



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

No. 83

## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray. Eternal Father, thank You for this day, for a land of spacious skies, bountiful grain, majestic mountains, and fruited plains. We accept this day as a gift from Your bounty, and we will use it for the glory of Your Name.

As our lawmakers strive to do what is best for this great land, lead them with Your might. Guide them by Your higher wisdom and help them know the constancy of Your presence. Lord, give them the greatness of being on Your side and the delight of knowing they are doing Your will. As they seek to be responsive to Your leading, keep our Senators' hearts riveted on You. Make them stewards of the blessings You daily provide.

We pray in Your powerful 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 14, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, President Biden announced he is taking new steps to protect U.S. workers and put the Chinese Communist Party on notice with a new round of tariffs on goods vital for America's economic future.

I commend President Biden for standing up for American workers and making it clear to the CCP that they will face the consequences for their trade abuses. Fighting the CCP's unfair trade practices is something I have cared about for a very long time. It was one of the very first issues I focused on when I first visited Upstate New York as a Senator and saw for myself jobs leaving the shores. The CCP has shown that they will stop at nothing to steal our intellectual property and undermine our economy.

When I met with President Xi during my codel last fall, I pointedly confronted him about the Chinese Govern-

ment's history of trade abuses and said we need to create a more even-leveled playing field.

Today's tariffs are thus a good step towards reversing America's trade imbalance and protect U.S. production of everything from batteries to solar cells to semiconductors to steel and aluminum.

I am particularly pleased that President Biden's tariffs will boost American EVs and clean energy manufacturing. With all the investments we Democrats made in the Inflation Reduction Act to boost EV manufacturing—something I care a lot about and worked hard for—it would be terrible for America's roads to become saturated with EVs made in China, and these tariffs will help prevent that. We have taken major steps to reverse the ossification of U.S. manufacturing with the infrastructure law, the IRA, and Chips and Science, but the President's tariffs are also a critical part of the solution.

### FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission might not sound like the flashiest Agency in the world, but, yesterday, they had a lot of flash. They made a game-changing announcement that can only be described as dramatic change and help for the American people and for a clean environment.

Yesterday, after years of planning—and after I called FERC to take a strong action last summer and was pushing FERC repeatedly to do this—the Commission announced a pair of rules that will revamp America's power grid. FERC's new rules will require both long-term transmission planning and establishing a way for States to split the bill for big transmission projects.

These sound esoteric, but they are huge. The result, in the long run, will

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3671

help clean energy compete on equal footing with fossil fuels and result in lower energy costs and increased reliability.

Nearly 2 years ago, Congressional Democrats, led by the Democrats in the Senate, made history by passing the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest downpayment for clean energy production the United States has ever seen. Our bill, which I was proud to lead in the Senate, provided hundreds of billions to boost U.S. production in solar and wind and other forms of clean energy, and it is hugely successful. All the programs are being oversubscribed. Many more people are in line—companies, et cetera—to build solar and wind production and other forms of clean energy.

But it was only half the battle. It matters little if we build lots of solar panels and windmills if we don't have a way of transmitting all that clean energy to communities that need it most. And, frankly, transmission was tied in knots.

What good is it having a lot of wind offshore or solar energy throughout our more sunny areas if you can't get that energy to the people who need it and want it, to the people whose costs it will lower?

And so it was really important to me that we do something about transmission. Unfortunately, we were not able to get that done when we tried to do it here in the Senate. Our Republican colleagues were not amenable. So we had to find another way. According to one study, without more transmissions, the United States could squander up to half the climate benefits of the IRA—what a colossal tragedy.

We all see what global warming is doing. You look at the weather reports every day. All of these tornadoes and everything else, where the heck are they coming from if the weather is not changing?

So that is why Senate Democrats tried to include transmission reforms in the IRA. And after that, when that didn't work—the Parliamentarian knocked them out—we tried to work them with Republicans, but they blocked our efforts.

So I had to find another way, and I was very eager and almost desperate to find another way because we so needed to bring this clean energy to people's homes and reduce their costs. So, last summer, I wrote a letter to FERC to help provide a remedy, because I knew that FERC could strengthen the rules—and they did. They could strengthen rules so we could more quickly build transmission lines and ensure clean energy could compete with fossil fuels on an even footing.

I spent months working with my team and with one expert after another to quietly but forcefully fine-tune what FERC needed and change our letter on how the Agency could make the most of this opportunity.

Well, hallelujah, this is a major change that people are not paying at-

attention to, but it will have dramatic effect. FERC's rule contained almost all of my requests.

The result of yesterday's announcement: more clean energy going to people who need it, lower costs, increased reliability. We are unlocking the clean energy revolution along the way.

So let me say this—this was a major announcement—yesterday's announcement from FERC was a turning point in the effort to transition the United States to a clean energy economy. I am very pleased with FERC. I salute their leadership for doing what they did, and I thank my staff, who worked so long and hard to make this happen.

It is great news for the environment, great news for the electricity consumer, great news for America and our globe.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the border, it has been 97 days since Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans blocked the strongest, most comprehensive border security bill America has seen in a generation, and they still have zero plan to actually fix the problem.

President Biden, meanwhile, is taking action to secure our border. Last week, the President began announcing a series of administrative actions to go after bad actors in Central America and to use whatever powers he can from the executive branch.

Here in the Senate, we have not walked away from the table. We know we need to fix the border. The American people demand we fix the border, and we call on our Republican colleagues, once and for all, to join us in taking real, bipartisan action.

Democrats agree that the status quo on the border cannot continue. We want to pass border security in Congress by working in a bipartisan way, and so, 3 months ago, we brought to the floor a comprehensive border security bill, months in the making—a bill that didn't just talk the talk about border security but walked the walk. It updated asylum, had more money for border agents and judges, and was supported by conservatives like the Wall Street Journal editorial board.

Our border bill was not a messaging bill. It was the result of bipartisan negotiation—Senators MURPHY and SINEMA and LANKFORD, with input from a wide range of stakeholders from both sides. If both Chambers would have had a chance to vote on our border security bill, it would have passed and become law.

Well, 3 months later, we are not walking away from trying to resolve the problems at the border. We hope Republicans will change course and join us. Instead of just making a lot of speeches, pointing a lot of fingers—blame, blame, blame—let's get something done. It is right within our grasp—a bipartisan bill that, when it was shown to many Republicans, they

said, "Wow." It wasn't until Donald Trump said, "I want the border to remain in chaos so I can win election," that Republicans backed off. What shame—that is not what the American people want, and we are going to make sure they know it.

#### BUFFALO, NEW YORK, SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 2 years ago today, barbarity descended upon the "City of Good Neighbors." My heart, my soul, and my spirit are with the people of Buffalo, NY, today, as they observe the second tragic anniversary of the shooting at the Tops supermarket. In the span of just a few minutes, 10 precious lives were extinguished in a senseless act of hatred from a White supremacist.

Racism is America's original sin. Our work will never be done until we do everything to rid our society of this vicious evil.

May God watch over the souls of those who died 2 years ago today. May those of us who remember them find strength and courage and the will to prevent tragedies like this in the future.

America has tragically endured many more senseless shootings since the massacre in Buffalo. Gun violence is one of America's gravest societal ills, and it seems to be increasing.

But 2 years ago, we also learned that the situation is not entirely hopeless, because after the advent of what happened in Buffalo, in Uvalde, and in some other places, Democrats and Republicans actually joined together to pass the first gun safety bill in 30 years—the first since the Brady bill, which I offered way back, a long time ago, when I was in the House. This is the first one since then.

Later this month, the administration will bring into effect one of the key elements of our bill by expanding background checks and closing loopholes for online sales and gun shows. Our rule expanding background checks shows change is possible when both sides work together, even if progress is hard and halting. A few years ago, the announcement would have been unimaginable.

We are never going to be able to fully heal the harms unleashed by gun violence, but we can honor those we lost by continuing the work to make mass shootings a thing of the past. We have a long way to go, but, today, as we remember those who tragically died in Buffalo, let us recommit to keep going, no matter what it takes.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 7109

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (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. In order to place the bill on the Calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

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

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

---

#### ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to begin my remarks today with a quote: The idea that we would cut off military aid to an ally—our only true, true ally in the entire region—is absolutely preposterous. It's just beyond my comprehension why anyone would do that.

Five years ago, then-Candidate Biden was saying the right thing about America's commitment to the Jewish State of Israel. Unfortunately, today he is doing the complete opposite. The President and his administration are withholding critical military assistance from Israel as it fights to restore its security against savage terrorists, and they are refusing to answer basic questions about it.

Last week, the Speaker of the House and I sent a letter to the Biden administration, pressing for specific details on which weapons were being withheld and why they were being withheld. And while we waited for an answer, the Secretary of State spent the weekend dodging requests for any serious rationale driving the President's decision.

Now, it is no secret that the administration is under immense pressure from the anti-Israel left. It is evident in the words of some of our own colleagues. Members of this body have urged the President to "be more aggressive with the Israelis." They have demanded that "not one penny go to support America's ally unless Israel yields to their view of what's acceptable in self-defense." And, of course, they have even engaged in grotesque political interference, calling for regime change in a sovereign democracy.

The Intelligence Committee is holding a hearing tomorrow about foreign interference in our politics and elections, and yet too many of our Democratic colleagues can't seem to resist the temptation to put their fingers on the electoral scales of other democracies.

Far too many Washington Democrats have indulged in what I call the "Bibi derangement syndrome," an absurd trope that is setting a dangerous precedent.

Some of our colleagues talk about an Israeli Government dominated by shadowy, far-right forces. That government

literally does not exist. Israel is led by a coalition, a national unity government. And its war cabinet, which includes members of multiple political parties, is distinguished by the absence—the absence—of the most conservative members of the coalition.

By all accounts, support for military operations in Gaza and against Hezbollah in Lebanon transcends Israeli politics. But here in Washington, Democrats want to pretend that what they are objecting to is merely the will of a Prime Minister they don't like.

Some of our most senior Senate colleagues, including the chairman of the State Foreign Operations Subcommittee, just this weekend have even demonstrated an eagerness to assign political blame within Israel for the failure to prevent the October 7 attacks. Well, that will be the job of the people of Israel, and it will come after they finish restoring their security against the terrorists wearing Israeli and American blood.

But let's make one thing absolutely clear: If the Biden administration continues to hector and impede our ally's progress toward this goal, a share of the blame for Hamas's success may well come to rest right here in Washington. Of course, there is already plenty of blame to go around among the Western institutions that have fallen into predictable patterns of dangerous, anti-Israel bias in the months after October 7, from the media that rushed to fit the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust into tidy, artificial narratives of moral equivalence and "cycles of violence" to the prominent international organizations that continue to elevate and legitimize outright terror propaganda.

Just a few days ago, the United Nations finally admitted that the figures on Palestinian casualties it had held up for months as objective truth had been grossly overstated. As a spokesman put it, "In the fog of war, it's difficult to come up with numbers." No kidding. It is especially difficult to get accurate data when you rely exclusively on the word of Hamas.

Unsurprisingly, just days after announcing its revised numbers, the U.N. backtracked yesterday and resumed taking the Hamas-run Ministry of Health in Gaza at its word. But remember, the U.N.'s affiliation to terrorists isn't limited to data gathering, is it? Employees of the U.N.'s relief and work agency, UNRWA, quite literally participated in the October 7 attack.

So why don't we talk about the facts. In the last 9 days, the terrorists controlling southern Gaza have attacked a major entry port for humanitarian aid from Israel six times—six times. This is not an accident. And if terrorists strike the absurdly inefficient and costly floating pier, that won't be an accident either.

The true obstacle to peace and stability for the people of Gaza is loudly identifying itself. Hamas is showing us

precisely why it can play no part in the future of Israelis or Palestinians, and a true ally would give Israel the time, space, and support it needs to eliminate the terrorist threat.

But that is not what we have seen from the Commander in Chief. By limiting Israel's options, the President is giving the terrorists a lifeline. Does the Biden administration really expect Hamas to capitulate at a negotiating table when our conditions on Israel help terrorists survive on the battleground? And does the President think exhausting an arsenal of expensive, low-inventory interceptors is changing Iran's broader calculus?

The lesson from repelling Iran's direct drone and missile attacks on Israel or commercial shipping vessels isn't that we can't intercept them; the lesson is that we still haven't managed to compel Iran to stop doing it and that we ought to be doing much more to rebuild our stocks and capacity to produce air and missile defenses as well as the long-range weapons that can credibly threaten what Iran and other adversaries hold dear.

This isn't new criticism, and it isn't a new problem. An emboldened Iran, an unchecked network of proxies, and brazen violence against Israel, America, and the global economy—the President's choices have magnified these threats. He has invited them with retreat, with hesitation, and with appeasement.

Today, the United States has effectively allowed itself to be deterred by a second-rate terrorist power, and the world is taking note. Our credibility is not divisible. Our failure to meet one challenge compounds the others we face.

But the path forward is not a mystery. As I have said repeatedly: rebuild our military power, stand with our allies, deter our adversaries, and do it today.

---

#### ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, last month, I suggested the administrators at schools like Columbia—where nests of anti-Semitism were festering and growing—ought to follow the lead of Princeton, where trespassers were quickly arrested and removed by law enforcement. Unfortunately, Princeton may not be setting such a shining example after all. The school has apparently decided that perpetrators on campus shouldn't bear actual consequences.

Yesterday, at the urging of "several" academic and department chairs, Princeton announced they would forgo traditional discipline and instead let the student radicals who tried to occupy campus buildings participate in a "restorative justice process."

You might be forgiven for having absolutely no idea what that means—none. But the bottom line is, these students will be allowed to graduate in the coming weeks. After all, what is a little call for intifada between friends?

When Henry David Thoreau famously chose jail as a consequence for his civil disobedience, he explained it this way:

Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison.

Apparently, the post-modern prisoner of conscience see things a bit differently. So that is my suggestion for the folks pushing restorative justice at Princeton: Make these student radicals read Thoreau. Let them and their faculty enablers indict themselves with a comparative cheapness of their violent play-acting.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

#### VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, we learned the most recent winners of the Pulitzer Prize. I am pleased that among this year's winners is a friend of mine who made it his life's work to help bring democracy and freedom to his home country of Russia: Vladimir Kara-Murza.

This is a photograph of him in Moscow at an earlier time.

Vladimir Putin's government has tried to kill this man repeatedly, to silence him in the uniquely Vladimir Putin way—poison him—but each time, Vladimir survived and continued his work, including writing a regular column for the Washington Post about the need for change in Russia.

While he and his family became residents of the United States, he insisted on maintaining his home in Russia. Two years ago, he came to see me before returning to Russia. I will never forget asking Vladimir about his decision to return. He was unequivocal. He felt he had to return. His aspirations were simple. He believed in a better future for Russia, one in which Russians could live in a free and prosperous society and be at peace with their neighbors.

Unsurprisingly, shortly after he returned to Russia after visiting with me, Vladimir Putin had him arrested and jailed. But Kara-Murza has remained steadfast in his opposition to Putin. He continues his writings from Putin's gulag—deeply thoughtful pieces that offer a different vision of Russia's future. For example, the titles of recent pieces he has written include "Even from a Russian prison, I can see Putin's weakness" and "I am proud to have spoken out against Putin's crimes in Ukraine." It was this powerful writing that won him international recognition and a Pulitzer Prize.

I want to congratulate him and to thank his family for their courage on

receiving this prestigious award. Most importantly, I want to remind him that what he is doing is not ignored, nor forgotten.

To Vladimir Putin, I say: Your folly in Ukraine and domestic repression cannot hide the light of Kara-Murza's moving words.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a different subject, I want to speak on President Biden's recent decision to withhold certain offensive U.S. weapons from Israel that might be used in an assault on Rafah.

I support President Biden.

It is not, as some have characterized, a failure to support Israel in a dangerous region after a genuinely horrific Hamas attack—and October 7 was such an attack. It is instead a warning from one of the most pro-Israeli U.S. Presidents to an ally that a full-scale assault on Rafah could not only add to the already catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza but undermine any long-term stability in the region.

Let me also remind those critics that President Biden recently helped coordinate, with the use of American forces, a dramatic defense of Israel against an Iranian assault.

Anyone who doubts Joe Biden's commitment to Israel is misguided. But he has reached his limit with Prime Minister Netanyahu and his response in Gaza and focus on his own political survival more than anything else.

His blunders protecting civilians and allowing the flow of aid were noted in the national security memo reported to Congress last week. Let me elaborate. Last week, several of us met with the Jordanian King, Abdullah II—a deeply thoughtful leader who knows the region well. He is a key ally of the United States, and he has made peace with Israel. He, like Middle East expert Tom Friedman, argued that simply leveling Gaza and furthering the humanitarian crisis without a long-term strategy for peace is no strategy at all for Israel. A path forward can only happen with the support of Arab nations in the region.

President Biden has been urging Prime Minister Netanyahu to offer this broader vision, one that likely includes normalization with Saudi Arabia and eventual peace with a Palestinian State—a vision that could be undermined with a massive assault on Rafah.

As Tom Friedman posed to Netanyahu in a recent column, "What do you want more—Rafah or Riyadh? Do you want to mount a full-scale invasion of Rafah to try to finish off Hamas—if that is even possible—without offering any Israeli exit strategy from Gaza or any political horizon for a two-state solution with non-Hamas-led Palestinians?"

Shortly after the horrific attack on October 7, I warned our Israeli friends to learn from our mistakes made in the fog of rage and pain after September 11.

You do not want ill-thought occupation of Gaza to become your Fallujah, and, as also learned in Iraq, one needs the trust of the local civilian population to help counter terrorist groups.

We were speculating recently on how many innocent civilians have been killed in Gaza in an effort to eliminate Hamas. The number is staggering. This is another reason President Biden reached his limit with Netanyahu. The devastating civilian toll in Gaza is not only a moral and humanitarian problem; it is a strategic failure.

More than 40 years ago, an American President was furious about the photos of civilians killed by Israeli shelling in Lebanon. That President then called Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, dressed him down sharply, and told him the excessive assault had to end. Over the course of this President's term, he used the power of U.S. weapons sales, including delaying or withholding certain warplanes and arms, to influence Israeli war policy as well as to criticize Israeli actions in the region at the U.N. Security Council. That President was Ronald Reagan.

Reagan wrote in his diary about the difficult call with Begin:

I was angry. . . . I told him it had to stop or our entire future relationship was endangered.

So I urge those who are resistant and vocal about President Biden's actions to reflect on Ronald Reagan's similar moves to help our Israeli allies from making strategic, tragic mistakes four decades ago or reflect on the words of former Mossad Chief Meir Dagan, who before his death concluded that Israel over the years "achieved a long string of impressive tactical successes but also disastrous strategic failures."

I have long supported a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians. In fact, out of the devastating Yom Kippur War came an unimaginable yet lasting peace between Egypt and Israel. It can happen.

So with the right leaders on both sides, it can be done, and we have a responsibility in the United States for a renewed push on all sides towards this goal—one in which Israeli and Palestinian children can once and forever live in safety, peace, and dignity.

I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The 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.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

ISRAEL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it has been more than 7 months since Israel was attacked by an Iranian proxy, known as Hamas, from Gaza. Hamas terrorists attacked innocent Israelis on October 7 of last year, marking the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Innocent people were raped, murdered, and taken hostage, and nearly 130 remain hostage in Gaza, including at least 4 American citizens.

In this conflict, the line between good and evil could not be clearer. On one side is America's ally and the lone democracy in the Middle East. On the other is a terrorist organization whose greatest goal is to simply destroy the Jewish State. Hamas terrorists will do whatever it takes to achieve that goal, including using their own citizens as human shields. I can only recall back to some of the horrific videos that we have seen of what they have done to babies and innocent civilians—men, women, and children.

Despite this, President Biden—and notwithstanding some of his rather unequivocal rhetoric—seems confused by whom we should be supporting in this conflict. As the war goes on, the President has slowly backed away from Israel—first with words and now through action. Last week, he threatened to withhold military aid—military aid that had been voted for on a broad, bipartisan basis in the Congress and which he had actually asked for. He effectively issued an ultimatum to our ally as it fights these terrorists: Do what I say or else.

From the beginning of this war, I have said that Israel's operation should not be dictated by anyone but themselves and their national security interests. For some reason, President Biden has focused on Prime Minister Netanyahu as if he were the sole decisionmaker in Israel when, in fact, there is a unity war cabinet that is making those decisions, not Prime Minister Netanyahu alone.

I can only think back to the horrible days after 9/11/2001, a day that 3,000 Americans died as a result of a terrorist attack in New York and Washington, DC. America's allies knew better than to attempt to micromanage our response. Instead, they stood in solidarity with the American people and pledged their support as U.S. troops defended our country. Israel deserves the same support now that we got 23 years ago, but the Biden administration seems confused and of two minds and is sending a terrible message to our closest Middle Eastern ally.

But this is not the first time we have seen the Biden administration's growing rift with Israel. Last week, when Hamas announced it had accepted the

terms of a cease-fire agreement offered by Qatar and Egypt, the announcement set off a media frenzy, but it quickly became clear there was one glaring problem: Israel had yet to see, much less accept, the terms of the proposal. The Israeli Government didn't even receive the text of the proposal until an hour after Hamas released its statement. Prime Minister Netanyahu described the terms as "far from Israel's necessary requirements."

It is no surprise to me that Hamas's leaders went rogue and announced a deal before anything had been agreed to, much less seen, but it is very deeply concerning that Israel was caught completely off guard, especially when reports indicate that the United States had been involved in those negotiations, presumably to the exclusion of Israel. According to reports from Axios, the Biden administration knew about the deal but failed to brief Israel before Monday's surprise announcement from Hamas.

The report says:

Two Israeli officials said the feeling is that "Israel got played" by the U.S. and the mediators who drafted "a new deal" and weren't transparent about it.

Negotiations of this magnitude are understandably extremely delicate, but there is no reason the Biden administration should have kept the Israeli Government in the dark. Israel is a valued ally, but the Biden administration continues to treat it as an untrustworthy antagonist.

Administration officials have developed a habit of manipulating, denigrating, and withholding vital information, and I am extremely worried about the impact of this growing rift and what it will mean between the strong relationship between our two countries. It is Iran which is the principal state sponsor of international terrorism. Particularly in the Middle East, that is the evil head of the snake. Hamas, of course—like Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and the Shia militias in Iraq and Syria—is the means by which they attack the United States and its allies, including Israel, and they are bent on the destruction of the State of Israel.

Of course, it is not just President Biden's interactions with Israel; it is the way he treats the situation here at home as well. Since Hamas's unprovoked attack on Israel, countless Americans have spoken out about this conflict. We have seen pro-Israel protests, anti-Israel protests, and repeated calls for the violence to end. Of course, we all know the First Amendment protects the right of any American to speak freely and protest peacefully, and countless Americans have exercised that right without incident. But we also know that the Supreme Court has said that neutral factors like time, place, and manner in which those protests occur are important, and school administrators and other officials are completely within their rights to determine the time, manner, and place of

the exercise of those First Amendment rights.

In the past few weeks, we have seen an alarming escalation in protest tactics, and some of the most concerning examples have taken place on college campuses. I have to wonder whether our higher education system has simply lost its way. The purpose of our institutions of higher learning are just that—to learn. Yes, protesting, diversity of opinion, and debate are important parts of learning but not breaking the law or breaking the rules of the institution or jeopardizing the ability of other students to actually pursue their education.

At Columbia University, a group of protesters broke into an academic building and barricaded its doors. At UCLA, anti-Israel protesters physically blocked Jewish students from getting to class. At Yale, a Jewish student journalist was attacked by a pro-Hamas mob while attempting to film a protest.

As I said, the First Amendment protects speech. It protects the right to protest peacefully. It does not give anyone the freedom to riot, to destroy, to threaten, or to carry out acts of violence against others. It certainly doesn't protect the right to attack someone based on their religion.

This situation has become so volatile and so dangerous that two major universities canceled their graduation ceremonies. Can you imagine, after living through the pandemic, where classes were canceled and put online and where students were prohibited the privilege of attending their own graduation exercises to now having, because of these violent, destructive protests, their graduations canceled? Columbia and the University of Southern California called off their main commencement ceremonies due to security concerns. It is important to note that the college class of 2024 was also the high school class of 2020. Many of these students didn't have high school graduation ceremonies because of the pandemic, and now they have been denied an opportunity to graduate in a public ceremony from their colleges or universities.

Despite the escalation of violence and anti-Semitic rhetoric in recent weeks, President Biden has failed to demonstrate much needed leadership. Every statement he has made on this topic has been paired with some sort of equivocation, with some sort of expression of moral equivalency to what Israel is doing and what Hamas is doing.

As an example, a few weeks ago, the President said, "I condemn the anti-Semitic protests," but then quickly noted, "I also condemn those who don't understand what's going on with the Palestinians."

He equated anti-Semitism with ignorance, seemingly suggesting that attacking Jewish people was just as bad as ignoring the news. But there can be no equivocation. Anti-Semitism is

wrong. Violent riots are wrong. Attempts to occupy college campuses, destroy property, break university rules, and interfere with the educations of your fellow students is wrong.

It is no surprise that the President was met with serious criticism and that his communications team seemed to shift to a new approach—this time, silence, radio silence. As rioters occupied a building on Columbia's campus and Jewish students endured threats, the President of the United States was eerily silent. It wasn't until a couple of weeks ago that he unequivocally condemned the threats against Jewish students. I am glad he finally came around to his senses, but he hardly deserves credit for reaching the obvious conclusion after so much damage has already been done.

The war initiated by Hamas against Israel last October 7 has exposed a startling lack of leadership from the Commander in Chief. The President is withholding military aid to our closest ally in the Middle East. He and his lieutenants have created fractures in the historically strong relationship between the United States and Israel. They have failed to show resolve when it comes to quashing anti-Semitism on college campuses, and intentionally or not, they have allowed violent protests to terrorize college campuses.

Over and over again, the Biden administration's response to the war between Israel and Hamas has fallen short. Again, there is no equivalency. There is no on one hand it is Israel and on the other hand it is Hamas. This is a conflict not only between Hamas and Israel—the proxy of Iran—but also between good and evil. We know President Biden is in campaign mode 6 months now before the election, but he cannot turn on one of his closest allies in an attempt to appeal to the most radical elements in his political party.

The fate of Israel—its existence—is at stake here. The safety of the Jewish people in America is at stake. The President needs to treat this issue with the seriousness and the clarity that it demands.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in recognition of National Police Week.

This week is a time for our Nation to collectively recognize and honor the bravery and dedication of the men and women who keep our communities safe.

I want to give special thanks to the law enforcement officers across my State of Nevada who serve every day with honor, integrity, and courage.

In Nevada, while we are a State that welcomes visitors from around the world, our policemen and women are critical for protecting our communities—not only our communities but also all of those visitors. It is a task that they have proven time and time again that they stand ready for.

More than 6 years ago, Las Vegas experienced the deadliest mass shooting in American history. And in that moment—in that moment—local police and first responders ran toward danger to neutralize the threat, to get people to safety, and to save countless lives. Do you know why? That is what they are trained to do.

Whether it is a major emergency or a domestic dispute or a routine traffic stop, every day they put on their uniform and leave their homes—the brave men and women of Nevada's law enforcement community—and put their lives on the line. These officers know the risk of the job, but their sense of service is even stronger.

I want Nevada law enforcement to know: I have your back.

As I have met with police officials across my State of Nevada, they have consistently told me one of the biggest challenges they are facing is the dire shortage of officers and support staff. We must tackle this head-on. That is why I am working across party lines to make sure we take action here in Congress to hire and to retain more officers.

I signed on to bipartisan legislation—the Recruit and Retain Act—which will establish a Federal pipeline between local police departments and schools to help facilitate recruitment activities and encourage young people into these careers.

It is going to also help cover some of the costs associated with recruitment and onboarding, making it easier to bring on these new officers.

I was proud to help pass this bipartisan legislation here in the Senate nearly a year ago, and I call on the House of Representatives to take action on this critical legislation as soon as possible.

I will keep pushing to see that our law enforcement officers have access to resources, training, and recruitment support—the kinds of things that they need to do their jobs safely.

While we work to support our police, we must also remember to honor fallen officers. These are our heroes who left behind families, friends, colleagues, and communities they serve and help to protect.

Earlier this month, my team attended an annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial ceremony to pay our respects to the memory of the five new officers whose names were added to the memorial this year.

Mr. President, to honor their lives and their bravery, I ask unanimous consent to submit a list of the names of the five fallen law enforcement officers who were added to the Nevada Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

Sergeant Michael Abbate, Nevada Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol. Trooper Alberto Felix, Nevada Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol. Trooper

Clifford Fontaine, Nevada Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol. Officer Anthony Francone, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Police. Corrections Officer Victor Hunter, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Ms. ROSEN. These brave officers—these brave officers—they made the ultimate sacrifice for our communities, and they deserve our eternal gratitude.

I promise that I will keep working with my colleagues across the aisle to support our police departments, support the officers who serve, to support our staff, and to support all of their families.

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. CRAMER. 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.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, in my 12 years in Congress, like you, I have been blessed to participate in lots of events—large ones, small ones, medium-sized ones—in my State, throughout our Nation, even around the world.

It is difficult to rank them. Some of them are more memorable than others. They are all special. They are all important. Some of them are great celebrations. Others are more somber. Some are even sad, occasionally. But when these events are done, we go to the next thing on our very busy schedule that is prepared for us by someone we hire who is looking out for us. We trust that person with the irrevocable asset of our time, often with little opportunity to process or think much about what we have just done and what we have just participated in.

As you know, it is Police Week in our Nation, and, of course, the evidence of that is all around us here in Washington, DC.

I began my Police Week on Sunday, surrounded by heroes with badges at the 31st Annual TOP COPS Banquet. TOP COPS is a program hosted by the National Association of Police Organizations, which recognizes 10 heroic acts by local, county, State, and Federal law enforcement Agencies and officers during the previous year.

The reason I attended this year's TOP COPS banquet was to join Fargo Police Officer Zachary Robinson and his wife Ashley—who are in the Chamber with us today in the Members' Gallery—as Zach received one of the 10 TOP COPS recognitions. Also attending were his parents, colleagues, and friends—including Governor Doug Burgum; our attorney general, Drew Wrigley; the chief of police from Fargo; and many, many others.

Zach is a 7-year veteran of the Fargo Police Department, where he serves as a member of the honor guard, the crowd management team, and the Red River Valley Regional Bomb Squad. Officer Robinson, like so many of our law

enforcement officers, also serves in the North Dakota National Guard.

Mr. President, he epitomizes what it is to be a hero.

On July 14, 2023, nearly a year ago, Officer Robinson was one of four officers to respond to a routine fender bender. As the officers were wrapping up their handling of the accident, Officer Robinson moved his police vehicle out of the street. A shooter, who was not involved in the initial accident, ambushed the officers, firing on them and a bystander.

The shooter hit Zach's three fellow officers, killing Officer Jake Wallin and gravely injuring Officers Andrew Dotas and Tyler Hawes, both of whom attended the TOP COPS banquet with their spouses.

Zach radioed to "send everybody," as he engaged in a shootout with the assailant. Officer Robinson was literally the last man standing, but he did not hesitate as he moved toward—not away from, but toward—the gunfire, putting himself between the shooter and the innocent—finally, fatally wounding the assailant.

This senseless, premeditated attack targeted police officers who were simply doing what they do: their jobs protecting and taking care of citizens in need.

Evidence collected in the investigation revealed the shooter's fixation on mass shooting events and his likely intent to perpetrate an attack at a large event, like the Downtown Fargo Street Fair that was going on just a few blocks away or, in the next community over, the Red River Valley Fair. In his car alone, the shooter had more than 1,800 rounds of ammunition, multiple firearms, and several homemade explosive devices. This was a man intent on inflicting carnage on the community—a community that had never seen anything like this before.

Despite this quote—"it was a bad, bad day"—when Officer Robinson was asked if he had considered leaving law enforcement, he did not hesitate. He said he "wanted to come back right away. There was no question I wasn't going to not come back to work."

We will likely never know how many lives he saved that day—that his heroism protected that day—but his actions will never be forgotten by the Fargo community or the State of North Dakota. In addition to the TOP COP award, Officer Robinson earned the Medal of Honor from the Fraternal Order of Police, was named the Fargo Police Department's 2023 Officer of the Year and the 2023 National Rifle Association Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Several months after the shooting, he was asked what he thought of being called a hero and said he was "grateful to be in the right place at the right time to do what needed to be done. I was just able to react and eliminate the shooter before he had the chance to hurt anybody else."

It has been said that heroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary

things, and while Zach's extraordinary act of heroism is what was celebrated Sunday night in Washington, DC, it is his humility that stands out the most to me. This is a characteristic, by the way, that is shared by his fellow officers who were involved in the horrific events of that day in Fargo. Officers Hawes and Dotas project this quiet strength and a noble concern for others, never shining the spotlight on themselves. And while it is not surprising, it is always encouraging.

Officer Robinson's story—his refusal to yield, his swift action in the face of grave danger—captured the essence of why we must back the blue, always supporting our officers not just in words but in actions and deeds, ensuring that they have all they need to carry out their duties safely and effectively.

During National Police Week, we honor Zach and his brothers and sisters in blue across the country who go to work every day to protect our communities, despite the dangers around the corner or across the street. This week is also a chance to remember the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

At a time when police officers are all too often scoffed or defunded by the very people relying on them for public safety, we need to constantly remember the real-world impacts of their service. Every officer who is lost is a mother, father, sister, brother, a son, or a daughter taken too soon from a family who loves them and will miss them.

Mr. President, our officers and their families deserve to know we will always have their backs. The TOP COPS awards banquet at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on Sunday was not just one of the many special events we all attend in these jobs. For me, it was the honor of a lifetime to be there to pay tribute to the most extraordinary of the ordinary.

Congratulations to Officer Robinson for the TOP COPS award, to Chief Dave Zibolski and the entire Fargo Police Department, and thank you to all law enforcement officers for their everyday heroism. We love you, and we pray for you always.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### TRIBUTE TO ZOE AGUILLARD

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a staffer on my team, Zoe Aguillard, who has served the people of Louisiana for 7 years, the fourth-ranking member of my office, a staffer whom I relied upon during my time in the Senate, who is now leaving for what she thinks to be greener pastures. It is always bittersweet when a staffer leaves. I had been teaching medical school for many years before coming here. You see talented younger people come on board, and you know they have a tremendous future ahead of them. So if they move on to that tremendous future, you can't cry; you must celebrate.

But, nonetheless, you regret losing someone who has grown so much, both as a person, but also in her achievements and in the affection your entire family has for her.

Zoe started as a scheduler, somewhat green. She quickly became the boss, making everything go on time. She had the honesty to tell me it would go even better on time if I showed up on time. But she had a real ability to speak honestly in a very tactful way to modify my behavior.

Whether it was meetings with constituents, townhalls, events, speeches, she worked behind the scenes to make it happen. And, importantly, she became very sensitive to the fact that I am a family guy who would like to be home for my grandson's graduation from fourth grade and would like to spend time with my wife—all those things that are beyond scheduling and move into trying to truly understand how someone lives their life.

The President of the Senate right now and all my colleagues know a scheduler and operations director makes or breaks your office. They help to squeeze the most out of every single day. And things you might find impossible, they find a way to get it done 7 days a week, every day of the year.

Examples: Zoe has been key in helping to plan the Senate's National Seersucker Day. I look forward to seeing my colleague from Vermont tricked out in his Seersucker suit for this year's Seersucker Day. It looks great on TV. She helped host Thursday Lunch Groups for my Republican colleagues and many other things we have done in-State and here to benefit our State and our Nation. Whether they realize it or not, nearly every office in the Senate has worked with Zoe at some point.

The difference she has made during my tenure cannot be summarized in one speech. But I don't get emotional because I will continue to work with Zoe. She is moving back to Louisiana—the State she holds in her affections—to the benefit of our State, our country, and our fellow humans. I wish her the best, and I wish her dog Louie the best. They will both be missed in our office.

(The remarks of Mr. CASSIDY pertaining to the introduction of S. 4329 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.

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

#### NOMINATION OF COURTNEY DIESEL O'DONNELL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in strong support of the nomination of Courtney O'Donnell to be the U.S. Representative to UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

From threats to historic world heritage sites, to the dangers women and girls face across the globe, to the recent surge of anti-Semitism and intolerance around the world, it is critical

that the United States advance our interest at UNESCO and that we have a confirmed Ambassador.

I am going to underscore the point of the need for a U.S. Ambassador confirmed presence at UNESCO. Because of the current major escalation of anti-Semitism here in America and around the world, one of UNESCO's specific mandates is to combat anti-Semitism and promote Holocaust education, to ensure that other countries teach future generations about the Holocaust, and combat Holocaust denial.

Today, that mission is more important than ever before in recent times. That is why we need a confirmed U.S. Representative who has the experience to advance U.S. priorities, from championing Holocaust educational programs, to advancing girls' education in STEM, to developing responsible international standards on science and technology, including for AI.

Courtney O'Donnell is the right person for this job, and I am very proud to support her nomination, and I am very pleased that she is willing to serve in this capacity. She currently serves in the Office of the Vice President as a Senior Advisor and the Acting Chief of Staff for Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, where she focuses on countering anti-Semitism, among other issues. She has played an integral role in developing and implementing the administration's anti-Semitism policies. She understands the need for strong U.S. leadership. She understands the urgency of advancing efforts to combat anti-Semitism. She has a proven track record of working to counter anti-Semitism and Holocaust denialism through her work on the U.S. national strategy to combat anti-Semitism.

Don't just take my word for it; let me quote from the president of the World Jewish Congress, who says that Ms. O'Donnell's efforts to combat anti-Semitism "demonstrate a profound commitment to eradicating hate and promoting Holocaust education" and that her confirmation would be a "necessary step" to ensure that "UNESCO continues to uphold its ongoing commitment to partner with Israel, preserve Jewish heritage, combat disinformation, and expand Holocaust education efforts."

The American Jewish Committee said that Ms. O'Donnell's confirmation will "bring U.S. leadership to UNESCO on issues of global concern to the Jewish community and advance American values of pluralism and freedom of expression."

The National Council of Jewish Women and Better World Campaign have echoed these points, writing in strong support of her confirmation.

She committed to do that at the hearing we had before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where she said she would work "aggressively to combat antisemitism and counter anti-Israel bias."

We know that we have challenges in our international organizations on

anti-Israel bias. We know that. We need a champion, a confirmed Ambassador who will be a champion to represent America to fight that type of anti-Semitic activities and anti-Israel activities and to speak out in favor of Holocaust education and implement strategies to combat anti-Semitism.

This should be a clear vote by my colleagues to want to have America's presence at UNESCO to fight anti-Semitism, when we know how prevalent it is today and how it is growing today.

So I urge my colleagues to support cloture and confirm Ms. O'Donnell to be the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization without any further delay. I know we will have a chance to vote on that shortly.

I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 163 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—41

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Murkowski
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoehn	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Collins	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Vance
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	

#### NOT VOTING—9

Capito	Menendez	Rubio
Cotton	Ricketts	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	Risch	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I submit to the Senate the budget for fiscal year 2025. Last summer, Congress agreed to a 2-year budget deal as part of negotiations surrounding the debt limit. That was the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, or the FRA. It included a provision to serve in place of a formal budget resolution for both fiscal years 2024 and 2025. I am submitting the necessary budgetary levels to implement that agreement today.

In the Budget Committee, my Republican colleagues have suggested that we should be debating a budget resolution. So I will take this moment to remind them that we already have one in place from that agreement. I don't see our committee wasting precious time on something that has already been decided, when we could and, indeed, should be preparing for the future.

When at least \$10 trillion of our national debt stems from two exogenous shocks to the economy—namely, the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID pandemic—it would be folly for the Budget Committee not to focus on future shocks to our economy, which is why the Budget Committee has been focused on threats to our Nation's long-term fiscal outlook and on proposing solutions—like how climate change poses systemic risks to our economy, like how tax cuts for the wealthy are driving up deficits, like



how making the wealthy pay their fair share would protect Social Security and Medicare essentially forever, like how we can cut healthcare costs with zero cuts to benefits if we pursue commonsense reforms to healthcare delivery systems.

When it comes to the economy-wide risks from climate change, we have heard from economists, central bankers, financial experts, insurance and mortgage industry leaders, and many others who are ringing the alarm bells.

In the Budget Committee, we have heard testimony about rising seas making large swaths of coastline less and less habitable and less and less insurable. I am sure the Presiding Officer is seeing that in his home State of Georgia. As the decades unspool ahead of us, more and more coastal communities will be at risk, eventually rendering an estimated trillions of dollars in real estate virtually worthless.

We have heard similar testimony about property becoming uninsurable in wildfire-risk areas. We are already seeing insurers flee communities on the frontlines of climate change. We have seen premiums skyrocketing in response to increased climate-related damages. Things will likely get uglier.

So the committee launched investigations into the climate change-fueled insurance crisis. We are working with Democrats on the House Oversight Committee on an investigation into the fossil fuel disinformation campaign in order to better understand how it stalled political progress on climate action and imperiled our economy.

What our joint investigation revealed is that Big Oil knew the environmental and economic harms of its products but deceived the American public so as to keep producing and selling ever more oil and gas. We learned that Big Oil and its trade associations continue to oppose climate policies, including ones that they publicly claim to support.

Unfortunately, our series of hearings on climate costs and the fossil fuel industry's role in perpetuating the climate crisis has been largely met with derision or mockery or just trying to change the subject by many of my Republican colleagues. As I said at the last hearing on this subject, you can have your opinion now, but history will judge.

While acknowledging that revenue is a subject within the purview of the Budget Committee, Republican response to our hearings on raising rev-

enue has not evinced much substantive interest. There is not much outrage, for instance, that big corporations pay lower tax rates than plumbers.

The Budget Committee has held seven hearings, with more planned, examining how tax cuts for the wealthy and for big corporations and the resulting tax gap have been actually primary drivers of our deficit. We have learned that the Bush and Trump tax cuts have added \$10 trillion to the debt and, in fact, are the main reason the debt as a share of the economy is increasing.

According to CBO, extending the Trump tax cuts, which Republicans appear to want to do, would cost another \$4.6 trillion—that is trillion with a “t”—mostly for billionaires and big corporations. You can see where the priorities lie.

We have heard testimony that by closing loopholes, making the wealthy and large corporations pay a fairer share, and cracking down on wealthy tax cheats, we can protect Social Security and Medicare forever, invest in an economy that works for everyone, and reduce our deficit—like my Medicare and Social Security Fair Share Act, which would shore up these twin pillars of retirement security essentially forever without raising taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000.

What have Republicans proposed? Well, not much. They spent decades trying to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits, and then they rose to their feet in acclamation, in last year's State of the Union Address, to assure the American public that they would not cut benefits. Well, if that is the case, then the only solution left is more revenue. So it would be nice if they were willing to discuss how to make the wealthy pay their fair share and protect these programs into the future.

Another big driver of Federal spending is healthcare. The United States continues to spend more on healthcare as a percentage of GDP than any other peer OECD country, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Actuary estimates healthcare will grow to 20 percent GDP by 2031. For all that spending, the average life expectancy in America is lower than that of many peer countries with far more efficient healthcare systems.

So the Budget Committee is tackling this too. We held a series of hearings on reducing inefficiencies in healthcare that increase costs for patients, families, and the Federal Government. In

just our most recent hearing, we heard how administrative burdens—the billing, reporting, and all the nonclinical work incidental to the actual delivery of healthcare—are responsible for over half a trillion dollars in healthcare spending every year.

And here, I am happy to report that there have been bipartisan glimmers of hope. There has been bipartisan agreement on the source of these problems, and I have begun conversations with Ranking Member GRASSLEY about what legislation we might be able to work on together in this space.

I can only wish that my Republican colleagues were similarly willing to have serious conversations on climate risk and on revenue opportunities. As our hearings have made clear, if you care about American debt deficits, you have to care about climate change, about unrigging our Tax Code, and about addressing wasteful spending in healthcare.

And with that, section 122 of the FRA requires that I submit the levels that will be used to enforce the second year of the spending agreement. This submission sets the spending level for appropriations for 2025 at the spending caps in law and allows the Appropriations Committee to begin its work.

It also sets mandatory spending and revenue levels for 10 years at current law levels. I am also updating the reserve fund in the FRA to be available for legislation that doesn't increase the deficit between 2025 and 2034.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

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

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025  
(Pursuant to Section 122 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)  
(\$ in billions)

	Budget Authority	Outlays
Appropriations:		
Revised Security Category/Defense .....	895,212	N/A
Revised Nonsecurity Category/Nondefense .....	710,688	N/A
General Purpose Discretionary .....	N/A	1,869,797
Memo:		
On-budget .....	1,599,212	1,863,193
Off-budget .....	6,688	6,604
Mandatory .....	1,562,610	1,544,166

N/A = not applicable. Budgetary changes related to program integrity initiatives and other adjustments pursuant to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, as amended by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, will be held in reserve until consideration of legislation providing such funding. “Revised security category” means discretionary appropriations in budget function 050, while “revised nonsecurity category” means discretionary appropriations other than in budget function 050.

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO SENATE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS  
(Pursuant to Section 122 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)  
(\$ in billions)

	2025	2025–2029	2025–2034
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:			
Budget Authority .....	186,630	967,147	2,004,484
Outlays .....	175,749	916,958	1,877,482
Armed Services:			
Budget Authority .....	287,793	1,094,587	2,053,411
Outlays .....	285,585	1,091,957	2,056,297
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:			
Budget Authority .....	29,964	170,669	356,235
Outlays .....	–14,947	–80,642	–130,907

ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO SENATE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

(Pursuant to Section 122 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)  
 (\$ in billions)

	2025	2025–2029	2025–2034
<b>Commerce, Science, and Transportation:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	24.029	102.967	194.261
Outlays .....	18.793	98.312	177.180
<b>Energy and Natural Resources:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	10.108	41.737	82.818
Outlays .....	14.840	76.740	122.300
<b>Environment and Public Works:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	67.352	333.108	664.759
Outlays .....	16.385	62.091	88.801
<b>Finance:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	3,934.908	21,879.366	51,266.540
Outlays .....	3,932.931	21,884.552	51,247.329
<b>Foreign Relations:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	52.009	228.212	449.061
Outlays .....	49.447	225.675	446.499
<b>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	71.215	295.039	584.696
Outlays .....	79.517	297.034	564.497
<b>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	184.521	965.290	2,033.245
Outlays .....	186.079	955.982	2,005.571
<b>Indian Affairs:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0.499	2.382	4.248
Outlays .....	0.876	3.120	4.994
<b>Judiciary:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	20.696	102.797	209.268
Outlays .....	23.650	106.526	210.899
<b>Rules and Administration:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0.052	0.260	0.536
Outlays .....	0.030	0.162	0.356
<b>Intelligence:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0.514	2.570	3.598
Outlays .....	0.514	2.570	3.598
<b>Veterans' Affairs:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	222.290	1,296.471	3,006.815
Outlays .....	218.748	1,302.338	3,032.704
<b>Small Business:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays .....	0.010	0.010	0.010
<b>Unassigned to Committee:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	-1,389.309	-7,354.901	-16,808.687
Outlays .....	-1,377.785	-7,285.811	-16,666.582

BUDGET AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Section 122 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)  
 (\$ in billions)

	2025	2025–2029	2025–2034
<b>Spending:</b>			
Budget Authority .....	5,302.483	N/A	N/A
Outlays .....	5,473.615	N/A	N/A
<b>Revenue</b>	3,713.563	21,082.529	47,281.026
<b>Social Security:</b>			
Outlays .....	1,409.171	7,953.297	18,448.817
Revenue .....	1,284.893	6,946.313	15,335.885

N/A = not applicable. Figures represent current law, including CBO's February 2024 baseline and legislation that has subsequently cleared Congress.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE

(\$ in billions)

	Balances
Fiscal Year 2024 .....	0
Fiscal Year 2025 .....	0
Fiscal Years 2025–2029 .....	0
Fiscal Years 2025–2034 .....	0

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

(Pursuant to Section 122 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023)

- Financial Services and General Government:
  - Payment to the Postal Service Fund
- Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education:
  - Employment and Training Administration
  - Education for the Disadvantaged
  - School Improvement Programs
  - Career, Technical, and Adult Education
  - Special Education
- Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development:
  - Tenant-based Rental Assistance
  - Project-based Rental Assistance

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I will momentarily yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations

en bloc: Calendar Nos. 578, 457, 607, 608, 609, 610, and 611; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 578, Calendar No. 457, Calendar No. 607, Calendar No. 608, Calendar No. 609, Calendar No. 610, and Calendar No. 611?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc as follows:

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Stephan A. Lang, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, with the rank of Ambassador.

IN THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2030, vice Tristan Lynn Leavitt, term expired.

IN THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Daniel B. Maffei, of New York, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2027. (Reappointment)

Rebecca F. Dye, of North Carolina, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2025. (Reappointment)

IN THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Patrick John Fuchs, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring January 14, 2029. (Reappointment)

IN THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of three years. (Reappointment)

Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2029. (Reappointment)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO FATHER CLETUS KILEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we all answer calls to serve in different ways. For me, that has meant representing the great State of Illinois in the U.S. Senate. But on May 8, 1974, a young priest answered the call to serve by receiving his ordination as a priest. Father Cletus Kiley could not have known the impact he would make on Chicago, and on people across the Nation, on that day in 1974. But as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest, it is clear that his dedication to spiritual and social well-being has been nothing short of remarkable.

Father Kiley was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, and he found spiritual and education homes in several of the Catholic schools in the city. Following his seminary education, Father Kiley earned a master's degree in applied spirituality from the University of San Francisco and a doctorate in ministry from the University of St. Mary of the Lake. He developed an affinity for languages—becoming fluent in Spanish, Italian, and French—which helped broaden his impact and touch the lives of even more communities.

Much of Father Kiley's time as a young priest was spent in Chicago. He served as an associate pastor of Epiphany Parish and, later, as pastor of St. Agnes of Bohemia. During the first chapter of his life in Chicago, he also took on the roles of associate dean of Mundelein Seminary's formation team, director of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Department of Personnel Services, rector of Niles College Seminary, and a member of the College of Consultors for the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is safe to say Father Kiley's legacy in Chicago will not soon be forgotten.

After decades spent serving the spiritual needs of the people of Chicago, Father Kiley's call to service took him to Washington, DC—where, in 1997, his affinity for politics and passion for helping people led him to work as the executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Priestly Life and Ministry and as assistant to the General Secretary for Child and Youth Protection. Father Kiley excelled in these roles. And, shortly thereafter, he was named president and CEO of the Faith & Politics Institute and served as a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at the Catholic University of America. In both roles, he was able to apply his deep faith to his interest in policy.

But Father Kiley's call to serve extended far beyond the realm of religion. In 2010, with the permission of the Archdiocese of Chicago and Cardinal Francis George, Father Kiley became the director of immigration policy for UNITE HERE International Union, where he championed issues of immigration, workers' rights, and economic justice. In this role, Father Kiley began organizing a new generation of priests dedicated to furthering the mission of the labor movement. And, in 2012, he founded the Priest-Labor Initiative with a group of bishops, priests, and scholars committed to supporting to worker justice.

To Father Kiley, the compatibility of his faith and the labor movement was obvious: Catholic social values taught him about the dignity of work that underpinned the fight for workers' rights. His faith informed his advocacy work, and his advocacy work strengthened his faith.

In 2015, Father Kiley received a call from Chicago's Cardinal Blase Cupich.

He wanted Father Kiley to return to Chicago. And, as Father Kiley put it, "You don't say no to your Cardinal." So, after nearly two decades advancing spiritual and social well-being in our Nation's Capital, Father Kiley returned home to Chicago to begin another chapter in his long career as a priest.

Today, Father Kiley continues his work with the Archdiocese of Chicago as special adviser and delegate for labor in the office of the cardinal. Because of his deep spiritual, social, and moral convictions, and because of his vast knowledge of Chicago, language, theology, and politics, Father Kiley's counsel is widely sought after. So it is hardly surprising that Father Kiley also serves as the Chaplain of the Chicago Federation of Labor, an adviser to UNITE HERE, a mentor to the leadership team of UNITE HERE Local 1, and a board member of Misericordia and UNITE HERE Health.

Father Kiley has been a tremendous advocate, adviser, and friend to so many leaders and working people. I thank him for all he has done in Chicago and beyond to make our country a more just, equitable, and empathetic place.

#### KIDS OFF SOCIAL MEDIA ACT OF 2024

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, there can be no doubt that this country is experiencing a youth mental health crisis. I also agree with the Surgeon General and other experts that social media plays a part in that crisis. However, I recognize social media is also an important forum for expression, learning, and communications that can serve as a lifeline for young people, especially those from marginalized or vulnerable communities.

Therefore, I cannot agree with an absolute ban of minors under 13 from social media. With meaningful tools to enable parental consent, strong privacy rules, and reasonable regulations against manipulative or harmful designs, I believe young minors can safely access social media. This is where the Senate should focus its time.

I also worry about the bill's new inclusion of the Eyes on the Board Act of 2024. This bill could make it hard for teachers to incorporate social media applications into their teaching or preparation. It would also limit the ability of young people who depend on school-issued laptops and mobile internet connections from accessing educational videos and other informational content on social media when not in school. This raises serious equity concerns and would worsen the country's digital divide.

For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to take up or pass the Kids Off Social Media Act of 2024.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAM NINER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sam for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sam is a native of Virginia. He is currently a sophomore at George Mason University. 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 Sam 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALEX SEGAL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Alex for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Alex is a native of Florida. He recently graduated from George Washington University with a master's degree in professional studies. 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 Alex 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 MATTHEW JONES, O.D.

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Matthew Jones, the 2024 American Optometric Association Optometrist of the Year.

Dr. Jones is an optometrist in northeast Arkansas who delivers excellent, high-quality care to his patients in Blytheville and Osceola. Through his personal approach to patient eye care, Dr. Jones has exemplified what a successful practice can achieve for his neighbors' health and sense of community. While he enjoys serving his patients, he has also been involved in shaping policies to strengthen the eye care profession at the Federal and State levels. He helped advocate passage of legislation expanding the scope of practice for Arkansas optometrists to perform new procedures.

Dr. Jones also served as a board member for Arkansans for Healthy Eyes, president of the Arkansas Optometric Association, Federal Advocacy Representative, and on Optometry's Meeting Committee. Currently, he is the legislative chair for the Arkansas Optometric Association and a member of the American Optometric Association's government relations committee. Dr. Jones was also recently named by Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders to the State Board of Optometry.

Throughout his career, Dr. Jones has been dedicated to his patients, the field of optometry and promoting policies that make the eye care industry better. His advocacy and leadership have earned him the respect of his peers and colleagues. He has continuously been recognized for his contributions. In addition to earning the distinction as Optometrist of the Year, his accolades include the 2012 Arkansas Young O.D. of the Year, the American Optometric Association 2018 Young Optometrist of the Year, and the 2023 Arkansas Optometrist of the Year. Dr. Jones received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the University of Evansville and attended my alma mater, the Southern College of Optometry, where he graduated with honors in 2009.

Arkansas is fortunate to have a dedicated and hardworking optometrist like Dr. Jones representing excellent eye care professionals across our State. His commitment to his practice and profession and his leadership to strengthen the industry all serve as an excellent example.

I am pleased to congratulate Dr. Jones for this achievement and wish him continued success in his practice. I join many others in sharing my hope that he also continues his advocacy that has served our patients, eye doctors, and all those supporting them so well.●

#### RECOGNIZING BONNEVILLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, we join the community of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County in celebrating the centennial of the Bonneville County Courthouse.

In many ways, the courthouse is a lasting symbol of the area's growth and achievements. In 1919, when area citizens voted to bond the courthouse, which had an original construction cost of \$268,880, the Bonneville County Heritage Association reports, "Bonneville County was known as one of the big, wealthy and progressive counties of the state with the smallest indebtedness of any county." Architects Lionel E. Fisher and Charles Aitkins designed the courthouse in the neoclassical style. Construction began on December 1, 1919, and was completed on March 16,

1921. The community has since grown up around it—developing and progressing into modern-day Bonneville County. The population of Bonneville County was 17,501 at the time of the 1920 Census when the courthouse was built and now surpasses 130,000 people, contributing to the area's diverse geography and economy that includes family farms producing an abundance of agriculture products and world-renowned energy research at the Idaho National Laboratory.

For more than 100 years, this grand and eminent courthouse, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 10, 1979, has served this area of the Gem State with distinction. The courthouse has the largest original stained-glass skylight in a county courthouse in Idaho, was constructed of sandstone from Boise, and its original grand marble staircase and tile floor in the upper rotunda has withstood the test of time. From the Native Americans, explorers, trappers, and traders who have passed through and put down roots in this area of our great State to the current residents of Idaho Falls who have built businesses, families, and beautiful lives, there is no doubt the courthouse has witnessed significant achievements.

We join in congratulating those who built, maintained, and who have carried out important work in the Bonneville County Courthouse over the past century. We wish the residents of Bonneville County well and congratulate Idahoans on this milestone in the county's and Idaho's history.●

#### RECOGNIZING DUTCHLAND FOODS

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Dutchland Foods of Lester, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1992, Wayne and Jennie Van Wyhe founded Dutchland Foods with their son, Pete, and his wife Susan in Lester, IA. To start Dutchland Foods, the Van Wyhes purchased a building on Main Street and made only braided Danish pastries. The first building was formerly a bank, and the family made their pastries in a single room. Dutchland Foods also converted the bank's safe into a walk-in cooler. In 1993, Dutchland Foods added a 2,000-square-foot addition for equipment and cold storage and added another 9,000-square-foot addition in 2003. In 2006, Dutchland Foods acquired a new location in Lester when the Van Wyhe family purchased the old fire station. Dutchland Foods currently operates in two facilities in Lester, with their most recent one opening in 2018.

Dutchland Foods is an exemplary family business. Four generations of the Van Wyhe family have worked at

the company. Today, Pete and Susan's sons Mychal, Monty, and Malachi run the day-to-day operations while Pete serves as CEO. Jennie and Wayne Van Wyhe passed away in 2010 and 2022 respectively, leaving behind a legacy of dedication to the Lester community, love of their family, and excellence in the baked goods industry.

Today, Dutchland Foods distributes its baked goods nationally and serves as a food supplier for fundraisers through the Dutchland Fundraising division of their business. In May 2024, Dutchland Foods announced that they will begin distributing their baked goods internationally to the United Kingdom. Dutchland Foods currently sells bulk baked goods to the coffee shop, hospitality, bakery, catering, and restaurant industries. Their products are available for purchase in bulk through the Filled Kouign Ammans, Dutchland Classic Pastries, Pappy's Pie Dough, Pastry Puffins, and Butterhearts brands. The Dutchland Foods team is actively involved in the Lyon County community and is a proud member of Lyon County Economic Development. Due to their hard work, Dutchland Foods employs over 100 full- and part-time employees and, in 2024, celebrated its 32nd business anniversary.

Dutchland Food's commitment to the Lester community and the baked goods industry is clear. I want to congratulate Pete and Susan Van Wyhe, their sons Mychal, Monty, and Malachi, and the entire Dutchland Foods team for their continued dedication. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### REMEMBERING ALETA LEE SPICER

● Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Aleta Lee Spicer, who sadly passed away on February 21, 2024. She was a pillar of her community after more than 50 years in public and social service and a dedicated community leader who proudly served the people of southwest Virginia.

Aleta was the executive director of the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board, an organization that provides businesses with a well-prepared workforce. Its focus is to help individuals obtain employment and further their careers with access to programs and initiatives that were established through Federal legislation to address workforce development. These programs and initiatives focus on helping disadvantaged groups in the southwest Virginia region find and maintain successful careers. For example, one of the programs Aleta helped run includes the Reengagement and Opportunities and Pathways to Employment Success—ROPES—program. This program helps job seekers recovering from substance use disorder or those who have criminal backgrounds with job training, mental health referrals, and supportive services. Other programs, such

as Living Expenses While Training Stipend—LETS Train—and Cars to Work, help individuals who are unemployed or underemployed with living stipends or transportation to and from work.

Programs like these and the work that Aleta contributed to in southwest Virginia help build our workforce and grow our economic success in the region and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Aleta's goal was to improve the lives of people in southwest Virginia by assisting individuals in obtaining employment and furthering their career skills. More importantly, Aleta helped give individuals pathways toward a well-paid, satisfying career to help maintain their quality of life. We are truly grateful for her dedication and support.

Aleta rose to the challenge every day to help southwest Virginians find success in the workforce. Her dedication and sense of love for her community were unmatched. I am grateful for her service to the constituency of southwest Virginia. She will be dearly missed, and I wish the best to her family.●

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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13611 OF MAY 16, 2012, WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accord-

ance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Yemen declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2024.

The actions and policies of certain former members of the Government of Yemen and others in threatening Yemen's peace, security, and stability continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 14, 2024.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 10, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

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

The message also announced that under that the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 10, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 8289. An act 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.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed on May 10, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. SCHATZ).

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 57, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds", and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Eric Schmitt, Markwayne Mullin, Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Bill Hagerty, Pete Ricketts, John Kennedy, Tommy Tuberville, Cynthia Lummis, Mike Braun, Mitt Romney, Thom Tillis, Ron

Johnson, James Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Kevin Cramer, Rick Scott, John Thune, John Barrasso, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Roger W. Marshall, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Joni Ernst, Ted Cruz, Mike Crapo, J.D. Vance.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

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

S.J. Res. 57. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

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-4483. A communication from the Chair of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences: Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4484. 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 "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the Section 4(d) Rule for the African Elephant" (RIN1018-BG66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4485. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "National Environmental Policy Act Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change" (RIN0331-AA06) received in the office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4486. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Draft Safety Impact Characterization Guidance Rev. 3" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4487. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.128 Rev 3, 'Installation

Design and Installation of Vented Lead-Acid Storage Batteries for Nuclear Power Plants” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4488. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.30 Rev 1, ‘Installation, Inspection, and Testing for Class 1E Power, Instrumentation, and Control Equipment at Production and Utilization Facilities’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4489. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.164 Rev 1, ‘Dedication of Commercial-Grade Items for Use in Nuclear Power Plants’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4490. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Revision to Branch Technical Position 7-19, Guidance for Evaluation of Defense in Depth and Diversity to Address Common-Cause Failure Due to Latent Design Defects in Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4491. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “FY 2023 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4492. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Grizzly Bear in the North Cascades Ecosystem, Washington State” (RIN1018-BG89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4493. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.86 Rev 1, ‘Preemption Authority, Enhanced Weapons Authority, and Firearms Background Checks’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4494. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act; Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention” (FRL No. 5766.6-02-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4495. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled “National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations Revisions

Phase 2” (RIN0331-AA07) received in the office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4496. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Diisobutyl Phthalate Category; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting; Correction” (FRL No. 2425.1-05-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4497. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approvals; Nevada; Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability; Nonattainment New Source Review; 2015 Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 9931-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4498. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Revisions to the Continuous Opacity Monitoring System Requirements” (FRL No. 11759-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4499. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Ocean Dumping; Withdrawal of Designated Disposal Sites; Nome, Alaska” (FRL No. 11819-01-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4500. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination To Defer Sanctions; California; California Air Resources Board and Local California Air Districts” (FRL No. 11888-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4501. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Water Quality Standards Regulatory Revisions to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights” (FRL No. 8599-02-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4502. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Methylene Chloride; Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act” (FRL No. 8155-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4503. A joint communication from the Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, and the Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “25th Edition Status of the Nation’s Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions

and Performance”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4504. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Asbestos Part 1; Chrysotile Asbestos; Regulation of Certain Conditions of Use Under the Toxic Substances Control Act; Correction” (FRL No. 8332-05-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4505. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Feather River Air Quality Management District; Nonattainment New Source Review; 2015 Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 9528-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4506. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Opacity Rule” (FRL No. 9859-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4507. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards” (FRL No. 11025-03-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4508. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Plans for Designated Facilities; New Jersey; Delegation of Authority” (FRL No. 11638-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4509. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination To Defer Sanctions; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 11848-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4510. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Procedures for Chemical Risk Evaluation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act” (FRL No. 8529-02-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4511. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Perfluorooctanoic Acid and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid as CERCLA Hazardous Substances” (FRL No. 7204-03-

OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4512. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Plans; California; San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District; New Source Review" (FRL No. 11378-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4513. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "South Dakota: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 11378-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4514. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Delaware; Amendments to Delaware's Requirements for Public Notice of Certain Permits" (FRL No. 11781-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4515. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Primary Copper Smelting Residual Risk and Technology Review and Primary Copper Smelting Area Source Technology Review" (FRL No. 7522-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4516. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Clean Investment Fund" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4517. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2023 Request for Applications to Create Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Programs" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4518. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4519. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Communities Investment Accelerator" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4520. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fiscal Year 2024 Lead Service Line Allotments for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4521. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grants" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4522. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing Lead Service Line Replacement Projects Funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### 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 Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4321. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the payment of annuities and retired pay to individuals convicted of certain sex crimes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 4322. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements relating to the designation of rural emergency hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4323. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for a housing loan guaranteed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who performed active duty for training; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 4324. A bill to terminate the Yucca Mountain licensing proceeding and require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress a study on the economic viability and job-creating benefits of alternative uses of the Yucca Mountain site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 4325. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program relating to lifespan respite care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4326. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalties relating to the disclosure of tax return information relating to contributors to certain tax-exempt organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4327. A bill to amend section 1977A of the Revised Statutes to equalize the remedies available under that section and to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to provide any legal or equitable relief available under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 4328. A bill to require any labor organization that is or would be the collective bargaining representative for any employees to provide information regarding the amount of funds in any defined benefit plan of the labor organization before any labor organization election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4329. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the "Luke Letlow Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 4330. A bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a Radiation Oncology Case Rate Value Based Payment Program exempt from budget neutrality adjustment requirements, and to amend section 1128A of title XI of the Social Security Act to create a new statutory exception for the provision of free or discounted transportation for radiation oncology patients to receive radiation therapy services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 4331. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance that provide coverage for mental health services and substance use disorder services provide such services without the imposition of cost-sharing from the diagnosis of pregnancy through the 1-year period following such pregnancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 4332. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve telephone communication by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VANCE (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 4333. A bill to provide for the discharge of parent borrower liability if a student on whose behalf a parent has received certain student loans becomes disabled; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4334. A bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the

personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4335. A bill to ensure funds are available under the aviation workforce development grant program for technical assistance and to require consideration for certain applicants; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4336. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from using Federal funds to establish the ICE Secure Docket Card program and to prohibit the use of documentation issued in connection with immigration proceedings to establish eligibility for Federal public benefits; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S.J. Res. 78. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 684. A resolution supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children and protecting the health of people in low-income countries with vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance ("Gavi"); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Cassidy, and Mr. Merkley):

S. Res. 685. A resolution welcoming President Santiago Pena of Paraguay and commemorating the bilateral relationship between the Republic of Paraguay and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 686. A resolution designating May 18, 2024, as "Kids to Parks Day"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 120

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for current year inclusion of net CFC tested income, and for other purposes.

S. 412

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to provide that it is unlawful to knowingly distribute private intimate visual depictions with reckless disregard for the individual's lack of consent to the distribution, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan.

S. 793

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 895

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 895, a bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1408, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration of disputes involving race discrimination.

S. 1656

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1656, a bill to protect the privacy of personal reproductive or sexual health information, and for other purposes.

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1669, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S. 2492

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2492, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve coordination between the Do Not Pay working system and Federal and State agencies authorized to use the system.

S. 2770

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to prohibit the distribution of materially deceptive AI-generated audio or visual media relating to candidates for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) 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. 3636

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3636, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish a pilot program to identify and refer veterans for potential employment with Federal land management agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3805

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3805, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit health plans from imposing fees on health



care providers for electronic funds transfers and health care payment and remittance advice transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 4047

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4047, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4091

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4091, a bill to strengthen Federal efforts to counter antisemitism in the United States.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4258, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 4289

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4289, a bill to cancel existing medical debt, and for other purposes.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) were added as cosponsors 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. 450

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 450, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions.

S. RES. 680

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 4329. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I speak in support of renaming the post office in Rayville, LA, as the Luke Letlow Post Office Building in memory of a great American, Luke Letlow.

Luke was a public servant, father, and husband in his short life of 41 years. He spent almost all of his adult life serving his fellow Americans. And shortly after being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent the fifth district of Louisiana, he became one of over a million Americans lost to COVID during the pandemic. Now his wife, Congresswoman JULIA LETLOW, carries on Luke's ambition to serve the same district that he had served both as a staffer and as a chief of staff to Congressman Ralph Abraham.

When you go through Rayville, you pass that post office. Handsome guy, huh? So by naming this post office—and the people who know this story—I want them to know that our State and our country values someone who desired to serve so much, but also acknowledge the tragedy and the impact COVID had upon our State, our country, and our families. This office commemorates all that.

I thank House Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE for introducing the House companion and the whole House for passing this bill.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 684—SUPPORTING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN HELPING SAVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES WITH VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION THROUGH GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE (“GAVI”)

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

S. RES. 684

Whereas, prior to 2000, the distribution of and the resources for vaccines for children in the developing world were declining, immunization rates were stagnant or decreasing, and nearly 10,000,000 children died each year before reaching their 5th birthday;

Whereas, prior to 2000, it was common for new lifesaving vaccines to take up to 15 years to be introduced in the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas access to routine immunization and vaccines protects children from deadly but preventable diseases and contributes to

national economic growth and poverty reduction by ensuring people live longer, healthier, and more productive lives;

Whereas, in 2000, the United States, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, government donors, lower-income country governments, foundations (including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), the private sector (including the vaccine industry), faith-based organizations, civil society, and other partners joined forces to create a public-private partnership now known as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in order to expand access to new and underused vaccines and support the introduction and scaleup of these vaccines into routine immunization systems in the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas, from 2000 through 2022, with support from the United States, and other donors and partners, Gavi has supported country-led vaccine initiatives in 78 countries to support the immunization of more than 1,000,000,000 additional children and averted an estimated 17,300,000 deaths in the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas Gavi has been a major contributor in reducing the number of childhood deaths in lower-income countries due to vaccine-preventable disease by 70 percent since 2000;

Whereas country ownership and sustainability are at the core of the Gavi model, which requires Gavi-eligible countries to contribute to a portion of vaccine costs and directly invest in immunizing children, and Gavi-supported countries contributed more than \$1,500,000,000 to immunization campaigns between 2008 and 2022;

Whereas 78 low-income countries currently provide co-financing for new and underused vaccines supported by Gavi, more than 19 countries have transitioned from Gavi support by the end of 2022, and an additional 10 countries may transition by 2040, moving toward fully funding their immunization programs;

Whereas Gavi has transformed the market for vaccines by matching pooled demand from low-income countries with secure, predictable financing to make vaccines more affordable and supply more reliable, reducing the price of the most common vaccines by 24 percent from 2015 to 2020 and increasing the number of global vaccine manufacturers selling pre-qualified Gavi-supported vaccines to the world's most impoverished countries from 5 in 2001 to 18 in 2018;

Whereas Gavi estimates that its market shaping efforts will result in savings of over \$900,000,000 from 2021 to 2025 and may encourage research and development of new vaccines;

Whereas Gavi is poised to provide the most comprehensive package of support in the 2021 to 2025 period by financing and delivering 18 vaccines to the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas Gavi, the African Union, and the Africa Centers for Disease Control (Africa CDC) have jointly established the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) to provide innovative financing to expand sustainably vaccine manufacturing capacity in Africa and improve the region's resilience in the face of pandemics, outbreaks, and other health emergencies, while preserving the health of vaccine markets globally;

Whereas Gavi is collaborating with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on the final push to end polio, and expanding the integration of the inactivated polio vaccine into routine immunization programs;

Whereas Gavi has made significant progress in supporting the development and stockpiling of effective vaccines to combat cholera, measles, meningococcal, yellow fever, and Ebola, which could also protect

Americans in the event of an outbreak on United States soil;

Whereas malaria is one of most long-standing and deadliest diseases in Africa, and in 2022, malaria killed an estimated 580,000 children in Africa, 78 percent of whom were children under five;

Whereas Gavi has begun deliveries of new malaria vaccines and will expand the program to dozens of countries as vaccine supply becomes available;

Whereas Gavi recently allocated 18,000,000 doses of the malaria vaccine RTS,S in 2023 and 2024, the World Health Organization estimates that at least 40,000,000 to 60,000,000 doses will be needed annually by 2026 and 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 doses will be needed by 2030;

Whereas Gavi is supporting expanded procurement, access, and implementation of new malaria vaccine programs to help meet rising demand;

Whereas data from malaria vaccine trials indicate that these vaccines can save one life for every 200 children vaccinated, with the potential for significantly impacting public health and saving tens of thousands of lives annually;

Whereas Gavi supports the strengthening of health systems to ensure effective immunization and health services, including through the provision of cold chain equipment that can also be effectively repurposed for emergency response, as was demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, through COVAX, Gavi and global partners delivered nearly 2,000,000,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 146 economies, and averted an estimated 2,700,000 deaths in Advance Market Commitment lower-income participating economies;

Whereas Gavi is providing additional vaccine support to address health service interruptions that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed to the largest backslide in routine childhood immunization in 30 years, and is also focusing on the 14,000,000 “zero-dose” children in Gavi-supported countries who had not received a single vaccine;

Whereas vaccines programs are widely regarded as high-impact, evidence-based interventions and are among the most efficient, cost-effective, and successful health initiatives in history, returning over \$50 in health and economic savings for every \$1 invested in Gavi-supported countries;

Whereas the prevention of infectious disease through immunization in Gavi-eligible countries provides protection and health security in the United States by reducing the prevalence of infectious diseases and stemming outbreaks at their source;

Whereas United States investment in Gavi complements and enhances the effectiveness of other United States investments in global health, particularly in maternal and child health and nutrition;

Whereas Gavi is committed to working with partners, including United States bilateral programs administrated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to ensure children in developing nations have access to lifesaving vaccines and immunizations;

Whereas Gavi’s next strategic cycle will cover the strategic period of 2026 to 2030, which will include the expansion of Gavi’s malaria program;

Whereas the launches of the Gavi’s Investment Opportunity for 2026 through 2030 and AVMA will be held in June 2024 and co-hosted by the Government of France, African Union, and Africa CDC to obtain funding commitments;

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the goal of saving lives by

contributing annually to Gavi to meet its projected replenishment and program goals;

Whereas with this support and support from other donors, Gavi will have contributed \$220,500,000,000 in economic benefits in Gavi countries as of 2022, with each \$1 invested yielding \$54 return on investment; and

Whereas an increased commitment from the United States remains necessary to ensure predictability and stability to the vaccine market, to enable strong global health security efforts, spur confidence in Gavi-eligible countries, and encourage continued innovative vaccine-related approaches: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the continued support of the United States Government for the purchase of vaccines for low-income countries through Gavi as a cost-effective, efficient means to reduce mortality and as a critical component of meeting the United States goal to end preventable child and maternal deaths;

(2) supports the principles and goals of Gavi to—

(A) introduce and scale up new and routine immunizations in low-income countries;

(B) improve sustainability of immunization programs;

(C) ensure healthy markets for vaccines and related products; and

(D) strengthen health systems to increase equity in immunization;

(3) recognizes that United States Government support for Gavi is a critical component to ensuring health security in the United States;

(4) encourages the continued use of USAID maternal and child health and CDC global immunization resources to strengthen local public health capacity to introduce and sustain new and underutilized vaccines supported by Gavi through routine immunization systems;

(5) recognizes the need for multiyear pledges from the United States to allow Gavi to maximize its impact to provide lifesaving vaccines and to leverage contributions from other countries and donors; and

(6) encourages continued increased commitment and investment by the United States Government to Gavi in the 2026 to 2030 strategic period in order to ensure that lives are protected and saved through access to vaccines and immunizations.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 685—WELCOMING PRESIDENT SANTIAGO PENA OF PARAGUAY AND COMMEMORATING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 685

Whereas 2024 marks 163 years of official bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of Paraguay;

Whereas the shared values of democracy and the rule of law have always underpinned the bilateral relationship starting with the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation of 1859, done at Washington March 12, 1860;

Whereas the United States and Paraguay have enjoyed an especially strong partnership since Paraguay’s transition to a democratically elected civilian government in 1989;

Whereas the United States and Paraguay have enjoyed bilateral economic cooperation, especially under the United States-Paraguay Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, done at Washington January 13, 2017;

Whereas the Parana River accounts for 80 percent of Paraguay’s trade and is a lifeline to many communities;

Whereas the United States Senate appreciates mutual collaboration with Paraguay across many sectors, including supporting United States businesses operating in Paraguay and \$2,400,000,000 in trade in goods;

Whereas the United States is the second largest foreign investor in Paraguay, with hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign direct investment in Paraguay;

Whereas the United States has strongly supported and will continue to support democratic institutions, the rule of law, and economic opportunity in Paraguay, including working collaboratively to tackle corruption and support indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and youth in Paraguay;

Whereas the Governments of Paraguay and the United States have effectively partnered to address shared priorities across the hemisphere, including countering human trafficking, narcotics trafficking, money-laundering, and other illicit cross-border activities, as well as increasing cooperation in security and defense, cybersecurity, and promoting exchange programs;

Whereas Paraguay and the United States are aligned on key foreign policy priorities beyond the hemisphere;

Whereas Paraguay joined the United States and other democratic-oriented countries in key multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the Organization of American States to condemn Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas Paraguay has maintained a consistent and uninterrupted diplomatic relationship with Taiwan based on shared democratic values;

Whereas, alongside the United States, the Government of Paraguay has consistently supported Israel’s right to self-defense;

Whereas the people and the Government of the United States celebrates the bilateral relationship with Paraguay and encourage a continuing close relationship;

Whereas Paraguayans in the United States have contributed and enriched American culture and have become an important part of United States society; and

Whereas President Santiago Peña was elected President of Paraguay in April 2023 in free and fair elections: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the visit of President Santiago Peña;

(2) commemorates 163 years of official diplomatic relations between the United States and the Republic of Paraguay;

(3) recognizes the historical partnership between the United States and Paraguay rooted in shared values of democracy and the rule of law;

(4) reaffirms bilateral cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Paraguay to address pressing issues across the hemisphere;

(5) calls on the Department of State, the United States International Development Corporation, and the United States Agency For International Development to support efforts to improve the navigability of the Parana River through dredging and port modernization;

(6) expresses support for continuing to work towards shared foreign policy priorities; and

(7) celebrates the contributions that Paraguayans and Paraguayan-Americans have made in the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 686—DESIGNATING MAY 18, 2024, AS “KIDS TO PARKS DAY”**

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 686

Whereas the 14th annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 18, 2024;

Whereas the goals of Kids to Parks Day are to—

- (1) promote healthy outdoor recreation and responsible environmental stewardship;
- (2) empower young people; and
- (3) encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks and public land of the United States;

Whereas, on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural, suburban, and urban areas of the United States can be reintroduced to the splendid national, State, and neighborhood parks located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and enjoy a day of active, wholesome fun; and

Whereas celebrating Kids to Parks Day will—

- (1) broaden an appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people;
- (2) foster a safe setting for independent play and healthy adventure in neighborhood parks; and
- (3) facilitate self-reliance while strengthening communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 18, 2024, as “Kids to Parks Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces in promoting the health and education of the young people of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Kids to Parks Day with safe family trips to parks.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING**

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to S. 4213, a bill to prohibit users who are under age 13 from accessing social media platforms, to prohibit the use of personalized recommendation systems on individuals under age 17, and limit the use of social media in schools, dated May 14, 2024.

**KIDS TO PARKS DAY**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to the consideration of S. Res. 686, 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. 686) designating May 18, 2024, as “Kids to Parks Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that 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. 686) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15; that 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, postcloture; further, that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that following the cloture vote on the Bulsara nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Bulsara nomination, at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; that the cloture motion with respect to the Aframe nomination ripen at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 16; that upon disposition of the Bulsara nomination, the Senate execute the order of May 7, 2024, with respect to the Schulte nomination; further, that upon disposition of the Schulte nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 387, S.J. Res. 57; that at 6 p.m., the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. 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 6:49 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

**THE JUDICIARY**

ADAM B. ABELSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE JAMES KELLEHER BREDAR, RETIRED.

EMBRY J. KIDD, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE CHARLES R. WILSON, RETIRING.

JOSEPH FRANCIS SAPORITO, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE MALACHY EDWARD MANNION, RETIRED.

MEREDITH A. VACCA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE FRANK PAUL GERACI, JR., RETIRED.

**IN THE AIR FORCE**

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL E. CONLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. DAVID H. TABOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS K. HENSLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. TONY D. BAUERNFEIND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 9036:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. JOHN J. DEGOES

**IN THE ARMY**

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. SEAN C. BERNABE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. BRIAN S. EIFLER

**IN THE NAVY**

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8088:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. CHRISTOPHER C. FRENCH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. SCOTT W. PAPPANO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. JEFFREY T. ANDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVY RESERVE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8083:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. NANCY S. LACORE

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 14, 2024:

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

HENRY J. KERNER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2030.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEPHAN A. LANG, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE U.S. COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICY, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

DANIEL B. MAFFEI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2027.

REBECCA F. DYE, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2025.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

PATRICK JOHN FUCHS, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 14, 2029.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

JENNIFER L. HOMENDY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

JENNIFER L. HOMENDY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2029.