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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, teach us how to act with integrity, to permit our thoughts, words, and actions to match what we profess. Lord, examine our motives, and remove even the flaws that are hidden from us, the sins of omission as well as commission. We acknowledge our total dependence on You to keep us faithful, fruitful, and fair.

Remind our lawmakers often of Your unfailing love, as You continue to be their refuge, fortress, and bulwark. May our Senators strive to serve You with reverential awe, finding their safety in trusting You completely.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC—S. 4445 AND H.R. 192

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4445) to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

A bill (H.R. 192) to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia and to repeal the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

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

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 105 years ago today, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote under the Constitution for the first time ever. In the 240-year history of our country, the passage of the 19th Amendment is, without question, one of America's best moments. It was one of the greatest leaps ever in our march to become a more perfect Union, but it was also, more importantly, a great culmination of decades of sacrifice, struggle, and persistence, much of which was centered in Upstate New York, I am proud to say, in Seneca Falls and other places. We cannot possibly name the countless women and Americans who sacrificed in ways big and small to secure for women the right to vote, but we honor their memories all the same.

Today, I am wearing this yellow rose to honor that historic observance, and there will be a viewing for the original signed copy of the 19th Amendment today in the Capitol. I will be stopping by, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same, because it was truly a landmark moment for America.

Of course, we celebrate today's anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment being mindful of the great task still in front of us. More than a century stands between this generation and the generation that made it possible for women to vote, but in many ways, we still share in their struggle for greater justice and greater equality. We still carry the same moral duty they bore to make our Nation a more faithful reflection of our founding ideals. The march for equality for women and for all Americans is still not over.

When the fundamental right of women to make their own choices about their bodies has been stolen from them, the march is still not over. When women are told by hard-right politicians that their healthcare decisions

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



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are not theirs to make and that they must travel, in some instances, across State lines and across time zones to access basic reproductive care, the march is still not over. When a radical, conservative, MAGA majority of the Supreme Court overturned decades of precedent by repealing the protections of *Roe v. Wade*, the march is still not over.

On this 105th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, we must confront the ugly truth: that women, sadly, have fewer freedoms than they did just a few years ago. Let's remember that. As we are all commemorating the right to vote on this 105th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, we must confront the ugly truth that women, sadly, have fewer freedoms than they did just a few years ago.

RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. So, Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will take action. Tomorrow, the Senate will defend the freedom of choice with a vote on the Right to Contraception Act, led by Senators MARKEY and HIRONO.

Federal protections for contraceptives are a critical piece of protecting women's reproductive freedoms, and this legislation would codify the right to contraception into Federal law. As MAGA Republicans continue to block protections for access to contraception on the State level—in States like Virginia, Nevada, and Arizona—it is all the more reason to move to protect contraception at the Federal level.

To those who think that Federal action in protecting access to birth control is unnecessary, just look at what is happening in States like Virginia and Nevada and Arizona, where Republicans are openly blocking these very protections.

I would hope that protecting access to birth control would be the definition of an easy, uncontroversial decision here in the Senate, but the vote will tell all when we gavel in tomorrow. And there will be more action to come.

Last night, I began the rule XIV process for the Right to IVF Act, led by Senators DUCKWORTH and MURRAY and BOOKER, to place it on the legislative calendar and make it available for consideration on the floor. I intend to bring this legislation protecting access to IVF up for a vote very soon.

Millions of Americans have relied on IVF to have children, but after a stunningly radical decision by the Alabama Supreme Court jeopardized access to IVF, families are rightfully worried that this option could be stripped away. So Senate Democrats will act to safeguard and strengthen IVF access for all Americans so that everyone has a chance to start a family.

In the coming weeks, Senate Democrats will put reproductive freedoms front and center before this Chamber so that the American people can see for themselves who will stand up to defend their fundamental liberties.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the border, later today, President Biden is expected to issue an Executive order addressing the problems happening at our southern border.

As the President makes his announcement, let's be very clear about one thing: Legislation would have been the more effective way to go. President Biden has been clear from the beginning that he prefers legislation, but given how obstinate Republicans have become, turning down any real opportunity for strong border legislation, the President is left with little choice but to act on his own. Republican intransigence has forced the President's hand.

For years, Republicans have insisted, again and again and again, that the border was in crisis, but when they had the opportunity to correct it, they killed the strongest bipartisan bill Congress has seen in decades. Why did they kill it? At the behest of Donald Trump, who said he wanted chaos at the border until after the election.

Shame on our Republican friends. They say they want to protect the border. Donald Trump comes out with a very crass statement—"Let's keep in chaos so I might win the election"—and they go along? They do a 180-degree turn? That is a disgrace, and it has forced President Biden to act the way he does, which is a lot better than doing nothing but not as preferable as passing legislation, as the President admits.

We had an opportunity to pass a strong bipartisan border bill back in February and just over a few weeks ago. Both times, Republicans put politics ahead of bipartisanship and blundered the best chance we have seen in decades to pass a border security bill America urgently needs. Americans will not easily forget it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 1,231. That is how many days it has taken President Biden to do something—anything—about the humanitarian and security crisis that has consumed our southern border and is engulfing our country.

Here is another number: There are 154 days until election day. In other words, the Biden administration has waited nearly its entire term before lifting a finger to address the open borders anarchy that it invited. In that amount of time, the CBP has reported more than 7.8 million encounters with illegal migrants at the southern border, and that is not counting the 1.6 million known "got-aways."

Fentanyl poisoning is now the leading cause of death among American adults between 18 and 45. The lethal pipelines that began with Chinese chemical makers flow north across a broken U.S.-Mexico border.

And perhaps most disturbing is the increasing number of individuals on the Terror Watchlist who have exploited the border chaos to set foot on American soil.

With an election just months away, the President hopes that an issued Executive order will demonstrate that he cares about this crisis and is trying to fix it, never mind that his order would still allow more than 900,000 illegal aliens to come in every year at the southern border. This is on top of the half-million illegal parolees President Biden intends to continue waiving into the country. Combined, that is more than the population of 10 States. It is a new Dallas, TX, every year. This is like turning a garden hose on a five-alarm fire. And the American people are not fools. They know that this play is too little, too late.

NOMINATION OF NANCY L. MALDONADO

Mr. MCCONNELL. On a different matter, I have spoken repeatedly about how Adeel Mangi, President Biden's nominee to the Third Circuit, is unqualified for the bench. But the red flags on this administration's nominees aren't limited to radical associations and ethical lapses.

Judge Nancy Maldonado, a trial judge nominated to the Seventh Circuit, has distinguished herself with sheer—sheer—incompetence.

Thanks to reforms put in place by then-Judiciary Committee Chairman Biden, Federal courts keep track of how many fully briefed motions have been sitting without a decision for at least 6 months, a report often known among judges in Chicago as the Biden list.

It was a good reform because justice delayed is justice denied. And as it turns out, Judge Maldonado has by far the largest number of motions pending for more than 6 months among the judges of the Seventh Circuit, with 125. She would need to rule on one of these motions every workday for the next 6 months just to clear her existing Biden backlog.

There are only a handful of judges in the country who are this far behind on their work. Judge Maldonado's Biden backlog puts her beyond the 99th percentile of all district judges nationwide in terms of slowness.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2029. (Reappointment)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when I hear the Republican leader come to the floor and talk about the fact that President Biden has waited until this point in his first term to issue an Executive order on border security, I can't help but think how long the Senate has waited to do anything on immigration.

The Senator from Kentucky knows as well as I do that for more than 30 years, this Senate has failed to pass any meaningful immigration legislation.

Part of the problem on our border today harkens back to decades of neglect by the Senate and the House of Representatives to meet their constitutional responsibility to upgrade our laws.

How many times have you heard it said that our immigration legal system is broken? They are right. I happen to know that. I have paid personal attention to this issue for a long time.

For the Senator from Kentucky to berate President Biden because he waited until this moment in his first term to take action is to ignore the obvious.

We passed comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S. Senate, and it was passed by more than 60 votes. It was sent to the Republican House of Representatives. They refused to act on it.

To bring it closer to home, we were told last October not to pass any defense supplemental bill unless it included a provision related to border security. So we waited for a bipartisan group of three Senators—one Republican, one Independent, and one Democrat. Senator LANKFORD led the effort on behalf of Republicans. We waited until they produced a work product which, in fact, President Biden embraced. Though it was controversial, I felt it was a reasonable step forward.

What happened at that moment? We had a chance to do something—finally, to do something—in the Senate on immigration. We had a bipartisan bill, a bill which was crafted by able Members of the Senate and addressed the major problems facing us on the border.

What happened? Do you remember? I will tell you exactly what happened. Donald Trump, former President of the United States, announced he opposed

the bill, instructed any Republican who happened to agree with his point of view to oppose it as well, and then said: And if you want to assign any blame, blame me. Well, I am blaming him. A chance to pass legislation was stopped by Donald Trump and the Republicans in the Senate even though they initiated the process themselves.

That is the reality of the status that President Biden faces on the border.

We are facing the largest refugee crisis in modern history all over the world, and we are seeing it on our southern border and in the United States as well. The question is, Will we do anything?

President Biden has decided to step forward with an Executive order which would limit the access of individuals between ports of entry on the border in an effort to slow down the pace of those presenting themselves. That, to me, is a step in the right direction.

I wish he would do more. I wish he would also do something to help those immigrants in the United States who have shown that they can be worthy citizens of this country, have contributed mightily toward the betterment of this country, and have been here long enough to prove that that is true. I think they deserve opportunities and legal recognition. I think that should be included.

But for now to argue from the Senate floor, where little or nothing has taken place on immigration reform in more than 30 years, that President Biden isn't moving quickly enough is a really difficult argument to understand, let alone explain to anyone.

Let me say another word. To call those people who present themselves for asylum in the United States and who are waiting for their case to be resolved in court illegal aliens is a misnomer. They are here by a legal recognition status as asylees seeking protection. A final status has not been determined, and that will determine what their final classification will be. But at this point, they are legally in the United States awaiting a hearing. To call them illegal is not proper.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, let me say a word about the situation in Illinois on judges. I was a little surprised the Senate Republican leader raised this issue.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I spent a large part of my time in the last 3½ years bringing judges to the Federal bench. We now have over 200 judges who have been approved in a very closely divided U.S. Senate, and I have paid close particular attention to my own State of Illinois.

Nancy Maldonado is the nominee for the Ninth Circuit. She is currently serving as a Federal district court judge in Chicago. No one—absolutely no one—on that court has argued that she is lazy or is not carrying her share of the load when it comes to the cases pending before her. She was caught in a situation where she was sent more cases than usual and has not had an opportunity, as other judges have in the

The Biden list requires judges to explain why they are so far behind. Judge Maldonado blames her record on “complexity of the case,” “voluminous transcripts/briefs to be read,” and “heavy civil and criminal caseload.” Does the President think his nominees will face less complex cases on the court of appeals, lighter caseloads, less voluminous transcripts or briefs?

Why on Earth would our colleagues consider giving new and greater responsibilities to a judge who is clearly struggling with the ones she has already gotten or, for that matter, why would they consider promoting someone whose instinct is to pass the buck?

I wish I were making this up: When our colleagues asked Judge Maldonado about her case backlog in written questions, she blamed her clerks. That is probably cold comfort to prisoners seeking relief for inhumane treatment or litigants paying months of legal fees awaiting her decisions. Apparently, it is not the woman with a judicial commission who is responsible for justice delayed; it is the 25-year-old brandnew lawyers on her staff. But passing the buck is what Judge Maldonado does.

The junior Senator for Louisiana asked her how she defined “assault weapon” in a brief supporting Illinois’ assault weapons ban, and the judge said she didn’t know because she didn’t write the brief. She was only—get this—the counsel of record.

Do our colleagues really expect a promotion to the court of appeals to turn things around? Do they really think one of the Nation’s least productive jurists actually deserves such a promotion?

It doesn’t have to be like this. Without even leaving Chicago, Washington Democrats will find a different trial judge, Judge Mary Rowland.

Judge Rowland has impeccable liberal credentials. She satisfies the left’s desired diversity metrics. The only difference? She is actually good at her job.

Her Biden list is three cases. And her reason? These opinions are being drafted but need to have hearings. Complex cases and voluminous briefing don’t faze Judge Rowland.

This matters. The Seventh Circuit is a busy court. They hear oral arguments for every case that has a lawyer and publish all of these opinions as precedent. It is also the last stop for almost all litigants in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

Confirming Judge Maldonado to that court would be taking a judge who has proven herself incapable of swimming in the shallow end of the pool and throwing her into Lake Michigan.

The people and litigants of the Seventh Circuit deserve better. And if my colleagues want to see basic competence in their judges, they ought to reject this nominee.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

past, to relegate those cases to other judges for consideration.

It is noteworthy that those who are critical of Judge Maldonado should know that in all the decisions she has rendered on the bench in the several years that she has been there, not one single case has been rejected by the reviewing appellate court.

She is a worthy person to serve on the circuit court, not to take anything away from the judge whom Senator MCCONNELL praised, Mary Rowland. She is a dear friend of mine. It took me 10 years to get her on the Federal bench, and it was worth the wait because she is that good. But to argue that she is any better than Nancy Maldonado, I don't think that even Mary Rowland would try to make that case. So I hope Senator MCCONNELL would reconsider the issues which he raised.

RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

Mr. President, I would like to speak on a separate topic at this point.

Fifty-nine years ago this week, the Supreme Court ruled in *Griswold v. Connecticut* that all married Americans have a constitutional right to use contraception. This decision has served as the foundation for other landmark Supreme Court decisions, including the expansion of the right to access contraception to other Americans in 1972.

For those of us who remember the time when *Griswold* was decided, we remember what it meant for millions of Americans. With that decision, finally, was the freedom to make their own reproductive family healthcare decisions, something which we take for granted in this country today.

When *Griswold* was decided in 1965, our Nation still had a long way to go in living up to the promise of equal justice under the law.

As one example, in 1965, women were often required to ask their husbands for permission to apply for credit cards—hard to believe, right? In many banks, widowers and divorced women had to bring a man to the bank with them to cosign for a credit card. We have certainly made a lot of progress, and 59 years later, we still have a long way to go.

But the *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision was a breakthrough. It was a glimpse of the Nation that we can be.

Sadly, 2 years ago this month, six rightwing judicial activists sent us back in time. I am referring to the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs*—the crowning achievement of a Republican-led, decades-long campaign to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and abolish fundamental reproductive rights in America.

The *Dobbs* ruling is one of the most irresponsible and dangerous decisions ever handed down by the Supreme Court. It ripped away a constitutional right from individuals and their families and handed it over to politicians.

With the *Dobbs* decision, the ultra-conservative majority on the Court not only overruled a nearly 50-year-old precedent that had been reaffirmed

over and over again but also twisted the facts to reach the outcome they wanted.

What do I mean by that? In his majority opinion, Justice Alito claimed that abortion cannot be constitutionally protected because it is not “deeply rooted in the Nation’s history and tradition.”

Judge Alito is wrong again because, whatever we may think about the issue, it has deep roots in our history. As the dissenting Justices in *Dobbs* wrote: “embarrassingly for the majority—early law in fact does provide some support for abortion rights.”

Justice Alito’s argument for overruling *Roe* has no credibility. It wasn’t originalism; it was an ideologically motivated outcome based on his historical cherry-picking.

Incredibly, Justice Clarence Thomas wanted to go even further. He believes the constitutional right to privacy is a fiction. In a concurring opinion in *Dobbs*, Justice Thomas declared that the Court should “eliminate” the legal doctrine behind the constitutional right to privacy and “reconsider all of this Court’s substantive due process precedents, including *Griswold*, *Lawrence*, and *Obergefell*.”

That means one of the Justices who eliminated the right to abortion also thinks that the Court should reconsider the constitutional right to contraception as well as the constitutional rights to marriage equality and consensual relationships between LGBTQ people.

Over the past 2 years, Republican lawmakers have picked up where the Supreme Court left off. In State after State after State, they have ripped away reproductive rights from millions of Americans, with devastating consequences.

Overruling *Roe v. Wade* has unleashed a healthcare crisis in America, and 24 of the 50 States have either barred or severely restricted access to abortion or are attempting to do so. Many of these bans by the States provide no exceptions for rape and incest, and many are grossly insufficient in protecting the health and lives of mothers. Some of these bans are even written in a way that appear to limit access to contraception.

You may hear some of our colleagues across the aisle argue that Democrats are exaggerating when we say the right to contraception is at risk. They claim there is nothing to see here.

Well, tell that to the millions of Americans impacted by the successful effort to overrule *Roe v. Wade*, which has inserted politicians and judges into the most personal decision imaginable. Tell that to the Americans who are worried that some of those politicians and judges now have their sights set on contraception, particularly after Justice Thomas urged his colleagues to reconsider the Court’s holding in *Griswold*.

That is why my colleagues Senators MARKEY, HIRONO, and DUCKWORTH re-

introduced the Right to Contraception Act, which I am cosponsoring. The bill would protect the rights of patients to access and use contraception and of healthcare providers to provide contraception and information about contraception. It would codify the right to contraception the Supreme Court first recognized in the *Griswold* decision. It would also allow patients, providers, and the Justice Department to go to court to enforce these rights.

This week, the Senate has an opportunity to make history and counteract some of the repressive policies that Republican State legislatures have put in place post-*Dobbs*. Tomorrow, the Senate will vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Right to Contraception Act. My Senate colleagues will have to decide how they want to be remembered during this historic vote. Do they want to be remembered for blocking the effort to protect the right to access contraception or for standing on the right side of history and protecting reproductive rights?

I urge my colleagues to join me during this anniversary week of the *Griswold* decision and help pass the Right to Contraception Act and ensure that Americans will always be able to access free and safe contraception.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, a couple of weeks ago at a White House press briefing, the President’s Press Secretary was asked why the President isn’t doing anything on the border, given the fact that he has the authority to act unilaterally. And the White House Press Secretary responded:

But why should he have to do it unilaterally?

Why should he have to do it unilaterally? It was, perhaps, a typical response from a White House that would like to portray itself as the victim of the border crisis rather than the cause, a White House that would prefer Congress take action on the border rather than run the risk of taking action itself and annoying some Democratic voters. But it was an outrageous statement, nonetheless.

Why should he have to do it unilaterally? Well, for starters, because President Biden is the President and thus bears a special responsibility for our national security and because, as President, he has the authority to take a number of measures to help secure our Nation’s border. For a President not to do anything in the face of the kind of crisis we are dealing with is unconscionable. But most of all, President Biden should be taking action because he is responsible for this border crisis.

Why should he have to take action unilaterally? Because he created this border crisis unilaterally. On the day he took office, the President began dismantling the border security policies of his predecessor, and illegal immigration began surging in response. It has

never stopped. The President has presided over not 1, not 2, but 3 successive years of recordbreaking illegal immigration. With more than a million and a half illegal crossings so far this year, it is entirely possible he could end up presiding over a fourth.

Those recordbreaking immigration numbers I mentioned don't even convey the full magnitude of the problem. In addition to the staggering 7.8 million-plus illegal border encounters recorded under President Biden, we have also seen huge numbers of "got-aways," and those are individuals that the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. Of course we have no idea how many unknown "got-aways" there have been, and that is a serious national security problem.

When turning yourself in to the Border Patrol with a claim for asylum is likely to result in years of essentially legal permanent residence or, as we discovered this weekend, de facto amnesty, it is especially concerning that we have hundreds of thousands of individuals choosing not to turn themselves in and escaping into the interior of the country. Some of them may simply be in search of a better life, but it is highly likely that others may have more malign intentions.

U.S. Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens, in a March interview with CBS News, said the number of known "got-aways" is keeping him up at night. This is his quote:

That is a national security threat. Border security is a big piece of national security. And if we don't know who is coming into our country and we don't know what their intent is, that is a threat. And they're exploiting a vulnerability that's on our border right now.

That same month, FBI Director Christopher Wray told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:

We are seeing a wide array of very dangerous threats that emanate from the border.

Let me repeat that. From the FBI Director: "We are seeing a wide array of very dangerous threats that emanate from the border."

He also noted, alarmingly:

There is a particular network that has—where some of the overseas facilitators of the smuggling network have ISIS ties that we're very concerned about.

There is a particular network that has—where some of the overseas facilitators of the smuggling network have ISIS ties that we're very concerned about.

As I said, it would be unconscionable for any President to stand by and watch a crisis like the one we are facing at our southern border without taking action. The fact that President Biden has allowed this national security crisis to rage for 3-plus years unchecked is a betrayal of his responsibilities as President.

While protecting our national security may not have motivated this President, protecting his election prospects apparently does. With polls showing immigration as a top issue, Democrats have been rushing to give the impression that they are serious about

border security. Now we are hearing that President Biden may be announcing measures to secure the border, possibly as soon as today. I will believe it when I see it, especially given this weekend's report that the Biden administration has been offering mass amnesty to hundreds of thousands of individuals whose asylum cases have been closed without a decision.

It does sound like the President will be announcing something, and I hope it will involve some real reforms. But it is disturbing that it is taking the fear of losing an election to motivate the President to take action on a national security crisis that has raged for more than 3 years, and it raises serious questions about how long the President's interest in border security will last. If he wins another term, will he still care about the border, or does it take an election to keep him motivated about his national security responsibilities?

At any rate, if concern for our national security won't do it, let's hope that his fear of defeat in November will indeed motivate the President to actually get the situation at our southern border under control. Given his record so far, though, I am not holding my breath.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, this week marks the 80th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy.

Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944, was one of the most significant events in human history. In those early morning hours, more than 24,000 soldiers and 1,200 aircraft conducted a massive and daring airborne assault behind enemy lines. This was done to isolate the coast and prevent the enemy from reinforcing its defenses.

Then, at dawn, the largest amphibious assault ever conducted—160,000 U.S., British, and Canadian troops poured out of 6,900 ships and vessels to storm the beaches against a crushing enemy fire. Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, Sword—the beaches' names are still famous today.

The first days were not promising for the Allies, but slowly over the next several weeks, the Allies extended their tenuous foothold and amassed more and more forces, eventually numbering 2 million on the beaches of Normandy.

After a German counterattack in early August failed, the breakout would begin. Paris would be liberated just weeks later, on August 25. Then, 5 days later, the enemy would withdraw back across the Seine into Germany—the end of Operation Overlord.

Losses were severe. On June 6—D-Day—alone, the Allies suffered more than 10,000 casualties. At operation's end, that number would swell to nearly a quarter of a million, including more than 153,000 wounded and 72,000 killed or missing—more than were killed in the entire war in Vietnam.

Most of D-Day's participants were young men in their teens and early twenties. Men with little or no combat experience and their whole lives in front of them landed on those beaches; men like my father, Charles Tuberville, a farmer from Arkansas, who was not yet 19. He was 18 years old when he landed at Utah Beach on that very day of June 6. I can't imagine what it must have been like to carry such an incredible burden at such a young age, to leave your family and loved ones, knowing you might not make it home. My dad would tell you it is because it was their duty. They loved their country, and their country needed them. They also understood that America and the freedoms we enjoy were worth fighting for.

I think of those men today, and I can't help but worry for my sons' and this country's future.

In the months leading up to this important 80th anniversary, we have been inundated with images from college campuses across our Nation. We have seen young people of similar age to the D-Day heroes protesting in support of terrorists, openly calling for the destruction of the society and freedoms that my dad and all these men paid for on D-Day with their blood.

So how did we get here? How did we go from producing the type of men and women who are willing to die on the beaches for freedom and our Constitution—how did we get here?—to college students who are openly supporting groups that chant "Death to America"?

Sadly, our education system has failed the younger generation. Many of our major universities are more concerned with woke ideology than with quality education. They have no interest in teaching students the truth about our country and our founding principles. Many of our students are being taught to hate this country, to hate Americans, and the results speak for themselves.

More and more, high school students today can tell you everything you want to know about the made-up "gender spectrum." They can carry on a conversation about that. But, you know what, they struggle to read at grade level and do basic math.

Our progressive education system, controlled by teachers unions, has made us rank 26th in the world in math—26th in the world in math—and 6th in reading. It is embarrassing. It is unforgivable. The teachers unions try to silence parents and cover for incompetence while our children are suffering.

Merit is now "problematic," as our Nation has been taken over by the neo-

Marxist diversity, equity, and inclusion—or, as better known, called DEI—ideology. This woke teaching sows division by teaching our kids to resent each other.

Think about that for a minute. Our young people are the greatest resource that we have, but we are failing them. I worked in the education system for 35 years, and I am embarrassed. I am appalled. All to appease a radical ideology that has taken over this country.

As a result, the Army has had to lower its standards because many enlistees can't meet the minimum requirements. You heard that right. We have had to lower standards—our standards both mentally and physically.

We could learn a lesson or two from those heroes, like my Dad, who bravely served and stormed the beaches 80 years ago Thursday. Those men and women were united in the belief that America was a country worth fighting for.

So please join me, especially this Thursday, in honoring the brave heroes who risked and, in many cases, gave their lives for freedom and what we have today.

May we never forget their sacrifices and honor them by making sure our children know the truth about our great country and what happened on the beaches of Normandy that day, June 6, 1944.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER T. HANSON

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Christopher T. Hanson's nomination to serve an additional 5-year term as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which he has chaired for several years.

I want to begin by saying a few words about this pivotal moment for clean nuclear energy in the United States of America.

Carbon-free nuclear power plays a critical and growing role in our electricity grid and is indispensable in our ongoing efforts to address the climate crisis and strengthen our Nation's energy security.

As many of our colleagues know, including the Presiding Officer, who is a Member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, nuclear energy has become the largest source of reliable clean energy in the United States of America—the largest—providing about 20 percent of our Nation's electricity—but listen to this—and nearly half of our clean power.

The Biden administration is taking strong steps to ensure that nuclear en-

ergy can continue to be deployed both safely and efficiently. For example, just last week, the White House announced a new administration-wide effort to bolster the domestic nuclear energy industry by further harnessing American ingenuity and cutting-edge technologies.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission also plays a vital role in facilitating the deployment of clean nuclear energy by protecting the safety of our existing nuclear facilities, while also ensuring that new sources of clean nuclear power meet the same rigorous standards for safety.

It is up to us, and it is up to us in Congress—the House and the Senate—to ensure that the Commission has both the strong leadership and the resources necessary for the 21st century.

That is why I am working closely with our ranking member, SHELLY CAPITO of West Virginia, and other Members of our Environment and Public Works Committee to draft legislation known as the ADVANCE Act.

If signed into law, this legislation will provide the Commission the tools, the resources, and the workforce that it needs to safely usher in the future of nuclear energy in our country.

At this crucial moment for new nuclear technologies and our climate, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission also needs a full slate of Commissioners in order for this plan to succeed.

President Biden has nominated a chair, its current Chair Hanson, to serve another 5-year term on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

He has skillfully led the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during his tenure as Chair for the last 4 years. Under his leadership, the Commission has undertaken significant efforts to modernize the Agency while dealing with constrained resources.

He has gone above and beyond to engage both the industry and our public, and he has advanced our efforts to slow climate change by leading the Commission to establish a regulatory framework for the safe licensing and operation of new carbon-free technologies. I have no doubt that if he is reconfirmed, Chair Hanson will extend his track record well into a second term and beyond.

Last month, the Environment and Public Works Committee advanced his nomination out of committee with broad, bipartisan support, and I hope to see Chair Hanson reconfirmed with broad bipartisan support, again today.

Senator CAPITO and I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting Chair Hanson's nomination so that he can continue serving our Nation with skill and dedication.

With that, I am going to ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

VOTE ON HANSON NOMINATION

Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hanson nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Barrasso	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Ricketts
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Romney
Budd	Hoeben	Rosen
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cantwell	Kaine	Sanders
Capito	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	Kennedy	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Stabenow
Coons	Lummis	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Cotton	Marshall	Warner
Cramer	McConnell	Warnock
Crapo	Merkley	Warren
Daines	Moran	Welch
Duckworth	Mullin	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murkowski	Wicker
Fetterman	Murphy	Wyden
Fischer	Murray	Young

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Britt	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Paul	Thune
Ernst	Rubio	Tuberville
Hagerty	Schmitt	Vance
Hawley	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—2

Braun Menendez

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 507, Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters,
Jeanne Shaheen, John W.
Hickenlooper, Alex Padilla, Richard J.

Durbin, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock.

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 Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—57

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Menendez
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:28 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON BOSIER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bosier nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

YEAS—57

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Menendez
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 511, Judith E. Pipe, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley.

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 Judith E. Pipe, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Menendez
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 42, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Judith E. Pipe, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 718

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a very serious problem: viral gain-of-function research. I am calling on this body to place a pause on all viral gain-of-function research, just like President Obama did in 2014.

Maybe I will start with an analogy. Could you imagine the United States participating in nuclear research and sending our scientists, sending our money to foreign adversaries to help them with their nuclear weapons research right now—say, a country like Iran or a country like North Korea? Of course, no one in this body would suggest that is a smart thing to do. But people can't see what viral gain-of-function is, so they are not afraid of it, but they should be.

Think about this: Nuclear bombs have killed 2-, 3-, maybe 400,000 people at the max—2-, 3-, maybe 400,000 people—but viral gain-of-function research, through COVID, has killed over 1 million Americans, and worldwide, it is at least 10 times that, maybe 20 times that. And we still have 15 million long COVID sufferers, but we continue to fund and we continue to participate in viral gain-of-function research. I would stop and ask this body, what do we have to show for it? Thirty years of viral gain-of-function research and what are the benefits? What have we benefited from this?

Just like in January of 2020 when I was the first Member of Congress to sound the alarm on the COVID virus and the consequences and the pandemic that was coming, I am here once again to sound this alarm.

Think about this: Why is this a concern to anybody? First of all, I want to talk about the risk of lab leaks. No matter what virus security level this research is done in, there is going to be risk of a lab leak. There is human error, there is mechanical error, people not following protocols. We have seen it over and over again, and that is actually what led to the pause in 2014 by President Obama.

Laboratories, regardless of their biosafety levels, are not infallible. Human error, equipment failure, unforeseen accidents can lead to the escape of enhanced pathogens into the general population. The consequences of such an event have proven to be catastrophic.

We witnessed this firsthand through the COVID-19 pandemic, just how fast a virus could spread throughout the world. A virus that is engineered to be more contagious or more deadly can cause an even more severe global death crisis, even worse than what we saw with COVID-19.

Something people seldom talk about is the threat of bioresearch, of biosecurity when it comes to our food supply. Just like the Chinese developed a COVID virus to attack human lungs, they could develop new viruses that could attack our beef cattle, our pigs, our dairy. They could find new viruses to attack the wheat in Kansas. All these things are very feasible by viral gain-of-function research.

I am very concerned about the risk of weaponization of these viruses, that all of these have a military potential, what we would call bioterrorism. Everything has a dual purpose. In America, we don't think about that. We always think about science being research for the good, but what we have found over and over is that rogue nations can use this type of research for the very, very worse.

I just want to dive a little bit deeper into this subject and this threat of bioterrorism. Knowledge and techniques developed through gain-of-function research can be potentially misused by malicious actors. If detailed methodologies for enhancing pathogens are published or otherwise become accessible, they could be easily exploited to create biological weapons. These could be created by people with minimal means. They are called terrorists. They wouldn't have to go through the hassle, the time and expense of developing a nuclear weapon; they could more easily develop biological weapons that are even more deadly. The potential for such misuse makes the dissemination of research findings in this bill particularly perilous, and it lowers the barrier for entry for those who might wish to cause us harm.

Ethically, gain-of-function research raises significant questions. Is it morally acceptable to create pathogens with pandemic potential, knowing the immense suffering they could cause if accidentally or, heaven forbid, deliberately released?

The scientific pursuit of knowledge must be balanced with responsibility and awareness of their broader consequences. The principles that I swore an oath to as a physician—do no harm; above all, do no harm—should guide every one of our actions when we are funding science. Yet, gain-of-function research walks a tightrope between potential benefits and catastrophic risks.

Public trust in science and research institutes is another critical aspect. Higher profile accidents or ethical breaches have eroded public confidence, making it even more difficult to garner support for necessary scientific endeavors. Transparency, accountability, and stringent regulatory frameworks are essential to maintaining this trust.

That is why we are here today calling for this body to pass our Viral Gain-of-Function Research Moratorium Act. Our bill will prohibit the funding of this research, allowing time for an honest conversation about the pros and cons of gain-of-function research, setting up guardrails that ensure a system of checks and balances.

Getting transparency for the American people for what happened during the pandemic shouldn't be controversial. I hope my colleagues will join me in agreeing that if we can't measure it, we can't manage it—especially when we are discussing the creation of lethal viruses at the taxpayers' expense.

The Federal Government should not provide another dime in funding for viral gain-of-function research in the deceptive name of global health and national security.

For these reasons, I am proud to be back here on the Senate floor to sound the alarm again and call for the immediate passage of our bill, the Viral Gain-of-Function Research Moratorium Act.

I want to conclude by thanking Senators BRAUN and LEE for their support of this resolution, and we look forward to continuing the discussion on this issue with their colleagues.

As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 718, which is at the desk; further, 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. Is there objection?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, this resolution threatens fundamental life sciences research. Research is medicine's field of dreams from which we harvest the findings that give hope to families.

Over 1 million people died from COVID-19, and tens of thousands of Americans die annually from the seasonal flu. It is scientific research that develops the vaccines and treatments that save lives.

It is clear that we need every tool at our disposal to combat viral illnesses and pandemics, and labs across the country are developing research that will create the vaccines and the therapeutics of tomorrow. But what this resolution does is create overbroad restrictions on scientific research in order to accomplish a goal which unfortunately is unrelated to what should be our highest goals.

Bans like those envisioned by this resolution would tie the hands of researchers who are doing lifesaving work. This resolution would send a dangerous signal that the U.S. Senate does not value lifesaving research

being conducted by our Federal research Agencies and at our world-class research universities.

We must be prepared for future pandemics, especially as climate change accelerates the transmission of deadly diseases.

In the last few months, we have seen H5N1 bird flu transmitted from dairy cattle to humans. This resolution could block researchers from understanding the mutations that allow bird flu to infect humans, effectively banning us from preventing outbreaks and protecting farm workers.

Medical research is an issue of national security. Stronger research means stronger security. This resolution would not prepare us for emerging disease threats, and it would not make our Nation safer. Bowing to political pressure to promote a research ban without understanding the implications on research, biosecurity, biosafety, or public health is dangerous, and it is reckless.

Investments in biomedical research are investments in hope and health and safety that serve our country today and into the future. For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, certainly I understand the Senator from Massachusetts' comments and his concerns. I would still continue to argue that the benefits have not outweighed the risk. We have not seen any benefits from this type of research.

The whole concept, just going back to what the definition of "viral gain-of-function research" is—we wouldn't do it if it is causing potential for harm, but we can still continue to research flu vaccines. We can continue to research avian influenza. There are all sorts of things we could do. But let's not make avian influenza worse. Let's not put a protein spike on it that is going to make it stick to human lung cells like they did with SARS-CoV-1.

The justification of gain-of-function research hinges on its purported benefits, as you described, such as improved preparedness for pandemics; however, it is important to scrutinize whether these benefits are indeed reliable and they outweigh the risks.

Critics argue that the knowledge gained from such research can often be obtained through safer means, such as computational models or studying natural outbreaks. Moreover, these resources invested in high-risk research can be redirected toward strengthening public health infrastructure, improving our surveillance system, and developing broad-spectrum antivirals and vaccines.

Let's quit throwing good money after bad money. Let's take good care of the American taxpayer dollars and actually do things that are going to protect them from future pandemics.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2494

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, under President Biden, nearly 10 million illegal immigrants have entered our country. Now, among those 10 million are an unknown number of dangerous individuals.

We know that hundreds of individuals appear on the Terrorism Watchlist. We know that a significant number of transnational cartel members are in this population. Other categories include drug smugglers, human traffickers, and many more.

It is a laundry list of bad actors who have no business stepping foot in our country. And, sadly, it is not a surprise, when we allow over half a million illegal immigrants with criminal records into the homeland, that they commit crimes against American citizens.

Even members of law enforcement—the very people entrusted with keeping us safe—are now on the frontlines of the border crisis. And, no, I am not talking about police in border States like Texas or Arizona; I am talking about North Carolina—my State. I am talking about New York City.

Two years ago, in my home State of North Carolina, Wake County Deputy Sheriff Ned Byrd was killed in the line of duty by an illegal alien gang member who crossed the border under President Biden. And just this week, in Queens, NY, NYPD officers were shot while trying to apprehend a suspect in a string of robberies. One was shot in the stomach, and the other was shot in the leg.

Now, thankfully, they are going to survive. Our prayers are with them and their families, and we are grateful for their service to our country. But the suspect was identified as a 19-year-old from Venezuela who crossed the border illegally through Eagle Pass, TX, in July of last year. Worse yet, he was caught, and then he was released with a court date that he, predictably, ignored.

So enough is enough. I am back here on the Senate floor to, once again, try and pass a bill called the POLICE Act. It is a straightforward bill. The POLICE Act simply states that an alien can be deported for assaulting a police officer, a firefighter, or another first responder. This bill has already passed the House, and it can be sent to the President's desk by passing it right here today. Pretty simple.

But now the last time I tried to pass this bill, the Senator from Connecticut blocked it, and he called it nothing. That is 100 percent wrong. Specifically, the POLICE Act amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to explicitly state that an illegal immigrant may be deported for assaulting a police officer.

Now, it is important to point out that the current law does not cover all assaults against law enforcement. That means that some immigrants can remain in the country even after committing assaults against cops.

And we know that under the Biden administration, that is a very real pos-

sibility, unfortunately. But the truth is that we cannot trust this administration to do the right thing or enforce the law and to keep our communities safe. That is why we need to pass the POLICE Act today.

Any Senator who claims to "back the blue" should have no problem at all supporting this bill. So I sincerely hope that in the face of yet another attack on police officers, that we can pass this bill today.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2494 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the Border Patrol union—our law enforcement officers who patrol the southern and northern border who serve this country and protect this country—endorsed the bipartisan border security bill that my friend from North Carolina opposed, as did almost all of his colleagues.

The Border Patrol union—the organization that represents law enforcement officers—supported that bill for a number of reasons. It would have surged resources to the southern border to make sure that we properly administered our border and made sure that the only people who are coming to this country have legitimate asylum claims. It would invest in technology to make those Border Patrol officers' jobs easier. It would have granted new hiring authorities to make sure that we can get people down to the border faster rather than just redeploying agents from the northern border to the southern border.

But it is likely that they supported that bill for an additional reason. Under current law, if you are coming to this country to apply for asylum, if you have a criminal history in the United States during a prior visit or in your home country, that question is not relevant under existing law until you go before an asylum judge, before you go before an immigration judge to make your asylum claim.

Senator LANKFORD, myself, and Senator SINEMA thought that didn't make sense. We thought that that question of your prior criminal history should be relevant the minute that you show up at the border; that you don't get into the United States to make your claim of asylum if you have a criminal history.

That was part of the bipartisan border bill. That would have protected the country. That would have protected our law enforcement officers. But my Republican colleagues turned down the opportunity to pass bipartisan legislation that would prevent individuals

with criminal records from coming into the country and applying for asylum because under current law—law that the President is bound to administer and enforce—those questions are not brought into the process until that asylum claim is being heard by a judge.

And so it is just another example of the ways in which the bipartisan border bill—the bill that Republicans asked for, demanded Democrats negotiate—would have made this country safer, would have created a more efficient and more secure border. And I am still furious—and heartbroken—that Republicans decided to keep the border a mess because it helps their Presidential candidate politically instead of trying to solve the problem.

As for this specific measure, as I said last time I came to the floor to object, it is already, under current law, a deportable offense if you commit a crime of violence. It is already, under current law, a deportable offense if you commit and are convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude. And, further, non-citizens who are convicted of any aggravated felony, including misdemeanor offenses, are deportable as well.

So this bill is seeking to solve a problem that doesn't exist because current law says, if you commit an assault on a law enforcement officer, you are going to be deported.

So why are we debating this bill if current law already says you can be deported for assaulting a police officer?

I don't know the answer, but what I know is that there is a broader effort underfoot by former President Trump and my Republican colleagues to try to make Americans believe that there is a specific unique threat posed to you by immigrants; that you should fear people that are coming to this country to seek a better life or to flee terror or torture. It is a familiar trope because it was used against my forefathers when they came here from Ireland. It was used against those who came to the United States from prior generations: You should fear the Irish. You should fear the Italians. You should fear the Chinese. Today, it is that you should fear those coming from Central or South America.

But it is just not the truth. I know it is hard to hear for some folks who believe everything they watch on FOX News, but individuals who are first-generation immigrants to this country are less likely to be convicted of violent crimes than individuals who are born in this country.

In 2020, the Trump DOJ sought to prove that false. They actually commissioned research to examine the rate of crime between noncitizens and citizens because they couldn't believe the data because FOX News said that we should fear immigrants.

Here is one of the papers that was commissioned by the Trump DOJ:

[W]e find that undocumented immigrants had substantially lower crime rates than native-born citizens . . . across a range of fel-

ony offenses. Relative to undocumented immigrants, US-born citizens are over 2 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes, 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes, and over 4 times more likely to be arrested for property crimes.

These are quotes directly from a Trump-funded Department of Justice report.

I don't disagree with my colleague from North Carolina. Of course, if someone commits an assault against a law enforcement officer, they should be deported from this country. If somebody commits an assault against a community member, regardless of their occupation, they should be deported from this country. That is what the existing law says: If you are convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor assault—any crime of moral turpitude—you are deported.

And so, to me, this is duplicative at best and, at worst, an effort to just try to reinforce this very dangerous mythology that this country has something to fear from immigrants who are coming to this country to flee economic desperation and violence and terror and torture.

For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's comments, and I believe them to be sincere. But let's not get lost in the swirl of eloquence here.

I believe my colleague once said that illegal immigrants are "undocumented Americans"—a direct quote—and that they are "the people we care about most"—another direct quote—but I would submit that if you illegally enter the United States and then beat up a police officer, you are most certainly not an American. And the only thing we should care about is that you are deported.

Now, he said these laws can lead to deportation, but it is not necessary that they do particularly under this administration.

I refer to my prior remarks: There have been a half million illegal immigrants—a half million—with criminal records that have come into the homeland, again, illegally. And it is no surprise that they can commit crimes against Americans.

So this bill, which he seems to support—I am a little confused at the language. It seems like he might support this unanimous consent effort here because it is important because the current law does not cover all assaults against law enforcement. Deporting an illegal alien who assaults a law enforcement officer requires a complex legal analysis to prove that the illegal alien committed an aggravated felony or crime involving moral turpitude.

It is not guaranteed that this process will even lead to deportation. So the POLICE Act creates a simple, straightforward, commonsense rule that says illegal aliens who assault cops are deportable—period, end of story.

We saw it in North Carolina. We have recently seen it in New York City. And it can happen in a community near you.

I yield the floor.

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

RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, we have had a dismal history recently with the U.S. Supreme Court. In my view, it has totally failed the American people.

In the name of States' rights, the Supreme Court has taken away freedom and caused distress and uncertainty for women and individuals across the country. It is outrageous that, because of this Court and this decision, people have fewer rights today than they did 50 years ago. Of course, I refer to the Dobbs decision, in which the Supreme Court—to its everlasting shame and in its infamy—took away a constitutional right.

It should be noted that, in a post-Dobbs world, women are leaning on contraceptive care more, and doctors see more demand. That now is threatened. For anyone who read that Dobbs decision and the Thomas concurrence in that decision, he laid it out where he at least intends to go.

There seems to be some confusion among my colleagues across the aisle about what this bill is and how important reproductive healthcare is, and I thank the Presiding Officer for his leadership on this with our colleague from Hawaii.

It is very important as everyone needs access both to whatever birth control options make the most sense to them and access to whatever preventive healthcare makes sense to them. Contraceptives can help prevent and treat medical conditions. This is about ensuring that every person in every ZIP Code has access to the birth control that they need if they need it.

This is the right of women and every individual to make decisions about their bodies and their futures. Politicians should not be involved. The Court shouldn't even be intimidating it is threatening to take that away, and this legislation is needed to guarantee that they won't.

After Roe was overturned in June 2022, Vermont voters went to the polls. They took their own liberty into their own hands after not being able to rely on the U.S. Supreme Court to protect it. In article 22 of the Vermont Constitution—a new amendment—it permanently protects reproductive liberties.

It says:

That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

This would stop future anti-choice legislation from advancing in our State of Vermont.

We enacted comprehensive legislation in 2019 in Vermont, under a Republican Governor, that would "recognize

as a fundamental right the freedom of reproductive choice” and “prohibit public entities from interfering with or restricting the right of an individual to terminate the individual’s pregnancy.”

As far back as 1972, the Vermont Supreme Court became the fourth State in the Nation to legalize abortion. Vermont has a long history of protecting reproductive rights and standing up for the rights of women.

Also, contraception is supported by the American people. It is widely used by women. People who can get pregnant need it and use it. There are 9 out of 10 voters who “want it to be legal” and 3 out of 4 who want to have easier access. There are 78 percent who say “they see it as basic healthcare for women,” and 72 percent are “thankful it allows them to manage several health conditions.”

So it is absolutely essential, in the face of the U.S. Supreme Court and what it did to deprive women of their own right to choose by reversing the Roe v. Wade decision that was so enshrined in our law and part of our society for 50 years, that we in the Senate take all action possible to guarantee that women’s rights will be protected.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am so glad to come to the floor today to support my colleagues—the Presiding Officer, who is Senator MARKEY, and Senator HIRONO—as you champion a great and necessary bill, the Right to Contraception Act. I am proud to stand with my colleagues, and I am so proud to support this bill.

You know, today should have been a day of celebration. It was the 105th anniversary of the Senate’s passing the 19th Amendment—one of the greatest amendments ever passed—granting women the right to vote under the U.S. Constitution. That was truly a proud moment for this Chamber and one of the greatest victories ever in the march toward women’s equality—a march that New York proudly advanced. Upstate New York was a hotbed for the women’s suffrage movement, including in places like Seneca Falls.

But, on this 105th anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s passage, we must confront the ugly truth that women, sadly, have fewer freedoms today than they did just a few years ago, because, a few weeks from now, America will observe a different anniversary, a much darker anniversary, that of the MAGA Supreme Court’s overturning of Roe v. Wade. Thanks to that decision and thanks to the hard right’s war on women, reproductive freedoms are at their lowest point in modern history, and who knows how far the hard right will go. Two years ago, the MAGA Court eliminated the protections of Roe. Tomorrow, it could be something else. Maybe, it could be the Griswold decision that protected the right to use birth control.

To those who think that is outlandish or impossible to happen, just remember Clarence Thomas himself opened the door to this possibility in his concurring opinion on the day Roe was overturned. We are kidding ourselves if we think the hard right is satisfied with simply overturning Roe. And, for all those who say it can never happen, remember people said that before Dobbs—that Roe would never be overturned. Of course, unfortunately, it was by the rightwing MAGA Court, appointed by Donald Trump and our Republican colleagues here in the Senate.

So, tomorrow, the Senate will act. We will vote to move forward on the Right to Contraception Act. Supporting Federal protections for contraceptives should be the definition of what is a simple, commonsense, and easy choice. The bill we will vote on tomorrow simply says: If you want access to birth control or if your healthcare provider wants to prescribe birth control, the government has no right to interfere.

Doesn’t that seem like common sense? After all, access to birth control is something that 90 percent of Americans support.

Of course, we are already hearing the same predictable, tired, and unpersuasive retorts from the other side: that this vote is somehow unnecessary; that birth control could never possibly be at risk; that this is much ado about nothing. That is simply not true.

To those who argue Federal protections for birth control are unnecessary, go ask the people of Virginia what they think after their Republican Governor vetoed a bill that would have protected contraceptives at the State level. Go ask the people of Nevada what they think after their Republican Governor also vetoed a bill to protect access to birth control. To those who say birth control will never fall at risk, go ask the people of Florida or Arizona or Idaho or Iowa or Missouri. In each of these States, Republican Governors or Republican State legislators are on record blocking protections for birth control access in some form or another.

It is unacceptable—simply unacceptable—for Americans to even question whether or not access to birth control should fall at risk, but that is precisely the worry one in five Americans has today. We can eliminate that worry in one fell swoop by passing the Right to Contraception Act.

I hope both sides join together to show strong support for this essential bill tomorrow when we vote on it.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote on the Pipe nomination be at 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, June 5, and that the cloture vote with respect to the Sullivan nomination occur upon disposition of the Pipe nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Sullivan nomination, all time be consid-

ered expired and the confirmation vote occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader; further, that following the cloture vote on the Sullivan nomination, the Senate then resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 400, S. 4381, and that the cloture vote with respect to the motion to proceed occur at 3:45 p.m.; finally, that if any of the 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 actions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior Senator from Massachusetts.

RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today because reproductive freedom is under attack.

In 2022, Donald Trump’s far-right Supreme Court took away the constitutional right to an abortion, completing the Republican Party’s decades-long plan to overturn Roe.

In some States, the Court’s decision revived abortion bans that had lain dormant since the 1800s. In other States, the decision triggered new abortion restrictions rewritten to go into effect the very day that Roe v. Wade was overturned. The results have been horrific.

But here is the thing the Republican Party missed: From Kansas to Ohio, to California, reproductive rights are popular. Americans overwhelmingly support the right to an abortion, the right to IVF, and the right to contraception. In fact, these rights are so popular that Republicans want you to believe they support them, but their actions speak for themselves.

First, Republicans said they wouldn’t overturn Roe v. Wade. Donald Trump and his extremist Supreme Court did, and Trump is still bragging about it. Now, over 20 States have banned or severely restricted abortion access, passed laws criminalizing doctors who perform abortions, or threatened access to pregnancy care, miscarriage care, fertility assistance, and more.

Then Republicans claimed they wouldn’t go after IVF. Just this year, Alabama’s Supreme Court virtually outlawed IVF in the State, and just a few weeks later, my colleagues in the Republican Party blocked Federal legislation that would protect access to this care.

Now, the Republican Party is saying they won’t go after contraception. Well, that makes sense since 92 percent of Americans support birth control. But, guess what, Republicans now have contraception in their sights, and they are even trying to redefine what constitutes contraception. Sure, they support contraception—ah, but not an IUD; or they are all for contraception—hmm, but not Plan B.

Contraception is a must, except Republicans in Congress have a bill, the “Life at Conception Act,” that would give an embryo so-called personhood rights, which would outlaw abortion, outlaw IVF, and, yes, outlaw some forms of contraception. That bill has the majority support of the Republican caucus, including Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON. On top of that, Republicans blocked Democrats from passing this very same bill to protect the right to contraception last year. But tomorrow, every Senator will have to say where they stand, proving that no matter what Republicans say about wanting to support contraception, when it comes down to it, they won’t.

Tomorrow’s vote should be a turning point. It is time we take these Republican lawmakers at their word.

Millions of people across this country are already experiencing a new form of hell thanks to Donald Trump and the extremist Supreme Court that overturned Roe, and Black, Brown, and low-income communities are feeling a disproportionate impact.

So, now, as Donald Trump continues to push for a nationwide abortion ban and says he is “looking at” contraception, Democrats are standing up and fighting back. Already, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have taken a series of steps to strengthen access to affordable, high-quality contraception and adequate access to reproductive healthcare more generally.

Tomorrow, I will be joining my Democratic colleagues, led by my partner Senator MARKEY and by Senator HIRONO and Senator DUCKWORTH, in voting for the Right to Contraception Act. Birth control is safe, effective, and an important part of reproductive healthcare.

It is time that we fight back against the Republican war against reproductive freedom. It is time we codify the right to contraception into law.

I am furious that millions of women have lost fundamental rights. I am furious that their freedom to make their own decisions has been taken away by a small number of extremists. I am alarmed by what the extremist Supreme Court and congressional Republicans are prepared to do to unravel a future of protection for women under a Republican Presidency.

This is about the right to make decisions about our own bodies and our own futures. It is all on the line, and we need these protections written into law. That is what tomorrow’s vote is about.

I don’t want to hear from Republicans who say they support contraception but can’t make it the law of the land. If they really support contraception, then they will vote yes on the bill that comes up tomorrow. If not, actions speak louder than words. They will demonstrate that it is not only going after abortion, it is not only going after IVF, it is also all about going after contraception.

These are the decisions women should make for themselves. They

should have the freedom to do that. These are not the decisions that should be made by extremist Republican lawmakers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

19TH AMENDMENT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, 105 years ago today, this Chamber did something truly historic: It passed the 19th Amendment to secure the right to vote for American women.

The amendment’s ratification by the States 1 year later marked the largest enfranchisement in U.S. history, extending the vote to 26 million Americans.

This incredible achievement fulfilled more than 70 years of tireless efforts by brave suffragists to make our country a more perfect Union, including many Tennessee women: Abbey Crawford Milton from Chattanooga, Ida B. Wells from Memphis, and Anne Dallas Dudley from Nashville.

On this anniversary, I am especially reminded of Febb Burn of Niota, TN. In the summer of 1920, the Tennessee General Assembly was in a heated debate about whether Tennessee would ratify the 19th Amendment. At the time, 35 States had already voted to ratify the amendment, so only 1 more was needed to make the 19th Amendment the law of the land.

On the day of the vote in Nashville, Febb Burn wrote a letter to her son, Harry Burn, the youngest member of the Tennessee State Legislature. She urged her son to support the amendment. She wrote:

Hurrah and vote for suffrage and don’t keep them in doubt.

At first, Harry pinned a red rose—the symbol of the anti-suffragist movement—to his shirt and voted to table the amendment in back-to-back deadlocked votes, but with his mother’s letter in his coat pocket, Harry ultimately listened to her advice, switched his vote, and switched to a yellow rose on that lapel, making Tennessee the 36th and final State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

As the first woman to represent Tennessee in the U.S. Senate, I have a special appreciation for the women who fought this fight, and I have worked to honor their legacy and advance their cause. But as we remember the suffragists on this anniversary, it is important to recognize that women are still fighting for a seat at the table and recognition for their achievements.

Look no further than the National Mall right here in our Nation’s Capital. This 2-mile stretch of land—America’s front yard, as it is known—honors our Nation’s history and ideals with monuments, memorials, and statues of incredible Americans who have made tremendous sacrifices to make our country a more perfect Union. Yet, among the 40 monuments, not 1 is dedicated to American women.

That is why, alongside Senator BALDWIN, I introduced the bipartisan Wom-

en’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act, which would finally secure a monument honoring women’s history on the National Mall. This monument will commemorate the women’s suffragist movement, the passage of the 19th Amendment, and the incredible women who fought to secure the vote for millions of Americans.

The House unanimously passed this legislation in November. Now the Senate should vote to make this memorial a reality and honor the giants who paved the way for generations of American women.

I urge every Member of this Chamber to join Senator BALDWIN and me in supporting the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues and the Presiding Officer, whom I thank for his leadership, in voicing my support for the Right to Contraception Act.

Truth be told, we shouldn’t be here debating this issue. We shouldn’t have to vote for legislation on it. Just 2 years ago, it would have been unimaginable that we would be turning the clock back not to the early 1970s, when Roe was decided, but to the 1960s, when the U.S. Supreme Court decided a case called *Griswold v. Connecticut*—yes, *Griswold v. Connecticut*—striking down the criminal prohibition against the use of contraception.

That decision had a profound impact on women and American families, and it was all to the good. It, in effect, struck down a prohibition that was disregarded widely but still followed, with consequences that were both tragic and detrimental to women’s health.

Now we are in an era that regards the unthinkable as perfectly realistic, when my Republican colleagues here and across the country are working to ban or restrict access to abortion care and attempting to limit the ability of families to have children through IVF. No one could have thought that was possible just a couple of years ago.

But in the post-Dobbs era, it is not only possible, it is common. *Griswold v. Connecticut* is still the law of the land, but it has been undercut deeply by Dobbs, and it has undermined the ability of families to decide when and whether to have children. We are talking here, not about abortion but about contraceptive care which gives women a chance to choose their own path in life and select their own timeline to pursue or continue an education or trade or advance further in the workforce. It gives them the freedom they

deserve as to when to have children as well as whether.

This decision is deeply personal. I shouldn't have to say it. It should be a matter of assumption, but politicians in this building and in State capitols around the country take on the right to make that decision for everyone else, not just themselves.

If my Republican colleagues really care about families and children, I would suggest they turn their attention to improving their lives in this world and support families rather than forcing people to have children that maybe they are not prepared to care for. And if they really care about women, how about maternal healthcare? I am struck by the fact—in fact, I am haunted by it—that maternal mortality rates in this country have actually been rising. Maternal mortality rates in the United States of America have been rising over recent years. It seems incomprehensible. Yes, we have cut infant mortality rates, but women still face heart disease, hemorrhage, infection, other kinds of complications, either before they give birth or within the year afterward and, of course, the mental health issues that can arise.

To my Republican colleagues, if you care about women, let's support the moms who decide to have children but leave to them the decision about whether and when.

In addition to determining their own futures, access to contraception is also access to critical healthcare. Since the landmark decision in Griswold, millions of women have safely used contraception to improve health outcomes for themselves, and birth control is revolutionary to anyone who has a life-threatening condition that prevents them from having a healthy pregnancy. Restricting access to birth control puts people in danger, preventable danger. Nearly 90 percent of women of reproductive age have used some form of birth control, and an overwhelming percentage of voters believe access to contraception is a basic right. It is a basic right.

Overturning Roe represented a significant regression in our law, in morality, in practical health outcome. In the blink of an eye, younger generations were set back before their moms in their basic rights and protection, their access to healthcare.

We have a responsibility in this body, at the pinnacle of our Federal system, to make sure that there is Federal protection against the attacks on reproductive care and ensure that generations of Americans don't have fewer rights than their parents. This bill is urgent in light of the continuing attack in State legislatures on women's access to healthcare and reproductive rights.

I wish we weren't here, but we are, and we need to do the right thing. My colleagues have a choice. They can either support a woman's right to access contraception or they can oppose this

bill and oppose that right. I think there really is no question about how that choice should be made, and I hope they will make it tomorrow when we vote on this measure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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 JEFF ANDRIEU

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Jeff Andrieu, a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard for his exemplary service and unwavering commitment. From his beginning as a civil engineer in the Louisiana Air Guard, to his current role as an Air National Guard military construction liaison, he has attained a mastery of the military construction process benefiting Congress, the Department of Defense, and the National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrieu has been a trusted adviser and source of knowledge bridging the conversation between the National Guard and Congress. During his time as a congressional liaison, he consistently demonstrated unparalleled commitment and his expert level knowledge was instrumental in advancing congressional objectives and intent regarding our military facilities. His commitment to excellence and his support of staff and the mission should be a model for all.

As Jeff transitions from the National Guard Bureau legislative liaison to his next assignment, I want to recognize him for over 26 years of distinguished service and wish him the best in his next chapter of service to our Nation. His presence here will be missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING FARMERS HEN HOUSE

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the 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 Farmers Hen House of Kalona, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1997, Eldon T. Miller started Farmers Hen House in Kalona. The business produced and distributed organically

grown eggs and partnered with three local Amish and Mennonite farms to create a pathway for farmers across Iowa to sell their eggs. Eldon is well known in the organic farming community and founded Organic Growers Group in 1995 to help farmers learn about organic farming and obtain organic grower certifications. In 2000, Eldon's neighbor Mark Miller acquired Farmers Hen House, and in 2004, Mark's son Ryan joined the company. Under Mark and Ryan Miller's leadership, the business has grown into a full-service producer, processor, and distributor of Iowa-grown eggs.

Today, Farmers Hen House works with over 90 farms to sell certified humane, organic, and free-range eggs. The business is dedicated to maintaining quality standards in their eggs and has a rigorous egg grading facility. In 2014, Farmers Hen House partnered with the Farmers Electric Cooperative to install solar panels at their processing facility, and it has been running entirely on solar power since 2016. Following Mark Miller's retirement in 2021, Ryan Miller became president of the business.

Ryan has led the way in implementing outreach for Farmers Hen House, collaborating with culinary experts to develop a variety of healthy egg recipes, creating a podcast called "The Scramble," and writing a community blog to inform farmers about sustainable farming techniques and other tips and tricks.

Farmers Hen House is an integral part of the community in Washington County. Along with educating and assisting local farmers, the business donates over 12,000 eggs a week to local food banks around the State. In 2023, the Federation Bank of Iowa spotlighted Farmers Hen House for their significant investment in Iowa and small local farms. The small business continues to modernize and emphasize the quality and sustainability of their eggs. Due to their hard work, Farmers Hen House will celebrate its 27th business anniversary this year.

Farmers Hen House's commitment to providing high-quality eggs in Kalona, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Mark and Ryan Miller, Eldon T. Miller, and the entire team at Farmers Hen House for their continued dedication to Iowans. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL WILEY M. POPE

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of Colonel Wiley M. Pope, who fought to free his family from slavery and secured the first emancipation in the history of Kansas.

In 1860, Colonel Pope fled from Mississippi to Kansas with his wife and 13 children. Because his wife was Black and his children were biracial, Mississippi law dictated that they could be seized from him and sold as slaves to

recover debts he owed. He approached Judge Chadwick of Lawrence, KS, to plead for protection from any law enforcement or bounty hunters that might have tried to capture his wife and children. Moved by Colonel Pope's struggle, Judge Chadwick granted the very first emancipation in Kansas 3 years before President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, ending slavery nationwide.

As free citizens, the Pope family became one of the five original families to settle in the town of Quindaro, KS. Before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the entire community banded together to ensure the Pope family was safe from harm and to help other escaped slaves who entered Kansas through an Underground Railroad route from Missouri. Although the town is no longer inhabited, the ruins of Quindaro still stand today as a monument to the abolition of slavery.

Though he died well over 100 years ago, Colonel Pope's descendants continue to carry on his legacy. His fifth granddaughter Lisa King serves as president of the Charles E. Pope Foundation, a nonprofit that seeks to empower people and businesses to thrive by rediscovering the love and bonds that encouraged their ancestors to seek freedom and build their community.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Wiley M. Pope, a man who overcame countless obstacles in search of freedom for his family.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ALVIN LYNCH

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, this month, I am proud to recognize U.S. Army Sergeant Alvin Lynch of Muscle Shoals. Born in Hamilton, AL, Alvin was drafted for the Vietnam War at age 21. He was deployed as part of the 82nd Airborne Division, participating in some of the most intense combat operations in Vietnam. Alvin was wounded in action, and had multiple brushes with death.

On one particular night, he decided to sleep on the small air mattress provided to him, instead of sleeping on the ground as he normally did. This decision to sleep on an air mattress would save his life. The mattress absorbed the blow of a piece of shrapnel from a nearby explosion, keeping it from hitting him instead. Another time, he escaped a battle in the jungle with a shoulder wound that left him in the hospital for 3 weeks. He was one of the few men in his platoon to survive the encounter.

Alvin credits the prayers of his wife and local church members for bringing him home safely. He received several awards for his heroism, including a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. For more than 40 years, he has been providing heating and cooling services to The Shoals region.

In 1981, he began working at C & H Cooling and Heating. He bought the business in 2006 with a friend and still

runs it today. Alvin credits the military for teaching him discipline and how to deal with stressful situations that businessowners often experience. But the most important thing Alvin took away from his time in the military is his faith, and he does not shy away from sharing his testimony with others.

Alvin is now actively involved in Grace Life Church in Muscle Shoals, where he serves as an elder. Alabama is thankful for Alvin, and it is my honor to recognize him as the June Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1098. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office".

H.R. 1555. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the "Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 1687. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6444 San Fernando Road in Glendale, California, as the "Paul Ignatius Post Office".

H.R. 1823. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3608. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the "Major Megan McClung Post Office Building".

H.R. 5034. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2119 Market Square in Christiansted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, as the "Lieutenant General Samuel E. Ebbesen Post Office".

H.R. 5476. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office".

H.R. 5640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland,

Ohio, as the "Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building".

H.R. 5712. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the "Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building".

H.R. 5985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the "Charleetta Reece Allen Post Office Building".

H.R. 6073. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building".

H.R. 6188. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the "Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building".

H.R. 6651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the "Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building".

H.R. 6750. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the "Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 6810. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the "U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building".

H.R. 6983. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the "Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office".

H.R. 7180. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the "Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office".

H.R. 7192. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the "Dr. William I. 'Bill' Kott Post Office Building".

H.R. 7199. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the "Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office".

H.R. 7417. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the "Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building".

H.R. 7606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the "Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building".

H.R. 7607. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the "George Henry White Post Office Building".

H.R. 7893. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the "Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1098. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the “Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1555. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the “Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1687. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6444 San Fernando Road in Glendale, California, as the “Paul Ignatius Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1823. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the “Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3608. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the “Major Megan McClung Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5034. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2119 Market Square in Christiansted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, as the “Lieutenant General Samuel E. Ebbesen Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5476. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the “Susan C. Barnhart Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the “Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5712. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the “Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the “Charlesetta Reece Allen Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6073. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6188. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the “Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the “Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6750. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the “Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6810. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the “U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6983. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the “Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 7180. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the “Kingsland ‘Johnny Cash’ Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 7192. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the “Dr. William I. ‘Bill’ Kott Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 7199. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the “Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 7417. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the “Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 7606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the “Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 7607. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the “George Henry White Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 7893. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the “Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4445. A bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

H.R. 192. An act to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4447. A bill to allow women greater access to safe and effective oral contraceptive

drugs intended for routine use, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on Federal funding of contraceptive methods.

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-4840. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Loan Guarantees for Clean Energy Projects” (RIN1901-AB59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4841. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Ten-Day Notices and Corrective Action for State Regulatory Program Issues” ((RIN1029-AC81) (Docket ID OSM-2022-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4842. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4843. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Air-Cooled, Evaporatively-Cooled, and Water-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps” (RIN1904-AD93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4844. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Applications for Permits to Site Interstate Electric Transmission Facilities” ((RIN1902-AG08) (Docket No. RM22-7-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4845. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Air-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps” (RIN1904-AF34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4846. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for General Service Lamps *Note: DOE submitted this rule to the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024, consistent with 5 U.S.C. 801(a), but receipt was not recorded in the Congressional Record. DOE is resubmitting this rule out of an abundance of caution to facilitate its proper recording in the Congressional Record.” (RIN1904-AF43) received

in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4847. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Attorney General's Second Quarterly Report of Fiscal Year 2024 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4848. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluation for the Nuclear Energy Institute Topical Report, NEI 16-03-A Rev. 1, 'Guidance for Monitoring of Fixed Neutron Absorbers in Spent Fuel Pools' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4849. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress: Training and Technical Assistance for Rural Small and Tribal Municipalities and Wastewater Treatment Systems for Clean Water Act Prevention, Reduction and Elimination of Pollution"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4850. 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 "Regulations Governing Take of Migratory Birds; Revocation of Provisions" (RIN1018-BD76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4851. A communication from the Policy Advisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drain Tile Setbacks" (RIN1018-BG80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4852. 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 of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(I), Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Asbestos Management and Control; State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services" (FRL No. 10522-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4853. 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 Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions" ((RIN2040-AG14) (FRL No. 8464-01-OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4854. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes under the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program in Commercial and Industrial Refrigeration" ((RIN2060-AV77) (FRL No. 10125-02-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4855. 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 Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period" (FRL No. 10121-02-R2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4856. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS" ((RIN2060-AU84) (FRL No. 10021-34-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4857. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adoption and Submittal of State Plans for Designated Facilities: Implementing Regulations Under Clean Air Act Section 111(d)" ((RIN2060-AV48) (FRL No. 8606-01-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4858. 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: Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities Residual Risk and Technology Review" ((RIN2060-AU37) (FRL No. 7055-02-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4859. 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; KY; Updates to Attainment Status Designations" (FRL No. 11850-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4860. 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 for Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks, and Coke Oven Batteries; Residual Risk and Technology Review, and Periodic Technology Review" ((RIN2060-AV19) (FRL No. 8471-02-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4861. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Preparer Tax Identification Number User Fee Update" ((RIN1545-BQ77) (RIN1545-BQ78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4862. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmit-

ting legislative proposals that support the President's fiscal year 2025 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4863. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting legislative proposals that support the President's fiscal year 2025 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4864. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Phase-in Period for the Enforcement and Administration of Section 871(m)" (Notice 2024-44) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4865. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Domestic Content Bonus Credit Amounts under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: Expansion of Applicable Projects for Safe Harbor in Notice 2023-38 and New Elective Safe Harbor to Determine Cost Percentages for Adjusted Percentage Rule" (Notice 2024-41) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4866. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2023 Report to Congress—Annual Update: Identification of Quality Measurement Priorities and Associated Funding for the Consensus-Based Entity and Other Entities"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4867. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2021 Annual Report to Congress on the Child Support Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4868. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's 2024 Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4869. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 45Y Clean Electricity Production Credit and Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Credit" (RIN1545-BR17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4870. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exchange Visitor Program-General Provisions" (RIN1400-AC36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4871. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4872. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second

session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4873. A communication from the Principal Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4874. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ecuador in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-071); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4875. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-026); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4876. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 506(a) (1) and Section 614(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4877. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination and Certification of Countries That Are Not Fully Cooperating with U.S. Anti-Terrorism Efforts"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4878. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2006-06 for Services Provided in Connection With the Termination of Abandoned Individual Account Plans" (RIN1210-ZA20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4879. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2025 Report Providing Estimate for Claims Arising out of Volunteer Services Provided by Health Professionals at Free Clinics"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4880. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Assets for Independence Program Report to Congress: Status at the Conclusion of the Twentieth Year, Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4881. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abandoned Plan Regulations" (RIN1210-AC04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4882. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance and Independent, Noncoordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage" (RIN1545-BQ28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4883. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazard Communication Standard" (RIN1218-AD93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4884. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to the Provision of Health Care for World War II Veterans" (RIN2900-AS01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4885. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4886. A communication from the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4887. A communication from the Chief of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Population Estimates Challenge Program" (RIN0607-AA60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4888. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4889. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4890. A communication from the Acting Director, Healthcare and Insurance, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Postal Service Reform Act; Establishment of the Postal Service Health Benefits Program" (RIN3206-AO43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4891. A communication from the Acting Director, General Counsel and Legal Policy Division, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modernization Updates to Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch" (RIN3209-AA43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Of-

fice of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4892. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administrator's Semiannual Management Report to Congress for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4893. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4894. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting legislative proposals that support the President's fiscal year 2025 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4895. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2023 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4896. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4897. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4898. A communication from the Principal Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4899. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4900. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, a legislative proposal intended to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of program operations by providing OPM with the necessary resources to develop and maintain centralized health insurance eligibility and enrollment systems; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4901. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4902. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National

Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

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

*Judy W. Chang, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

*David Rosner, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2027.

*Lindsay S. See, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4446. A bill to amend the National Construction Safety Team Act to enable the National Institute of Standards and Technology to investigate structures other than buildings to inform the development of engineering standards, best practices, and building codes related to such structures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4447. A bill to allow women greater access to safe and effective oral contraceptive drugs intended for routine use, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on Federal funding of contraceptive methods; read the first time.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 4448. A bill to provide for the automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4449. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments in the State of Oregon as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 4450. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide education assistance to public safety of-

ficers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4451. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to carry out a study on reservation systems for Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 4452. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of children purchasing food items from frozen dessert trucks; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 4453. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to implement recommendations from the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service for decreasing instances of delayed mail and improving staffing and training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4454. A bill to provide for the establishment of an Operational Flexibility Grazing Management Program on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 4455. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports containing adverse items of information about a consumer that resulted from that consumer being unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 4456. A bill to amend the Granger-Thye Act to modify the maximum term for certain special use permits for housing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 4457. A bill to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4458. A bill to reauthorize the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LEE, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S.J. Res. 91. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting"; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. LEE):

S. Res. 718. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Government should immediately place a moratorium on all federally funded gain-of-function research given the increased safety concerns; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. Res. 719. A resolution designating June 13, 2024, as "National Seersucker Day", designating every Thursday after National Seersucker Day through the last Thursday in August 2024 as "Seersucker Thursday", and designating June 2024 as "Seersucker Appreciation Month"; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 720. A resolution congratulating Trine University men's basketball team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Basketball National Championship; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 721. A resolution congratulating the Grace College Lancers women's basketball team for winning the 2024 National Christian College Athletic Association Division I National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. ERNST, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 722. A resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 723. A resolution celebrating 40 years of Universal Design for Learning; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 724. A resolution designating May 2024 as "National Brain Tumor Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 216

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S.

216, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 722

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of 529 accounts.

S. 786

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1024, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1527

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1840

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1840, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, and for other purposes.

S. 1960

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1960, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2477, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to clarify that, in awarding funding under title X of the Public Health Service Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may not discriminate against eligible States, individuals, or other entities for refusing to counsel or refer for abortions.

S. 2647

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2647, a bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

S. 2948

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2948, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue guidance and regulations regarding opioid overdose

reversal medication and employee training.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3183

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3183, a bill to consider, for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act, that officers, officials, representatives, spokespersons, and members of Hamas, Palestine Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS, and individuals who endorse or espouse terrorist activities conducted by such organizations are engaged in terrorist activity.

S. 3528

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3528, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish the position of Coordinator for Disabled Small Business Concerns within the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 3530

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3530, a bill to retain Federal employees who are spouses of a member of the Armed Forces or the Foreign Service when relocating due to an involuntary transfer, and for other purposes.

S. 3604

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3604, a bill to amend title 1, United States Code, to clarify that certain tax exemptions are not treated as Federal financial assistance.

S. 3770

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3770, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in increasing the number of nursing students and faculty and in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, and for other purposes.

S. 3984

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3984, a bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center.

S. 4075

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4075, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 4252

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4252, a bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to establish additional payments for unborn livestock under the livestock indemnity payment program.

S. 4255

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4255, a bill to modernize Federal firearms laws to account for advancements in technology and less-than-lethal weapons, and for other purposes.

S. 4275

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4275, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 4322

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4322, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements relating to the designation of rural emergency hospitals.

S. 4374

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4374, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include screening for loneliness and coordination of supportive services and health care to address the negative health effects of loneliness, to require a report on loneliness, and for other purposes.

S. 4425

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4425, a bill to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, and for other purposes.

S. 4445

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr.

FETTERMAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4445, a bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

S.J. RES. 79

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 79, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Retirement Security Rule: Definition of an Investment Advice Fiduciary".

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution relating to the establishment of a means for the Senate to provide advice and consent regarding the form of an international agreement relating to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

S. RES. 703

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 703, a resolution designating a day in May 2024, as "Disability Reproductive Equity Day".

S. RES. 712

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 712, a resolution des-

ignating May 2024 as "Older Americans Month".

S. RES. 717

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 717, a resolution calling on the Biden Administration to pursue censure of Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), refer the issue to the United Nations Security Council, and reaffirm that all measures will be taken to prevent the regime in Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 718—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY PLACE A MORATORIUM ON ALL FEDERALLY FUNDED GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH GIVEN THE INCREASED SAFETY CONCERNS

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 718

Whereas the Obama Administration defined gain-of-function studies as research that aims to increase the ability of infectious agents to cause disease by enhancing its pathogenicity or by increasing its transmissibility;

Whereas the Obama Administration, on October 17, 2014, mandated a Federal Government pause on new gain-of-function research, citing recent concerns regarding biosafety and biosecurity;

Whereas the Obama Administration, on October 17, 2014, stated that new Federal funding will not be released for gain-of-function research projects that may be reasonably anticipated to confer attributes to the influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome (referred to in this preamble as "MERS"), or severe acute respiratory syndrome (referred to in this preamble as "SARS") viruses such that such a virus would have enhanced pathogenicity or transmissibility in mammals via the respiratory route;

Whereas in the lead up to the Obama Administration pausing new gain-of-function research, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted an increase in accidents involving leaks, spills, or other releases of infectious material inside the laboratories receiving Federal funding;

Whereas the Cambridge Working Group, a consortium of some of the leading international researchers and scientists, released a 2014 open letter stating "experiments involving the creation of potential pandemic pathogens should be curtailed until there has been a quantitative, objective and credible assessment of the risks, potential benefits, and opportunities for risk mitigation, as well as comparison against safer experimental approaches.";

Whereas in 2014, after the Obama Administration mandated a pause on gain-of-function research, the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this preamble as

“NIH”), led by Francis Collins, including the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (referred to in this preamble as “NIAID”), led by Anthony Fauci, continued to authorize grants and research awards to organizations that study the spread of viruses from animals to humans;

Whereas some such awards went to EcoHealth Alliance and its President, Peter Daszak, who then disbursed research money to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (referred to in this preamble as the “WIV”) and East China Normal University;

Whereas experiments advanced by EcoHealth Alliance during the pause included, among other projects, combining genetic material from a “parent” coronavirus, known as WIV1, with other viruses;

Whereas the results of such experiments demonstrated varying pathogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 with different spike proteins in humanized mice;

Whereas a majority of scientists and researchers, including Dr. Lawrence Tabak and Dr. Ralph Baric, an EcoHealth Alliance collaborator and top coronavirus expert, when made aware of such experiment, admitted that EcoHealth Alliance’s coronavirus research appeared to meet the standard criteria for gain-of-function research;

Whereas NIH and NIAID continued to support EcoHealth Alliance and other organizations conducting gain-of-function research, according to the Obama Administration’s definition, through 2017, even though the pause remained in effect;

Whereas on July 7, 2016, NIAID identified possible gain-of-function research concerns in an experiment proposed by EcoHealth and conducted by the WIV;

Whereas in May 2021, Anthony Fauci conceded that during the period between 2014 and 2017 that “it is impossible to guarantee that researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology did not use American funds to perform gain-of-function research on coronaviruses.”;

Whereas Anthony Fauci and NIAID did not alert senior White House officials before lifting a ban on gain-of-function research in 2017;

Whereas in November 2019, 3 researchers from the WIV became sick enough to receive hospital care, and according to United States officials, those sick researchers were involved in coronavirus research;

Whereas the Chinese government deliberately delayed notifying the World Health Organization that it had detected SARS-like infections from an unknown, novel pathogen well before it sent official notification in December 2019;

Whereas on April 24, 2020, NIH instructed EcoHealth to terminate all funding to the WIV, and NIH terminated the WIV’s entire sub-grant award;

Whereas in July 2020, NIH, having procedurally erred in its April 2020 termination of EcoHealth’s grant, reinstated and then immediately suspended EcoHealth’s grant while requiring EcoHealth to meet certain conditions, such as obtaining a sample of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that the Wuhan lab used to determine its genetic sequence and arranging for an independent team to examine the Wuhan lab and determine whether it had possession of the SARS-CoV-2 virus prior to December 2019;

Whereas Peter Daszak reacted to those conditions by calling them “preposterous”;

Whereas based on tips from the scientific community that suspected EcoHealth’s science research at the WIV may have caused the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, NIH investigated EcoHealth’s compliance with its grant agreement terms, including the gain-of-function provisions in June 2016 and again

from April 2020 to April 2023 and concluded that EcoHealth was noncompliant;

Whereas in October 2021, NIH acknowledged to Congress that EcoHealth Alliance did not have access to laboratory notebooks or other records supporting its research, even though keeping such records was a requirement of the NIH grant;

Whereas although EcoHealth’s Year 5 Research Performance Progress Report for its research activities was due to NIH in September 2019, EcoHealth did not submit the report until August 3, 2021;

Whereas on October 20, 2021, it was revealed that an experiment in EcoHealth’s Year 5 Progress Report (for research between June 2018 and May 2019) exhibited virus growth greater than one log, thus constituting gain-of-function research, which should have triggered immediate suspension and reporting to NIAID according to contract agreements;

Whereas instead of EcoHealth taking either action, EcoHealth used language in its report that obfuscated the severity and timing of the gain-of-function experiments, which contradicted the Obama-era pause on gain-of-function research and the additional terms of agreement NIH added to EcoHealth’s grant in June 2016;

Whereas in October 2021, NIH updated the definition of gain-of-function research to focus more on enhanced pandemic potential pathogens (referred to in this preamble as “ePPP”), which meant that because the majority of gain-of-function research does not include ePPPs, once considered gain-of-function research now fell outside the scope of the stricter oversight required for ePPP studies;

Whereas NIH determined that no evidence existed to support the testimony Peter Daszak gave to Congress on November 14, 2023, that EcoHealth was prevented from submitting its Year 5 Research Performance Progress Report to NIH due to a technical problem in NIH’s system;

Whereas in April 2023, when NIH reinstated EcoHealth’s suspended grant and imposed new conditions, NIH stated that it was executing a corrective action plan to EcoHealth that satisfied NIH’s compliance efforts regarding gain-of-function research;

Whereas as part of the April 2023 reinstatement, EcoHealth pledged it would not perform work in, or with, Chinese-affiliated institutions;

Whereas the prime reasoning for EcoHealth’s reinstatement was EcoHealth’s representation to NIAID that EcoHealth had access to sequences and samples that were required to be supplied to the Federal Government as a condition of receiving Federal grants, which still needed analysis;

Whereas EcoHealth was not forthcoming and failed to disclose to NIAID that those samples were stored in China at the WIV, which was EcoHealth’s subcontractor that conducted the coronavirus gain-of-function research that could have caused the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas as of new guidance issued in May 2024, the Biden Administration removed avian influenza and current forms of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, from the category of pathogens of pandemic potential, thus excluding them from updated rules governing gain-of-function research;

Whereas effective May 14, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services (referred to in this preamble as “HHS”) announced it would commence official debarment proceedings against EcoHealth Alliance and implement a government-wide suspension of United States taxpayer funds to include a hold on all active grants;

Whereas on May 21, 2024, HHS, in an effort to protect public interest, suspended and rec-

ommended debarment of Peter Daszak’s individual ability to receive any Federal funds;

Whereas both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Energy have assessed that the COVID-19 pandemic was a result of a lab leak from the WIV;

Whereas the majority members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives (referred to in this preamble as the “Subcommittee”) reported that EcoHealth’s actions were often enabled by NIH and NIAID and the failures of NIH and NIAID to properly oversee EcoHealth’s research projects;

Whereas the majority members of the Subcommittee found that EcoHealth’s actions were often enabled by the lack of grant management and oversight by NIH and NIAID; and

Whereas the majority members of the Subcommittee believe that such NIH and NIAID grant management oversight failures necessitate both Congressional and Executive action to increase transparency and grantee oversight: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should immediately enact the Viral Gain-of-Function Research Moratorium Act (S. 81, 118th Congress, as introduced on January 25, 2023), which would—

(1) define gain-of-function research as any research that—

(A) could confer attributes to the influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome, or severe acute respiratory syndrome viruses such that such a virus would have enhanced pathogenicity or transmissibility in any organism; or

(B) involves methods that could enhance potential pandemic pathogens or related risky research with potentially dangerous pathogens; and

(2) prohibit, notwithstanding any other provision of law, research grants supported by Federal funds from being awarded to institutions of higher education, or other research organizations, that are conducting gain-of-function research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 719—DESIGNATING JUNE 13, 2024, AS “NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY” , DESIGNATING EVERY THURSDAY AFTER NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY THROUGH THE LAST THURSDAY IN AUGUST 2024 AS “SEERSUCKER THURSDAY” , AND DESIGNATING JUNE 2024 AS “SEERSUCKER APPRECIATION MONTH”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 719

Whereas seersucker was introduced to the United States in the South in the middle of the 19th century;

Whereas seersucker suits were popularized in the United States in the early 1900s by New Orleans businessman Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas, as a lightweight, hard-wearing fabric, seersucker is mostly worn and enjoyed by the people of the United States during hot summer months;

Whereas former Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi brought Seersucker Thursday to Congress in 1996, and after the day went unobserved in 2012 and 2013, then-Representative Bill Cassidy, with the help of the late

Senator Dianne Feinstein, revived the tradition in 2014;

Whereas the Senate will remember the late Senator Dianne Feinstein's historic service as she shall forever remain a part of this tradition, which Senator Raphael Warnock will continue in her stead;

Whereas the name "seersucker" originates from the Persian phrase "shir-o-shakar", meaning "milk and sugar", alluding to the alternating textures of the fabric;

Whereas the seersucker textile is made of cotton, linen, or silk (or combinations thereof), woven on a loom with threads at different tensions, creating alternating stripes of smooth and puckered textures that do not lay flat on one's skin, which is what makes the fabric so breathable;

Whereas cotton is an important crop that producers in the United States, including 3,500 family farms in Georgia, strive to cultivate in the highest quality; and

Whereas one of the 2 alternating stripes in seersucker is frequently in a color, typically blue, but sometimes gray, green, tan, red, pink, or another color, which, in combination with the white stripes, creates the iconic pattern so well known today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 13, 2024, as "National Seersucker Day";

(2) designates every Thursday after National Seersucker Day through the last Thursday in August 2024 as "Seersucker Thursday";

(3) designates June 2024 as "Seersucker Appreciation Month";

(4) recognizes the contributions of the hard-working people of the United States through the wearing of seersucker, the unique warm weather clothing known as the working person's uniform;

(5) encourages Senators to support the objective of National Seersucker Day and Seersucker Thursday;

(6) encourages local governments in the United States to build partnerships with local organizations and other members of the clothing industries and enthusiasts to promote the wearing of seersucker; and

(7) invites the people of the United States to don their warm weather finest on National Seersucker Day and every Seersucker Thursday.

SENATE RESOLUTION 720—CONGRATULATING TRINE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. YOUNG (for Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 720

Whereas, on March 16, 2024, the Trine University men's basketball team (referred to in this resolution as the "Thunder") won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III National Championship at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana;

Whereas, in its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance, Trine University was selected as an at-large team and subsequently hosted the first and second weekends of the tournament, culminating in its championship win;

Whereas Head Coach Brooks Miller has excelled during his 13 seasons with Trine University, having—

(1) been named the 2023–2024 Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches;

(2) a coaching record of 226 wins to 116 losses;

(3) led the program to its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance; and

(4) led the program to its first-ever NCAA Division III National Championship after a season record of 29 wins to 4 losses;

Whereas Head Coach Brooks Miller has been supported by assistant coaches and staff;

Whereas senior guard Cortez Garland gave an outstanding performance and was selected as the Most Outstanding Player, having led the team with 22 points in the championship game, scoring 17 points in the second half;

Whereas, in the championship game, sophomore Nate Tucker scored 13 points, junior Aidan Smylie scored 12 points, junior Drew Moore scored 10 points, and senior Emmanuel Megnanglo pulled down a team-high of 8 rebounds, and the trio of Garland, Tucker, and Smylie were named to the All-Tournament Team; and

Whereas the contributions of the players, coaches, support staff, and the entire Trine University community were instrumental in achieving this historic victory and provide inspiration for future generations of young athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Trine University men's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III National Championship; and

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to Trine University's triumph.

SENATE RESOLUTION 721—CONGRATULATING THE GRACE COLLEGE LANCERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. YOUNG (for Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 721

Whereas, on March 23, 2024, the Grace College Lancers women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Lancers") won the 2024 National Christian College Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as "NCCAA") Division I National Championship in Winona Lake, Indiana;

Whereas, junior Peyton Murphy was named to the all-tournament team for her performance in the 2024 NCCAA Division I tournament;

Whereas senior Maddie Ryman was named the tournament Most Outstanding Player;

Whereas head coach Dan Davis has excelled during his 6 seasons with the Lancers;

Whereas head coach Dan Davis has been aided by assistant coaches and staff;

Whereas the Lancers are supported by members of the Grace College Athletics Department;

Whereas the 2024 National Championship victory marked the first national title for the Lancers;

Whereas the Lancers emerged from the semi-finals with a dramatic and close victory over the Oakland City University Mighty Oaks;

Whereas the 2024 National Championship victory was the final game of the 15-year

span of the role of Grace College as host of the NCCAA Division I National Championship; and

Whereas the tradition of the Lancers of excelling in both athletics and academics continues to advance the sport of women's basketball and provide inspiration for future generations of young athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Grace College Lancers women's basketball team for its victory in the National Christian College Athletic Association Division I National Championship; and

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players and coaches of the Grace College Lancers women's basketball team, and students, alumni, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of Grace College in the National Christian College Athletic Association 2024 Division I National Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 722—EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE SENATE FOR THE ACTS OF HEROISM AND VALOR BY THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 6, 1944, AMPHIBIOUS LANDING AT NORMANDY, FRANCE, AND COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS FOR LEADERSHIP AND BRAVERY IN AN OPERATION THAT HELPED BRING AN END TO WORLD WAR II

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. ERNST, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 722

Whereas, June 6, 2024, marks the 80th anniversary of the Allied assault at Normandy, France, by troops of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Free France, known as "Operation Overlord";

Whereas, before Operation Overlord, the German Army still occupied France and the Nazi government still had access to the raw materials and industrial capacity of Western Europe;

Whereas the naval phase of the Allied assault at Normandy was code-named "Operation Neptune", and the date of June 6, 1944, is referred to as "D-Day" to denote the day on which the combat attack was initiated;

Whereas the D-Day landing was the largest combined arms amphibious assault in history, consisting of—

- (1) approximately 132,600 members of the Allied Expeditionary Force, including 57,500 members of the United States Armed Forces;
- (2) more than 23,000 airborne troops supporting the seaborne landings;
- (3) approximately 7,000 naval vessels; and
- (4) more than 14,000 sorties by Allied aircraft;

Whereas soldiers of 6 divisions (3 from the United States, 2 from the United Kingdom, which included troops of Free France, and 1 from Canada) and 3 British armored brigades stormed ashore in 5 main landing areas on beaches in Normandy, which were code-named “Utah”, “Omaha”, “Gold”, “Juno”, and “Sword”;

Whereas, of the approximately 10,000 Allied casualties incurred on the first day of the landing, more than 6,000 were members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Allied assault and following operations were supported by ships, aircraft, and troops from Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Free Norway, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the Polish Armed Forces in the West;

Whereas the advanced age of the last remaining veterans of, and the gradual disappearance of any living memory of, World War II and the Normandy landings make it necessary to increase activities intended to pass on the history of those events, particularly to younger generations;

Whereas the young people of Normandy and the United States have displayed unprecedented commitment to, and involvement in, celebrating—

- (1) the veterans of the Normandy landings; and
- (2) the freedom brought by those veterans in 1944;

Whereas the significant material remains of the Normandy landings found on the Normandy beaches and at the bottom of the sea in the territorial waters of France, such as shipwrecks and various items of military equipment, bear witness to the remarkable and unique nature of the material resources used by the Allied forces to execute the Normandy landings;

Whereas 5 Normandy beaches and a number of sites on the Normandy coast, including Pointe du Hoc, were the scene of the D-Day landings and constitute, and will for all time constitute—

- (1) a unique piece of world heritage; and
- (2) a symbol of peace and freedom, the unspoiled nature, integrity, and authenticity of which must be protected at all costs; and

Whereas the world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the “Greatest Generation” who assumed the task of freeing the world from Nazi and Fascist regimes and restoring liberty to Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 80th anniversary of the amphibious landing of the Allies on D-Day, June 6, 1944, at Normandy, France, during World War II;

(2) expresses gratitude and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the D-Day operations;

(3) thanks the young people of Normandy and the United States for their involvement in events celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings with the aim of making future generations aware of the acts of heroism and sacrifice performed by the Allied forces;

(4) recognizes the efforts of France and the people of Normandy to preserve for future generations the unique world heritage represented by the Normandy beaches and the

sunken material remains of the Normandy landings by inscribing those beaches and remains on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List; and

(5) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings with appropriate ceremonies and programs to honor the sacrifices made by their fellow countrymen to liberate Europe.

SENATE RESOLUTION 723—CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 723

Whereas, in 1975, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142; 89 Stat. 773), later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), to support States and localities in protecting the rights of, and meeting the individual needs of, infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, and their families;

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) has helped students with disabilities receive an education in neighborhood schools, rather than in separate schools and institutions, and efforts have since grown to make education programs more effective and inclusive for all learners;

Whereas, in 1984, uniform Federal accessibility standards were established to improve access to, and function of, public walkways, transportation, housing, and other public services;

Whereas Federal accessibility standards for Universal Design for Learning help ensure that all people can use public services to the greatest extent possible without the need for adaptation, specialization, or retrofitting;

Whereas dedicated education researchers, neuroscientists, and experts in child development have applied the principles of Universal Design for Learning to educational settings by exploring ways to use new technologies, flexible methods, and varied learning materials to provide better educational experiences for students with disabilities;

Whereas the Universal Design for Learning framework—

(1) is intentional in ensuring that learning experiences and environments harness technology, the learning sciences, and instructional practices to remove barriers to learning in all settings, such as physical, digital, or blended, and recognizes that not all individuals learn in the same way;

(2) is based on the 3 principles of multiple means of engagement, multiple representations of content or recognition, and multiple means of action and expression;

(3) supports creating flexible learning environments and experiences that anticipate learner variability and acknowledge that variability across all learners is the norm rather than the exception; and

(4) supports educators in their professional learning and application of new skills in all K-16 teaching environments, including general and special education, career and technical education, and science, technology, engineering, and math;

Whereas Congress has recognized the value of Universal Design for Learning in—

(1) the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315; 122 Stat. 3078);

(2) the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802);

(3) the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.); and

(4) the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Public Law 115-224; 132 Stat. 1563); and

Whereas the Department of Education, Department of Labor, and National Science Foundation, in partnership with public and private organizations and State and local entities, demonstrate the principles of Universal Design for Learning through programs and initiatives—

(1) to support the professional learning of K-16 administrators and classroom instructors in general education, special education, English language education, career and technical education, and science, technology, engineering and math education;

(2) to expand educational opportunity and reengage youth, young adult, and adult learners with significant or multiple barriers to learning;

(3) to increase postsecondary opportunities for adults seeking new or expanded opportunities and completion of 2-year and 4-year career and technical education, and science, technology, engineering, and math programs;

(4) to expand the knowledge of postsecondary and career and technical education faculty and adult literacy instructors of Universal Design for Learning to ensure greater engagement and success of adult learners;

(5) to strengthen K-16 and adult learning experiences and improve education and career outcomes through use of blended learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the important role of Universal Design for Learning in professional development for all educators to help break down barriers to learning for all children, youth, and adults;

(2) commends the leadership, innovation, and commitment of several generations of researchers, educators, parents, and others committed to expanding access and opportunity to education and employment for all individuals, including those historically marginalized due to race, language, income, or disability; and

(3) celebrates 40 years of innovative research and practice leading to the creation and widespread adoption of Universal Design for Learning in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 724—DESIGNATING MAY 2024 AS “NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 724

Whereas it is estimated that more than 90,000 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with a primary brain tumor in 2024, and an estimated 94,390 individuals in the United States were diagnosed with a primary brain tumor in 2023;

Whereas it's estimated that more than 1,000,000 individuals are living with a brain tumor in the United States;

Whereas, in the United States, brain tumors are—

(1) the leading cause of death from cancer in children who are under 14 years of age and teens who are under 19 years of age; and

(2) the second-leading cause of death from cancer in young adults who are between 15 and 39 years of age;

Whereas the average 5-year survival rate for an individual in the United States following the diagnosis of a primary malignant brain tumor is only 35.7 percent;

Whereas it is estimated that 18,870 individuals in the United States will die as a result of a malignant brain tumor in 2024;

Whereas brain tumors may be malignant or benign, but can be life-threatening in either case;

Whereas treatment of brain tumors is complicated by the fact that more than 100 types of brain tumors exist;

Whereas the treatment and removal of brain tumors present significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain;

Whereas brain tumors affect the primary organ in the human body that controls not only cognitive ability, but the actions of every other organ and limb in the body, leading to brain tumors being described as a disease that affects the whole individual;

Whereas brain tumor research is supported by several private, nonprofit research foundations and by Federal medical research institutions;

Whereas basic research may fuel advancements and the development of new treatments for brain tumors;

Whereas obstacles to the development of new treatments for brain tumors remain and there are limited strategies for the screening or early detection of brain tumors;

Whereas, despite the high number of individuals diagnosed with a brain tumor every year and the devastating prognosis for those individuals, only a few treatments have been approved for malignant brain tumors since the 1980s;

Whereas none of the treatments for malignant brain tumors extend survival by more than 2 years on average or are considered to be curative;

Whereas the mortality rates associated with brain tumors have changed little during the 30 years preceding the date of introduction of this resolution;

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of brain tumors, including the difficulties associated with research on brain tumors and the opportunities for advances in brain tumor research and treatment; and

Whereas May 2024, during which brain tumor advocates nationwide unite in awareness, outreach, and advocacy activities, is an appropriate month to recognize as “National Brain Tumor Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2024 as “National Brain Tumor Awareness Month”;

(2) encourages increased public awareness of brain tumors to honor the individuals who have lost their lives to a brain tumor or currently live with a brain tumor diagnosis;

(3) supports efforts to develop better treatments for brain tumors that will improve the quality of life and the long-term prognosis of individuals diagnosed with a brain tumor;

(4) expresses its support for individuals who are battling brain tumors, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers of those individuals; and

(5) urges a collaborative approach to brain tumor research, which is a promising means of advancing understanding of, and treatment for, brain tumors.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2071. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4381, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2072. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for Mr. TILLIS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3237, to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to ensure claimants are adequately informed regarding filing a Federal cause of action.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2071. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4381, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ ACCURATE VITAL STATISTICS DATA FOR ACCESS TO CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this section as the “Director”), in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, State, local, Tribal and territorial health officials, and relevant stakeholders, shall update—

(1) the United States Standard Certificate of Live Birth to include attempted abortion as a method of delivery; and

(2) abortion surveillance data collection tools to include data on attempted abortions that resulted in a live birth.

(b) GUIDANCE.—The Director shall develop and issue guidance and training materials to facilitate adoption of the updates under subsection (a) by State, local, Tribal, and territorial health officials and relevant health care entities.

(c) REFERRAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Director, shall develop a program for abortion survivors identified by States and territories through vital statistics and data collection tools described in subsection (a) to enable such States and territories to connect such survivors with applicable Federal programs related to the provision of health care and social services for vulnerable newborn and infant children.

SA 2072. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for Mr. TILLIS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3237, to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to ensure claimants are adequately informed regarding filing a Federal cause of action; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Patriot Bill of Rights”.

SEC. 2. INFORMATION REGARDING VETERANS' BENEFITS TO VETERANS BRINGING FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION RELATING TO WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—

“(1) GUIDANCE AND ADVICE SERVICES.—A veteran, or the legal representative of a veteran, bringing a cause of action under sub-

section (b) shall sign a written acknowledgment, provided by the attorney, indicating that the veteran or legal representative bringing the action understands that the veteran or legal representative may seek guidance and advice on any disability awards, payments, or benefits, in addition to and separate from rights provided under this Act, to which the veteran may be entitled under any program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, free of charge from—

“(A) organizations recognized under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code;

“(B) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

“(C) the congressional representatives of the individual or legal representative.

“(2) APPLICATION TO PENDING MATTERS.—For any cause of action brought under subsection (b) that is pending on the date of enactment of this subsection, not later than 90 days after such date of enactment, the veteran bringing the action, the legal representative of the veteran, or the attorney for the veteran or legal representative, as applicable, shall file the acknowledgments described in paragraph (1).”.

(b) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of the amendment made by subsection (a), or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of the amendment made by subsection (a), the other provisions of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.), and the application of the provision of the amendment made by subsection (a) held to be unconstitutional to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader and jointly with the Speaker of the House, pursuant to Public Law 117-263, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as Co-Chairperson of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: The Honorable BILL HAGERTY of Tennessee (Co-Chairperson).

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 4447

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4447) to allow women greater access to safe and effective oral contraceptive drugs intended for routine use, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on Federal funding of contraceptive methods.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 719, S. Res. 720, S. Res. 721, S. Res. 722, S. Res. 723, S. Res. 724.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to. The preambles were agreed to. (The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF EVAN GERSHKOVICH

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 378, S. Res. 385.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 385) calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 385) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 28 (legislative day of September 22), 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF MARC FOGEL

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 380, S. Con. Res. 18.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the continuing resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A continuing resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) calling for the immediate release of Marc Fogel, a United States citizen and teacher, who was given an unjust and disproportionate criminal sentence by the Government of the Russian Federation in June 2022.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the continuing resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas United States citizen Marc Fogel has lived a life of service, teaching history at international schools in Colombia, Malaysia, Oman, Venezuela, and Russia for 35 years;

Whereas Marc Fogel taught at the Anglo-American School of Moscow from 2012 to 2021, honorably serving the children of United States diplomats and members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas Marc Fogel is known to his family, friends, colleagues, and students as a

kind, personable, upbeat, and giving man, a loving father, and a passionate and dedicated teacher;

Whereas Marc Fogel has undergone three back surgeries, a spinal fusion, a hip replacement, and two knee surgeries to correct various injuries and health issues, which have left him with chronic back pain and a permanent limp;

Whereas Marc Fogel did not wish to use opioids to manage his pain and was instead prescribed medical marijuana for pain management in a manner consistent with the State law of Pennsylvania;

Whereas, on August 14, 2021, as he returned to Russia for one final year of teaching before his intended retirement, Marc Fogel was arrested in the Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow for carrying about half an ounce of medical marijuana in his luggage;

Whereas Marc Fogel has stated he intended that marijuana solely for personal consumption, and the Government of the Russian Federation has presented no evidence to the contrary;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, a Russian court convicted Marc Fogel of "large-scale drugs smuggling" in a politicized show trial and sentenced him to 14 years in a maximum-security penal colony in Russia;

Whereas Russian lawyers informed the family that the typical sentence for Marc Fogel's offense is five years of probation, and in 2019, the same Russian court sentenced Alexander Grigoriev to eight years in prison for the possession of 1,500 grams of various narcotics;

Whereas Marc Fogel's sentence is vastly disproportionate to the severity of his non-violent crime, wildly dissimilar to the typical punishments for comparable offenses in Russia, and clearly motivated by ongoing political tensions between Russia and the United States;

Whereas, in August 2022, Russian courts denied Marc Fogel's appeal of his sentence;

Whereas the 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Russia issued by the Department of State reported, "Conditions in prisons and detention centers . . . were often harsh and life threatening. Overcrowding, abuse by guards and inmates, limited access to health care, food shortages, and inadequate sanitation were common";

Whereas Marc Fogel turns 62 years old in July 2023, and his physical and mental health is rapidly declining due to the stress and harsh conditions of his detention, such that his family fears he will not survive his sentence; and

Whereas the Department of State requested Marc Fogel be released from Russian custody on humanitarian grounds, but received no response to that request: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That Congress—

(1) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Marc Fogel, who has already served more time in prison than his minor and nonviolent crimes can justify;

(2) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to respect Marc Fogel's human rights and to provide full, unfettered, and consistent consular access to Marc Fogel while he remains in detention, in accordance with its international obligations;

(3) urges all United States executive branch officials, including relevant officials at the Department of State and the White House, to raise the case of Marc Fogel and to press for his immediate release in all interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation;

(4) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to desist from issuing outlandishly disproportionate criminal sentences to nonviolent United States nationals;

(5) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation's continued use of detentions and prosecutions of citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States for political purposes;

(6) calls for the immediate release of other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States who are wrongfully and unlawfully detained in Russia, such as Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, Ksenia Khavana, Alsu Kurmasheva, and Vladimir Kara-Murza; and

(7) expresses sympathy for and solidarity with the families of all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained abroad for the personal hardship experienced as a result of the arbitrary and baseless detention of their loved ones.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the concurrent resolution be agreed to; the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

PATRIOT BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3237 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3237) to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to ensure claimants are adequately informed regarding filing a Federal cause of action.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the Tillis amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2072) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Patriot Bill of Rights".

SEC. 2. INFORMATION REGARDING VETERANS' BENEFITS TO VETERANS BRINGING FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION RELATING TO WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—

“(1) GUIDANCE AND ADVICE SERVICES.—A veteran, or the legal representative of a veteran, bringing a cause of action under subsection (b) shall sign a written acknowledgment, provided by the attorney, indicating that the veteran or legal representative bringing the action understands that the veteran or legal representative may seek guidance and advice on any disability awards, payments, or benefits, in addition to and separate from rights provided under this Act, to which the veteran may be entitled under any program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, free of charge from—

“(A) organizations recognized under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code;

“(B) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

“(C) the congressional representatives of the individual or legal representative.

“(2) APPLICATION TO PENDING MATTERS.—For any cause of action brought under subsection (b) that is pending on the date of enactment of this subsection, not later than 90 days after such date of enactment, the veteran bringing the action, the legal representative of the veteran, or the attorney for the veteran or legal representative, as applicable, shall file the acknowledgments described in paragraph (1).”

(b) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of the amendment made by subsection (a), or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of the amendment made by subsection (a), the other provisions of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.), and the application of the provision of the amendment made by subsection (a) held to be unconstitutional to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

The bill (S. 3237), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Pipe nomination postcloture.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I move that it stand adjourned.

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

The motion was agreed to.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:04 p.m., stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

KARLA M. CAMPBELL, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE JANE BRANSTETTER STRANCH, RETIRING.

CATHERINE HENRY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE EDWARD G. SMITH, DECEASED.

MARY KAY LANTHIER, OF VERMONT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT, VICE GEOFFREY W. CRAWFORD, RETIRING.

JULIA M. LIPEZ, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, VICE WILLIAM J. KAYATTA, JR., RETIRING.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF ARMY RESERVE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7038:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT D. HARTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601, 7037, AND 7064:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH B. BERGER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 7037 AND 7064:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT A. BORCHERDING

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. JETH B. REY

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. MELVIN G. CARTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. BENJAMIN T. WATSON

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 4, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

TANYA MONIQUE JONES BOSIER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

CHRISTOPHER T. HANSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2029.