

(C) the approximately 75,655.4 subsurface acres in which a conservation easement in the surface estate has been acquired by the United States pursuant to the Program, which comprises—

(i) T. 13 S., R. 2 W., secs. 33 and 34, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,131.75 acres;

(ii) T. 14 S., R. 2 W., secs. 4 through 8, and 31, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,104.92 acres;

(iii) T. 14 S., R. 3 W., secs. 12 through 16, 21 through 23, and 28 through 31, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 5,319.37 acres;

(iv) T. 14 S., R. 3 W., secs. 6 through 8, and 17 through 20, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 3,899.44 acres;

(v) T. 15 S., R. 3 W., secs. 8 and 9, and the southern part of sec. 13, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 125 acres;

(vi) T. 16 S., R. 3 W., secs. 1, 11, 12, 14, and 15, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 506 acres;

(vii) T. 14 S., R. 4 W., secs. 28 and 29, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 660.15 acres;

(viii) T. 14 S., R. 4 W., secs. 1, 5 through 8, 10 through 15, 22 through 27, and 34 through 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 3,516 acres;

(ix) T. 15 S., R. 5 W., secs. 27, 28, 33, and 34, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,455.63 acres;

(x) T. 11 S., R. 6 W., secs. 25, 26, and 34 through 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,088.26 acres;

(xi) T. 12 S., R. 6 W., secs. 1 through 3, 8 through 10, and 16 through 19, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,777.5 acres;

(xii) T. 11 S., R. 7 W., sec. 31, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 577.8 acres;

(xiii) T. 12 S., R. 7 W., sec. 5 through 7, 10 through 15, and 18 through 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 6,596.93 acres;

(xiv) T. 13 S., R. 7 W., secs. 18 and 19, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 700 acres;

(xv) T. 10 S., R. 8 W., secs. 33 and 34, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,197 acres;

(xvi) T. 11 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1 through 4, 10 through 16, 21 through 26, 31, 35, and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 7,647.41 acres;

(xvii) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1, 12 through 14, and 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 591.75 acres;

(xviii) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1 through 3, 10, 11, 14 through 16, 21 and 22, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,112 acres;

(xix) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., secs. 5 through 8, 18, and 19, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,220.5 acres;

(xx) T. 13 S., R. 8 W., secs. 13, 14, 17, 19 through 21, 23, 24, and 28 through 30, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,400 acres;

(xxi) T. 11 S., R. 9 W., secs. 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,157.75 acres;

(xxii) T. 12 S., R. 9 W., secs. 1 through 4, 9 through 15, 22, 23, 24, 26, and 27, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 6,445.71 acres;

(xxiii) T. 13 S., R. 9 W., secs. 24 and 25, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 345.33 acres;

(xxiv) T. 2 N., R. 7 E., sec. 1, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 64.16 acres;

(xxv) T. 3 N., R. 7 E., secs. 24, 25, and 36, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 385.75 acres;

(xxvi) T. 1 N., R. 8 E., secs. 11, 14, 15, 22, 23, 26, and 27, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1,667.65 acres;

(xxvii) T. 2 N., R. 8 E., secs. 2 through 11, 26, 30, 31, 32, and 35, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 4,339.84 acres;

(xxviii) T. 3 N., R. 8 E., secs. 1 through 4, 8 through 11, 14 through 17, 19 through 23, and 26 through 35, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 11,339.4 acres;

(xxix) T. 4 N., R. 8 E., sec. 35, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1.5 acres;

(xxx) T. 1 N., R. 9 E., secs. 1, 2, 11 through 14, and 24, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 1,560.25 acres; and

(xxxi) T. 1 N., R. 10 E., secs. 6, 7, 17 through 20, 29 and 30, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 2,720.65 acres.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—Land acquired by the Secretary under this subsection shall—

(A) become part of the unit of Federal land in which the land acquired by the Secretary is located; and

(B) be administered in accordance with that unit of Federal land.

SEC. 5. MAPS, ESTIMATES, AND DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary and Chugach Alaska may correct, by mutual

agreement, any minor errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of any land conveyed or exchanged under this Act.

(b) CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between a map, an acreage estimate, or a description of land in this Act, the map shall control unless the Secretary and Chugach Alaska mutually agree otherwise.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 680—CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT, ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTS THAT ARE OCCURRING ON CAMPUSES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION NATIONWIDE

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 680

Whereas the Department of State designated Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization in October of 1997;

Whereas the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023, was tragic and horrific, and a reminder of the evil that motivates Hamas;

Whereas Israel has the right to defend itself and its people;

Whereas violent, anti-American and anti-Israel protests have erupted on campuses of institutions of higher education nationwide in response to Israel's defense of itself and its people;

Whereas, since April 18, 2024, more than 1,500 individuals have been arrested on campuses of institutions of higher education for engaging in violent, anti-Israel and anti-American protests;

Whereas some reporting has identified ''many American flags torn, burned, and desecrated'' at these violent protests;

Whereas thousands of patriotic law enforcement officials have spent countless hours protecting the people of the United States from the violence at these protests;

Whereas violent, anti-American and anti-Israel protestors replaced the American flag at City College of New York with the Palestinian flag;

Whereas patriotic New York Police Department officials removed the Palestinian flag and replaced it with an American flag;

Whereas the American flag was taken down by violent anti-American and anti-Israel protestors at the University of North Carolina and replaced with a Palestinian flag, which was then taken down by patriotic law enforcement officials and interim Chancellor Lee Roberts, who restored the American flag to its rightful position;

Whereas a group of violent anti-American and anti-Israel protestors thereafter attempted to take down the American flag again;

Whereas a group of patriotic fraternity brothers at the University of North Carolina protected the American flag from being desecrated and replaced with a Palestinian flag by violent, anti-American and anti-Israel individuals;

Whereas the people of the United States celebrate these patriotic fraternity brothers at the University of North Carolina and have sought to recognize and reward their heroic actions against the violent, anti-American and anti-Israel individuals; and

Whereas fraternities can serve as institutions that promote patriotism, brotherhood, and overall support for the common good: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violent, anti-American and anti-Israel protests that are occurring on campuses of institutions of higher education nationwide; and

(2) expresses its thanks for the patriotic actions of law enforcement in New York City and in Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina interim Chancellor Lee Roberts, and fraternity brothers at the University of North Carolina.

SENATE RESOLUTION 681—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 10, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH DAY''

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 681

Whereas the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (referred to in this preamble as ''AANHPI'') community is among the fastest growing population groups in the United States and has made significant economic, cultural, and social contributions;

Whereas the AANHPI community is extremely diverse in terms of socioeconomic background, education level, types of employment, languages spoken, cultures of origin, acculturation, and migration and colonization status;

Whereas AANHPIs have among the lowest rates of utilization of mental health services, and 63.7 percent of the estimated 2,600,000 AANHPIs who meet criteria for a mental health problem do not receive treatment;

Whereas, from 2018 to 2020, AANHPI youth ages 10 to 24 years old in the United States were the only racial or ethnic population in this age category whose leading cause of death was suicide;

Whereas it is imperative to disaggregate AANHPI population data to get an accurate representation of the depth and breadth of the mental health issues for each subpopulation, so that specific culturally and linguistically appropriate solutions can be developed;

Whereas language access continues to be a critical issue whether due to the limited number of providers with the necessary language skills to provide in-language services or the significant language loss faced by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities due to colonization;

Whereas there is a need to significantly increase the number of providers, including paraprofessionals, representing AANHPI communities and provide them with necessary training and ongoing support;

Whereas historical discrimination and current racial violence toward AANHPIs increase trauma and stress, underlying precursors to mental health problems;

Whereas there is a critical need to raise awareness about, and improve mental health literacy among, the AANHPI community to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues; and

Whereas May is both National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, an opportunity to celebrate the vast contributions of this population to the society of the United States, and National Mental Health Awareness Month, recognizing the importance of mental health to the well-being and health of families and communities and connecting the importance of one's cultural heritage to good mental health: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 10, 2024, ''National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day'';

(2) recognizes the importance of mental health to the well-being and health of families and communities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of raising awareness about mental health and improving the quality of care for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities;

(4) recognizes that celebrating one's cultural and linguistic heritage is beneficial to mental health; and

(5) encourages Federal, State, and local health agencies to adopt laws, policies, and guidance to improve help-seeking rates for mental health services for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community and other communities of color.

SENATE RESOLUTION 682—CONDEMNING THE DECISION BY THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO HALT THE SHIPMENT OF UNITED STATES MADE AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

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

S. RES. 682

Whereas the United States is the largest supplier of military aid to the State of Israel, providing $158,000,000,000 in bilateral assistance and missile defense funding since World War II, which has been used by the State of Israel in part to protect itself from attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies;

Whereas, in 2016, the United States and the State of Israel signed a third 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, under which the United States pledged to provide $38,000,000,000 in military aid, subject to congressional appropriation, to the State of Israel between fiscal years 2019 and 2028;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an unprovoked attack against the State of Israel, brutally murdering more than 1,200 innocent men, women, and children while injuring thousands more;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas took more than 240 innocent civilians hostage, including babies, children, women, elderly,

Holocaust survivors, and United States citizens, and is still holding at least 128 of these innocent civilians against their will;

Whereas, on October 8, 2023, the State of Israel officially declared war on Hamas and has since dismantled 20 of the 24 Hamas battalions in Gaza, in part using ammunition and weapons supplied by the United States;

Whereas, on October 8, 2023, White House officials announced that they had conveyed to the Government of Israel that additional assistance for the Israeli Defense Forces was now on its way to the State of Israel with more to follow over the coming days;

Whereas, on November 1, 2023, Ghazi Hamad, a member of the political bureau of Hamas, stated, ''We must teach Israel a lesson, and we will do it twice and three times. The Al-Aqsa Deluge[, the name Hamas gave its October 7th attack,] is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth . . . We are the victims of the occupation. Period. Therefore, nobody should blame us for the things we do. On October 7th, October 10th, October one-millionth, everything we do is justified.'';

Whereas, on January 2, 2024, the intelligence community of the United States declassified an assessment that stated, ''The U.S. Intelligence Community is confident in its judgment on this topic and has independently corroborated information on HAMAS and PIJ's use of the [Al-Shifa] hospital complex for a variety of purposes related to its campaign against Israel.'';

Whereas, on March 6, 2024, United States officials told Members of Congress that the Biden Administration had approved and delivered more than 100 separate arms sales to the State of Israel since the October 7th attack, including thousands of precision-guided munitions, small-diameter bombs, bunker busters, small arms, and other lethal aid;

Whereas, on March 29, 2024, it was reported the Biden Administration approved new arms packages worth billions of dollars for the State of Israel that included more than 1,800 MK84 2,000-pound bombs and 500 MK82 500-pound bombs;

Whereas, on March 30, 2024, following the report of the approved new arms packages, a White House official stated, ''We have continued to support Israel's right to defend itself . . . Conditioning aid has not been our policy.'';

Whereas, on April 2, 2024, it was reported the Biden Administration supported a plan to provide $18,000,000,000 worth of F–15 fighter jets, munitions, training, and other support to the State of Israel, with the Department of State sending an informal notice to the respective congressional committees to start a legislative review process for the order;

Whereas, on April 10, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden, while speaking publicly at the White House, stated, ''As I told Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu, our commitment to Israel's security against these threats from Iran and its proxies is ironclad—let me say it again, ironclad.'';

Whereas, on April 13, 2024, Vice President Kamala Harris stated, ''President Biden and I met with our national security team following Iran's attacks against Israel. Our support for Israel's security is ironclad, and we stand with the people of Israel in defense against these attacks.'';

Whereas, on April 13, 2024, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan stated, ''This morning, I spoke with my Israeli counterpart, National Security Advisor Hanegbi, to discuss events in the Middle East. During the call, I reiterated the United States' ironclad commitment to the security of Israel.'';

Whereas, on April 13, 2024, the Islamic Republic of Iran launched more than 300 missiles and drones towards the State of Israel and innocent civilians in an unprecedented attack;

Whereas, on April 13, 2024, 99 percent of the projectiles launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran were intercepted by the State of Israel and its allies, using fighter jets, air defense systems, and other weapons that were supplied to the State of Israel in part by the United States;

Whereas, on April 14, 2024, following the attack on the State of Israel by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, ''The United States condemns Iran's attack on Israel. As the President said, our commitment to Israel's security against threats from Iran is ironclad.'';

Whereas, on April 14, 2024, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III underscored the United States' commitment to Israel saying, ''I spoke to Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant for a second time today to reiterate ironclad U.S. support for Israel's defense in light of Iran's unprecedented attack from Iranian territory. We reviewed the extraordinary defensive measures and strong cooperation undertaken to defeat this Iranian attack against Israel.'';

Whereas, on May 5, 2024, it was reported the Biden Administration put a hold on a shipment of United States made ammunition to the State of Israel the previous week, the first time since the since the October 7th attack that the United Stated stopped a weapons shipment intended for the Israeli military;

Whereas, on May 5, 2024, Prime Minister of the State of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at possible tensions regarding support being provided by the Biden Administration, stating, ''In the terrible Holocaust, there were great world leaders who stood by idly; therefore, the first lesson of the Holocaust is: If we do not defend ourselves, nobody will defend us. And if we need to stand alone, we will stand alone.'';

Whereas, on May 6, 2024, it was reported that since January 2024 the Biden Administration has effectively paused the sale of up to 6,500 Joint Direct Attack Munitions in a sale worth as much as $260,000,000 to the State of Israel;

Whereas, on May 6, 2024, it was reported that since March 2024 the Biden Administration has effectively paused the sale of up to $700,000,000 in 120 mm tank ammunition, $500,000,000 in tactical vehicles, and less than $100,000,000 in 120 mm mortar rounds;

Whereas, on May 6, 2024, despite multiple reports of the Biden Administration putting a hold on a shipment of United States made ammunition and effectively pausing additional weapon sales to the State of Israel, the Biden Administration stated, ''[O]ur security commitments to Israel are ironclad'';

Whereas, on May 7, 2024, the Biden Administration confirmed the report from May 5, 2024, of the Biden Administration putting a hold United States made ammunition to the State of Israel, stating, ''[W]e began to carefully review proposed transfers of particular weapons to Israel that might be used in Rafah . . . [and] paused one shipment of weapons last week. It consists of 1,800 2,000-pound bombs and 1,700 500-pound bombs.''; and

Whereas, the decision by the Biden Administration to withhold the provision of critical United States made ammunition and weapons to the State of Israel will only embolden and encourage the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies, including Hamas, to conduct more attacks against the State of Israel, which in turn will complicate efforts to reach any hostage deal with Hamas or a broader normalization deal between the State of Israel and other countries in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns any decision by the Biden Administration to halt the shipment of United States made ammunition and weapons to the State of Israel;

(2) demands that the Biden Administration continue to fulfill the military aid requests from the State of Israel in order to provide the weapons needed to defeat Hamas and defend against attacks from the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies;

(3) reaffirms the importance of the long history of the United States providing military aid to the State of Israel and willingness to expedite delivery of such aid in times of crisis; and

(4) upholds the commitment of the United States to the State of Israel's security and long-term prosperity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 683—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 3, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK''

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 683

Whereas there are more than 1,000,000 specialized instructional support personnel serving the schools and students of the United States, including—

(1) school counselors;

(2) school social workers;

(3) school psychologists; and

(4) other qualified professional personnel, such as—

(A) school nurses;

(B) psychologists;

(C) social workers;

(D) occupational therapists;

(E) physical therapists;

(F) art therapists;

(G) dance and movement therapists;

(H) music therapists;

(I) speech-language pathologists; and

(J) audiologists;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide school-based prevention and early intervention services to reduce barriers to learning;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel work with teachers, school leaders, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to promote student and school success;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide educational, social, emotional, and behavioral interventions and activities that support—

(1) student learning; and

(2) teaching;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel help to create environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to learning;

Whereas safe and supportive school environments are associated with improved academic performance;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel support—

(1) student communication;

(2) the development of social skills by students;

(3) the physical wellness of students;

(4) the physical development of students; and

(5) the behavioral, emotional, and mental health of students; and

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel serve all students who struggle with barriers to learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 29 through May 3, 2024, as ''National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week'';

(2) recognizes that specialized instructional support personnel implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes;

(3) commends—

(A) those individuals who work as specialized instructional support personnel; and

(B) the individuals and organizations that support the efforts made by specialized instructional support personnel to promote and improve the availability of specialized instructional support services;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together to raise awareness of the importance of specialized instructional support personnel in school climate and education efforts;

(5) recognizes the important role of specialized instructional support personnel in efforts to improve mental health, reduce drug use, and improve overall community safety for students; and

(6) encourages experts to share best practices so that others can replicate the success of those experts.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2060. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2057 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. TILLIS) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2061. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2062. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2057 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. TILLIS) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2063. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2064. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2065. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2057 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. TILLIS) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2066. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2825, 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 life-saving actions in Vietnam.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2060. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2057 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. TILLIS) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

(e) FREE ACCESS TO AIRPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 401 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by sections 393 and 441, is amended by adding the following new section:

''SEC. 40133. FREE ACCESS TO AIRPORTS.

''(a) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.—Whoever—

''(1) by force or threat of force or by physical obstruction, intentionally injures, intimidates, or interferes with or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person because that person is or has been, or in order to intimidate such person or any other person or any class of persons from, obtaining airport services or attempting ingress or egress from an airport property; or

''(2) intentionally damages or destroys airport property, or attempts to do so,

shall be subject to the penalties provided in subsection (b) and the civil remedies provided in subsection (c), except that a parent or legal guardian of a minor shall not be subject to any penalties or civil remedies under this section for conduct that is solely activity of the minor.

''(b) PENALTIES.—Whoever violates this section shall—

''(1) in the case of a first offense, be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both; and

''(2) in the case of a second or subsequent offense after a prior conviction under this section, be fined in accordance with such title 18, or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both,

except that for an offense involving exclusively a nonviolent physical obstruction, the fine shall be not more than $10,000 and the length of imprisonment shall be not more than 6 months, or both, for the first offense; and the fine shall, notwithstanding section 3571 of such title 18, be not more than $25,000 and the length of imprisonment shall be not more than 18 months, or both, for a subsequent offense; and except that if bodily injury results, the length of imprisonment shall be not more than 10 years, and if death results, it shall be for any term of years or for life.

''(c) CIVIL REMEDIES.—

''(1) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person aggrieved by reason of conduct prohibited by subsection (a) may commence a civil action for the relief set forth in subparagraph (B), except that such action may be brought only by a person involved in providing or seeking to provide, or obtaining or seeking to obtain, airport services at an airport property or attempting ingress or egress from an airport property.

''(B) RELIEF.—In any action under subparagraph (A), the court may award appropriate relief, including temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive relief and compensatory and punitive damages, as well as the costs of suit and reasonable fees for attorneys and expert witnesses. With respect to compensatory damages, the plaintiff may elect, at any time prior to the rendering of final judgement, to recover, in lieu of actual damages, an award of statutory damages in the amount of $5,000 per violation.

''(2) ACTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General of the United States has reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons is being, has been, or may be injured by conduct constituting a violation of this section, the Attorney General may commence a civil action in any appropriate United States District Court.

''(B) RELIEF.—In any action under subparagraph (A), the court may award appropriate relief, including temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive relief, and compensatory damages to persons aggrieved as described in paragraph (1)(B). The court, to vindicate the public interest, may also assess a civil penalty against each respondent—

''(i) in an amount not exceeding $10,000 for a nonviolent physical obstruction and $15,000 for other first violations; and

''(ii) in an amount not exceeding $15,000 for a nonviolent physical obstruction and $25,000 for any other subsequent violation.

''(3) ACTIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General of a State has reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons is being, has been, or may be injured by conduct constituting a violation of this section, such Attorney General may commence a civil action in the name of such State, as parens patriae on behalf of natural persons residing in such State, in any appropriate United States District Court.

''(B) RELIEF.—In any action under subparagraph (A), the court may award appropriate relief, including temporary, preliminary or permanent injunctive relief, compensatory damages, and civil penalties as described in paragraph (2)(B).

''(d) PROHIBITION ON RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTAL AIP GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event an individual violates subsection (a) with respect to airport property, such airport shall not be eligible for a grant under section 47104 unless the operator of the airport certifies to the Administrator that the airport took all actions to prevent and abate the conduct prohibited by subsection (a) and arrest and prosecute the offenders.

''(2) PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall develop and implement procedures for the certification required under paragraph (1), including processes for investigating a false statement in such a certification.

''(3) APPLICATION.—If the operator of an airport fails to certify to the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (1) or the certification required by paragraph (1) contains a material false statement or misrepresentation, such airport shall not be eligible for a grant under section 47104 and such airport

shall be joint and severally liable for damages under subsection (c) with any other defendants.

''(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

''(1) to prohibit any expressive conduct (including peaceful picketing or other peaceful demonstration) protected from legal prohibition by the First Amendment to the Constitution;

''(2) to provide exclusive criminal penalties or civil remedies with respect to the conduct prohibited by this section, or to preempt State or local laws that may provide such penalties or remedies; or

''(3) to interfere with the enforcement of State or local laws regulating airports.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(2) AIRPORT PROPERTY.—The term 'airport property' includes any land owned, leased, managed, or operated by an airport for the purpose of providing airport services.

''(3) AIRPORT SERVICES.—The term 'airport services' means aviation business or activities, activities necessary or appropriate to serve passengers or cargo in air commerce, or other related activities.

''(4) INTERFERE WITH.—The term 'interfere with' means to restrict a person's freedom of movement.

''(5) INTIMIDATE.—The term 'intimidate' means to place a person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm to himself or herself or to another.

''(6) MINOR.—The term 'minor' has the meaning given that term under the law of the State in which airport property is located.

''(7) PHYSICAL OBSTRUCTION.—The term 'physical obstruction' means rendering impassable ingress to or egress from an airport property, or rendering passage to or from an airport property unreasonably difficult or hazardous.

''(8) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 401 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by sections 393 and 441, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''40133. Free Access to airports.''.

SA 2061. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 502 and insert the following:

SEC. 502. ADDITIONAL WITHIN AND BEYOND PERIMETER SLOT EXEMPTIONS AT RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.

(a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—Section 41718 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) ADDITIONAL SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—

''(1) INCREASE IN SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—Not later than 65 days after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Secretary shall grant, by order, 10 exemptions from—

''(A) the application of sections 49104(a)(5), 49109, and 41714 to air carriers to operate limited frequencies and aircraft on routes between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and domestic airports located within or beyond the perimeter described in section 49109; and

''(B) the requirements of subparts K, S, and T of part 93 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(2) NON-LIMITED INCUMBENTS.—Of the slot exemptions made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make 8 available to incumbent air carriers qualifying for status as a non-limited incumbent carrier at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

''(3) LIMITED INCUMBENTS.—Of the slot exemptions made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make 2 available to incumbent air carriers qualifying for status as a limited incumbent carrier at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

''(4) ALLOCATION PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall allocate the 10 slot exemptions provided under paragraph (1) pursuant to the application process established by the Secretary under subsection (d), subject to the following:

''(A) LIMITATIONS.—Each air carrier that is eligible under paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) shall be eligible to operate no more and no less than 2 of the newly authorized slot exemptions.

''(B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall consider the extent to which the exemptions will—

''(i) enhance options for nonstop travel to beyond-perimeter airports that do not have nonstop service from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024; or

''(ii) have a positive impact on the overall level of competition in the markets that will be served as a result of those exemptions.

''(5) PROHIBITION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority may not assess any penalty or similar levy against an individual air carrier solely for obtaining and operating a slot exemption authorized under this subsection.

''(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as prohibiting the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority from assessing and collecting any penalty, fine, or other levy, such as a handling fee or landing fee, that is—

''(i) authorized by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Regulations;

''(ii) agreed to in writing by the air carrier; or

''(iii) charged in the ordinary course of business to an air carrier operating at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport regardless of whether or not the air carrier obtained a slot exemption authorized under this subsection.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 41718(c)(2)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i) by striking ''and (b)'' and inserting '', (b), and (i)''; and

(2) in clause (ii) by striking ''and (g)'' and inserting ''(g), and (i)''.

(c) PRESERVATION OF EXISTING WITHIN PERIMETER SERVICE.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed as authorizing the conversion of a within-perimeter exemption or slot at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act to serve an airport located beyond the perimeter described in section 49109 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) FREEZE IN THE NUMBER OF OPERATIONS AT AIRPORTS WHEN NEAR MISSES OCCUR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, if a near-miss occurs on a surface of a part 139 airport, such airport shall freeze the number of operations at the airport on a per-hour basis indefinitely until the Administrator can certify that—

(A) there is adequate air traffic controller staffing at the airport;

(B) proper surface surveillance technology is installed and operational at the airport; and

(C) the schedule of operations at the airport will not lead to runway congestion.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) NEAR MISS.—The term ''near miss'' means an incident in aviation where 2 or more aircraft come close to colliding but do not make contact.

(B) PART 139 AIRPORT DEFINED.—The term ''part 139 airport'' means an airport certified under part 139 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SA 2062. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2057 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. TILLIS) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

(d) FAA SAFETY CONSULTATION.—In granting the slot exemptions required by Section 41718(i) of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary may consult with the Administrator to preserve the ongoing safety of operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

SA 2063. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 502 and insert the following:

SEC. 502. ADDITIONAL WITHIN AND BEYOND PERIMETER SLOT EXEMPTIONS AT RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.

(a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—Section 41718 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) ADDITIONAL SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—

''(1) INCREASE IN SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—Not later than 65 days after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Secretary shall grant, by order, 10 exemptions from—

''(A) the application of sections 49104(a)(5), 49109, and 41714 to air carriers to operate limited frequencies and aircraft on routes between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and domestic airports located within

or beyond the perimeter described in section 49109; and

''(B) the requirements of subparts K, S, and T of part 93 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(2) NON-LIMITED INCUMBENTS.—Of the slot exemptions made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make 8 available to incumbent air carriers qualifying for status as a non-limited incumbent carrier at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

''(3) LIMITED INCUMBENTS.—Of the slot exemptions made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make 2 available to incumbent air carriers qualifying for status as a limited incumbent carrier at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

''(4) ALLOCATION PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall allocate the 10 slot exemptions provided under paragraph (1) pursuant to the application process established by the Secretary under subsection (d), subject to the following:

''(A) LIMITATIONS.—Each air carrier that is eligible under paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) shall be eligible to operate no more and no less than 2 of the newly authorized slot exemptions.

''(B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall consider the extent to which the exemptions will—

''(i) enhance options for nonstop travel to beyond-perimeter airports that do not have nonstop service from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024; or

''(ii) have a positive impact on the overall level of competition in the markets that will be served as a result of those exemptions.

''(5) PROHIBITION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority may not assess any penalty or similar levy against an individual air carrier solely for obtaining and operating a slot exemption authorized under this subsection.

''(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as prohibiting the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority from assessing and collecting any penalty, fine, or other levy, such as a handling fee or landing fee, that is—

''(i) authorized by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Regulations;

''(ii) agreed to in writing by the air carrier; or

''(iii) charged in the ordinary course of business to an air carrier operating at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport regardless of whether or not the air carrier obtained a slot exemption authorized under this subsection.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 41718(c)(2)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i) by striking ''and (b)'' and inserting '', (b), and (i)''; and

(2) in clause (ii) by striking ''and (g)'' and inserting ''(g), and (i)''.

(c) PRESERVATION OF EXISTING WITHIN PERIMETER SERVICE.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed as authorizing the conversion of a within-perimeter exemption or slot at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act to serve an airport located beyond the perimeter described in section 49109 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) FREE ACCESS TO AIRPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 401 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by sections 393 and 441, is amended by adding the following new section:

''SEC. 40133. FREE ACCESS TO AIRPORTS.

''(a) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.—Whoever—

''(1) by force or threat of force or by physical obstruction, intentionally injures, intimidates, or interferes with or attempts to injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person because that person is or has been, or in order to intimidate such person or any other person or any class of persons from, obtaining airport services or attempting ingress or egress from an airport property; or

''(2) intentionally damages or destroys airport property, or attempts to do so,

shall be subject to the penalties provided in subsection (b) and the civil remedies provided in subsection (c), except that a parent or legal guardian of a minor shall not be subject to any penalties or civil remedies under this section for conduct that is solely activity of the minor.

''(b) PENALTIES.—Whoever violates this section shall—

''(1) in the case of a first offense, be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both; and

''(2) in the case of a second or subsequent offense after a prior conviction under this section, be fined in accordance with such title 18, or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both,

except that for an offense involving exclusively a nonviolent physical obstruction, the fine shall be not more than $10,000 and the length of imprisonment shall be not more than 6 months, or both, for the first offense; and the fine shall, notwithstanding section 3571 of such title 18, be not more than $25,000 and the length of imprisonment shall be not more than 18 months, or both, for a subsequent offense; and except that if bodily injury results, the length of imprisonment shall be not more than 10 years, and if death results, it shall be for any term of years or for life.

''(c) CIVIL REMEDIES.—

''(1) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person aggrieved by reason of conduct prohibited by subsection (a) may commence a civil action for the relief set forth in subparagraph (B), except that such action may be brought only by a person involved in providing or seeking to provide, or obtaining or seeking to obtain, airport services at an airport property or attempting ingress or egress from an airport property.

''(B) RELIEF.—In any action under subparagraph (A), the court may award appropriate relief, including temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive relief and compensatory and punitive damages, as well as the costs of suit and reasonable fees for attorneys and expert witnesses. With respect to compensatory damages, the plaintiff may elect, at any time prior to the rendering of final judgement, to recover, in lieu of actual damages, an award of statutory damages in the amount of $5,000 per violation.

''(2) ACTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General of the United States has reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons is being, has been, or may be injured by conduct constituting a violation of this section, the Attorney General may commence a civil action in any appropriate United States District Court.

''(B) RELIEF.—In any action under subparagraph (A), the court may award appropriate relief, including temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive relief, and compensatory damages to persons aggrieved as described in paragraph (1)(B). The court, to vindicate the public interest, may also assess a civil penalty against each respondent—

''(i) in an amount not exceeding $10,000 for a nonviolent physical obstruction and $15,000 for other first violations; and

''(ii) in an amount not exceeding $15,000 for a nonviolent physical obstruction and $25,000 for any other subsequent violation.

''(3) ACTIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General of a State has reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons is being, has been, or may be injured by conduct constituting a violation of this section, such Attorney General may commence a civil action in the name of such State, as parens patriae on behalf of natural persons residing in such State, in any appropriate United States District Court.

''(B) RELIEF.—In any action under subparagraph (A), the court may award appropriate relief, including temporary, preliminary or permanent injunctive relief, compensatory damages, and civil penalties as described in paragraph (2)(B).

''(d) PROHIBITION ON RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTAL AIP GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event an individual violates subsection (a) with respect to airport property, such airport shall not be eligible for a grant under section 47104 unless the operator of the airport certifies to the Administrator that the airport took all actions to prevent and abate the conduct prohibited by subsection (a) and arrest and prosecute the offenders.

''(2) PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall develop and implement procedures for the certification required under paragraph (1), including processes for investigating a false statement in such a certification.

''(3) APPLICATION.—If the operator of an airport fails to certify to the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (1) or the certification required by paragraph (1) contains a material false statement or misrepresentation, such airport shall not be eligible for a grant under section 47104 and such airport shall be joint and severally liable for damages under subsection (c) with any other defendants.

''(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

''(1) to prohibit any expressive conduct (including peaceful picketing or other peaceful demonstration) protected from legal prohibition by the First Amendment to the Constitution;

''(2) to provide exclusive criminal penalties or civil remedies with respect to the conduct prohibited by this section, or to preempt State or local laws that may provide such penalties or remedies; or

''(3) to interfere with the enforcement of State or local laws regulating airports.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(2) AIRPORT PROPERTY.—The term 'airport property' includes any land owned, leased, managed, or operated by an airport for the purpose of providing airport services.

''(3) AIRPORT SERVICES.—The term 'airport services' means aviation business or activities, activities necessary or appropriate to serve passengers or cargo in air commerce, or other related activities.

''(4) INTERFERE WITH.—The term 'interfere with' means to restrict a person's freedom of movement.

''(5) INTIMIDATE.—The term 'intimidate' means to place a person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm to himself or herself or to another.

''(6) MINOR.—The term 'minor' has the meaning given that term under the law of the State in which airport property is located.

''(7) PHYSICAL OBSTRUCTION.—The term 'physical obstruction' means rendering impassable ingress to or egress from an airport property, or rendering passage to or from an airport property unreasonably difficult or hazardous.

''(8) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 401 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by sections 393 and 441, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''40133. Free Access to airports.''.

SA 2064. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 502 and insert the following:

SEC. 502. ADDITIONAL WITHIN AND BEYOND PERIMETER SLOT EXEMPTIONS AT RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.

(a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—Section 41718 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) ADDITIONAL SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—

''(1) INCREASE IN SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—Not later than 65 days after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Secretary shall grant, by order, 10 exemptions from—

''(A) the application of sections 49104(a)(5), 49109, and 41714 to air carriers to operate limited frequencies and aircraft on routes between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and domestic airports located within or beyond the perimeter described in section 49109; and

''(B) the requirements of subparts K, S, and T of part 93 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(2) NON-LIMITED INCUMBENTS.—Of the slot exemptions made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make 8 available to incumbent air carriers qualifying for status as a non-limited incumbent carrier at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

''(3) LIMITED INCUMBENTS.—Of the slot exemptions made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make 2 available to incumbent air carriers qualifying for status as a limited incumbent carrier at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

''(4) ALLOCATION PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall allocate the 10 slot exemptions provided under paragraph (1) pursuant to the application process established by the Secretary under subsection (d), subject to the following:

''(A) LIMITATIONS.—Each air carrier that is eligible under paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) shall be eligible to operate no more and no less than 2 of the newly authorized slot exemptions.

''(B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall consider the extent to which the exemptions will—

''(i) enhance options for nonstop travel to beyond-perimeter airports that do not have nonstop service from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as of the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024; or

''(ii) have a positive impact on the overall level of competition in the markets that will be served as a result of those exemptions.

''(5) PROHIBITION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority may not assess any penalty or similar levy against an individual air carrier solely for obtaining and operating a slot exemption authorized under this subsection.

''(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as prohibiting the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority from assessing and collecting any penalty, fine, or other levy, such as a handling fee or landing fee, that is—

''(i) authorized by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Regulations;

''(ii) agreed to in writing by the air carrier; or

''(iii) charged in the ordinary course of business to an air carrier operating at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport regardless of whether or not the air carrier obtained a slot exemption authorized under this subsection.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 41718(c)(2)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i) by striking ''and (b)'' and inserting '', (b), and (i)''; and

(2) in clause (ii) by striking ''and (g)'' and inserting ''(g), and (i)''.

(c) PRESERVATION OF EXISTING WITHIN PERIMETER SERVICE.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed as authorizing the conversion of a within-perimeter exemption or slot at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act to serve an airport located beyond the perimeter described in section 49109 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) FAA SAFETY CONSULTATION.—In granting the slot exemptions required by Section 41718(i) of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary may consult with the Administrator to preserve the ongoing safety of operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

SA 2065. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2057 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. TILLIS) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1911 proposed by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MORAN) to the bill H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

(e) FREEZE IN THE NUMBER OF OPERATIONS AT AIRPORTS WHEN NEAR MISSES OCCUR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, if a near-miss occurs on a surface of a part 139 airport, such airport shall freeze the number of operations at the airport on a per-hour basis indefinitely until the Administrator can certify that—

(A) there is adequate air traffic controller staffing at the airport;

(B) proper surface surveillance technology is installed and operational at the airport; and

(C) the schedule of operations at the airport will not lead to runway congestion.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) NEAR MISS.—The term ''near miss'' means an incident in aviation where 2 or more aircraft come close to colliding but do not make contact.

(B) PART 139 AIRPORT DEFINED.—The term ''part 139 airport'' means an airport certified under part 139 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SA 2066. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2825, 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 life-saving actions in Vietnam; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) a United States Army Dustoff crewman, including a pilot, crew chief, and medic, is a helicopter crew member who served honorably during the Vietnam War aboard helicopter air ambulances, which were both nondivision and division assets under the radio call signs ''Dustoff'' and ''Medevac'';

(2) Dustoff crews performed aeromedical evacuation for United States, Vietnamese, and allied forces in Southeast Asia from May 1962 through March 1973;

(3) nearing the end of World War II, the United States Army began using helicopters for medical evacuation and years later, during the Korean War, these helicopter air ambulances were responsible for transporting 17,700 United States casualties;

(4) during the Vietnam War, with the use of helicopter air ambulances, United States Army Dustoff crews pioneered the concept of dedicated and rapid medical evacuation and transported almost 900,000 United States, South Vietnamese, and other allied sick and wounded, as well as wounded enemy forces;

(5) helicopters proved to be a revolutionary tool to assist those injured on the battlefield;

(6) highly skilled and intrepid, Dustoff crews were able to operate the helicopters and land them on almost any terrain in nearly any weather to pick up wounded, after which the Dustoff crews could provide care to these patients while transporting them to ready medical facilities;

(7) the vital work of the Dustoff crews required consistent combat exposure and often proved to be the difference between life and death for wounded personnel;

(8) the revolutionary concept of a dedicated combat life-saving system was cultivated and refined by United States Army Dustoff crews during 11 years of intense conflict in and above the jungles of Southeast Asia;

(9) innovative and resourceful Dustoff crews in Vietnam were responsible for taking the new concept of helicopter medical evacuation, born just a few years earlier, and revolutionizing it to meet and surpass the previously unattainable goal of delivering a battlefield casualty to an operating table within the vaunted ''golden hour'';

(10) some Dustoff units in Vietnam operated so efficiently that they were able to deliver a patient to a waiting medical facility

on an average of 50 minutes from the receipt of the mission, which saved the lives of countless personnel in Vietnam, and this legacy continues for modern-day Dustoff crews;

(11) the inherent danger of being a member of a Dustoff crew in Vietnam meant that there was a 1 in 3 chance of being wounded or killed;

(12) many battles during the Vietnam War raged at night, and members of the Dustoff crews often found themselves searching for a landing zone in complete darkness, in bad weather, over mountainous terrain, and all while being the target of intense enemy fire as they attempted to rescue the wounded, which caused Dustoff crews to suffer a rate of aircraft loss that was more than 3 times that of all other types of combat helicopter missions in Vietnam;

(13) the 54th Medical Detachment typified the constant heroism displayed by Dustoff crews in Vietnam, over the span of a 10-month tour, with only 3 flyable helicopters and 40 soldiers in the unit, evacuating 21,435 patients in 8,644 missions while being airborne for 4,832 hours;

(14) collectively, the members of the 54th Medical Detachment earned 78 awards for valor, including 1 Medal of Honor, 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 14 Silver Star Medals, 26 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 2 Bronze Star Medals for valor, 4 Air Medals for valor, 4 Soldier's Medals, and 26 Purple Heart Medals;

(15) the 54th Medical Detachment displayed heroism on a daily basis and set the standard for all Dustoff crews in Vietnam;

(16) 6 members of the 54th Medical Detachment are in the Dustoff Hall of Fame, 3 are in the Army Aviation Hall of Fame, and 1 is the only United States Army aviator in the National Aviation Hall of Fame;

(17) Dustoff crew members are among the most highly decorated soldiers in United States military history;

(18) in early 1964, Major Charles L. Kelly was the Commanding Officer of the 57th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance), Provisional, in Soc Trang, South Vietnam;

(19) Major Kelly helped to forge the Dustoff call sign into history as one of the most welcomed phrases to be heard over the radio by wounded soldiers in perilous and dire situations;

(20) in 1964, Major Kelly was killed in action as he gallantly maneuvered his aircraft to save a wounded United States soldier and several Vietnamese soldiers and boldly replied, after being warned to stay away from the landing zone due to the ferocity of enemy fire, ''When I have your wounded.'';

(21) General William Westmoreland, Commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, singled out Major Kelly as an example of ''the greatness of the human spirit'' and highlighted his famous reply as an inspiration to all in combat;

(22) General Creighton Abrams, successor to General Westmoreland from 1968 to 1972, and former Chief of Staff of the United States Army, highlighted the heroism of Dustoff crews, ''A special word about the Dustoffs . . . . Courage above and beyond the call of duty was sort of routine to them. It was a daily thing, part of the way they lived. That's the great part, and it meant so much to every last man who served there. Whether he ever got hurt or not, he knew Dustoff was there.'';

(23) Dustoff crews possessed unique skills and traits that made them highly successful in aeromedical evacuation in Vietnam, including indomitable courage, extraordinary aviation skill and sound judgment under fire, high-level medical expertise, and an unequaled dedication to the preservation of human life;

(24) members of the United States Armed Forces on the ground in Vietnam had their confidence and battlefield prowess reinforced knowing that there were heroic Dustoff crews just a few minutes from the fight, which was instrumental to their well-being, willingness to fight, and morale;

(25) military families in the United States knew that their loved ones would receive the quickest and best possible care in the event of a war-time injury, thanks to the Dustoff crews;

(26) the willingness of Dustoff crews to also risk their lives to save helpless civilians left an immeasurably positive impression on the people of Vietnam and exemplified the finest United States ideals of compassion and humanity; and

(27) Dustoff crews from the Vietnam War hailed from every State in the United States and represented numerous ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service, which saved countless lives and contributed directly to the defense of the United States.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

(c) U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War, the gold medal shall be given to the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the Vietnam War, and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

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

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

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

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

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

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

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following personnel in my office be granted floor privileges until the end of the Congress: Jade Winfree, Thomas Struble, Leticia Vega, Joel Coito, Chad Meckley, and Catherine Latour.

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

EXTENDING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, TO EXTEND THE FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY OF THE AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8289, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8289) to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 8289) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just for the information of Senators and everyone else, that was the extension that came over from the House. So it makes sure that the FAA will be in continuous service and there will no gap.

Earlier tonight, we passed the full authorization FAA bill, and that, of course, will make things permanent. But because of the gap because the House is not here, we have to pass this.

Before I get into the rest, I just want to say, Madam President, you as the chair have done just such an amazing job on these bills. They are not easy bills. They have many just cross-cutting issues involving almost every Member of the Senate. And these days it is harder than ever with so much polarization and procedural objection. So it is an amazing task that you have accomplished, and I think America and your State of Washington owe you a debt of gratitude.

DUSTOFF CREWS OF THE VIETNAM WAR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2825 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2825) 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 life-saving actions in Vietnam.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2066) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) a United States Army Dustoff crewman, including a pilot, crew chief, and medic, is a helicopter crew member who served honorably during the Vietnam War aboard helicopter air ambulances, which were both nondivision and division assets under the radio call signs ''Dustoff'' and ''Medevac'';

(2) Dustoff crews performed aeromedical evacuation for United States, Vietnamese, and allied forces in Southeast Asia from May 1962 through March 1973;

(3) nearing the end of World War II, the United States Army began using helicopters for medical evacuation and years later, during the Korean War, these helicopter air ambulances were responsible for transporting 17,700 United States casualties;

(4) during the Vietnam War, with the use of helicopter air ambulances, United States Army Dustoff crews pioneered the concept of dedicated and rapid medical evacuation and transported almost 900,000 United States, South Vietnamese, and other allied sick and wounded, as well as wounded enemy forces;

(5) helicopters proved to be a revolutionary tool to assist those injured on the battlefield;

(6) highly skilled and intrepid, Dustoff crews were able to operate the helicopters and land them on almost any terrain in nearly any weather to pick up wounded, after which the Dustoff crews could provide care to these patients while transporting them to ready medical facilities;

(7) the vital work of the Dustoff crews required consistent combat exposure and often proved to be the difference between life and death for wounded personnel;

(8) the revolutionary concept of a dedicated combat life-saving system was cultivated and refined by United States Army Dustoff crews during 11 years of intense conflict in and above the jungles of Southeast Asia;

(9) innovative and resourceful Dustoff crews in Vietnam were responsible for taking the new concept of helicopter medical evacuation, born just a few years earlier, and revolutionizing it to meet and surpass the previously unattainable goal of delivering a battlefield casualty to an operating table within the vaunted ''golden hour'';

(10) some Dustoff units in Vietnam operated so efficiently that they were able to deliver a patient to a waiting medical facility on an average of 50 minutes from the receipt of the mission, which saved the lives of countless personnel in Vietnam, and this legacy continues for modern-day Dustoff crews;

(11) the inherent danger of being a member of a Dustoff crew in Vietnam meant that there was a 1 in 3 chance of being wounded or killed;

(12) many battles during the Vietnam War raged at night, and members of the Dustoff crews often found themselves searching for a landing zone in complete darkness, in bad weather, over mountainous terrain, and all while being the target of intense enemy fire as they attempted to rescue the wounded, which caused Dustoff crews to suffer a rate of aircraft loss that was more than 3 times that of all other types of combat helicopter missions in Vietnam;

(13) the 54th Medical Detachment typified the constant heroism displayed by Dustoff crews in Vietnam, over the span of a 10-month tour, with only 3 flyable helicopters and 40 soldiers in the unit, evacuating 21,435 patients in 8,644 missions while being airborne for 4,832 hours;

(14) collectively, the members of the 54th Medical Detachment earned 78 awards for valor, including 1 Medal of Honor, 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 14 Silver Star Medals, 26 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 2 Bronze Star Medals for valor, 4 Air Medals for valor, 4 Soldier's Medals, and 26 Purple Heart Medals;

(15) the 54th Medical Detachment displayed heroism on a daily basis and set the standard for all Dustoff crews in Vietnam;

(16) 6 members of the 54th Medical Detachment are in the Dustoff Hall of Fame, 3 are in the Army Aviation Hall of Fame, and 1 is the only United States Army aviator in the National Aviation Hall of Fame;

(17) Dustoff crew members are among the most highly decorated soldiers in United States military history;

(18) in early 1964, Major Charles L. Kelly was the Commanding Officer of the 57th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance), Provisional, in Soc Trang, South Vietnam;

(19) Major Kelly helped to forge the Dustoff call sign into history as one of the most welcomed phrases to be heard over the radio by wounded soldiers in perilous and dire situations;

(20) in 1964, Major Kelly was killed in action as he gallantly maneuvered his aircraft to save a wounded United States soldier and several Vietnamese soldiers and boldly replied, after being warned to stay away from the landing zone due to the ferocity of enemy fire, ''When I have your wounded.'';

(21) General William Westmoreland, Commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, singled out Major Kelly as an example of ''the greatness of the human spirit'' and highlighted his famous reply as an inspiration to all in combat;

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(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

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(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War, the gold medal shall be given to the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the Vietnam War, and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

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

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purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

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

The bill (S. 2825), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 83, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) was agreed to.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 3, 2024, AS NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 683, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 683) supporting the designation of the week of April 29 through May 3, 2024, as ''National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 683) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 7109

Mr. SCHUMER. I understand that 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. 7109) to require a citizenship question on the decennial census, to require reporting on certain census statistics, and to modify apportionment of Representatives to be based on United States citizens instead of all individuals.

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.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Hawaii be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from May 9, 2024, through May 13, 2024.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024, THROUGH TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. And, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned to convene for a pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on Friday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the O'Donnell nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 6:30 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:02 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SHANNON A. ESTENOZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE TOMMY P. BEAUDREAU, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

JEFFREY SAMUEL ARBEIT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE MICHAEL B. THORNTON, RESIGNED.

CATHY FUNG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE JOSEPH H. GALE, RETIRED.

BENJAMIN A. GUIDER III, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE RICHARD T. MORRISON, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTOPHER J. LAMORA, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

DAVID SLAYTON MEALE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.