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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 Presiding Officer offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, You are known by many names, worshipped in many houses. In You we live, move, and have our being. Strengthen us now in the work that You have allowed us to do, that our country might know Your grace, Your justice, and Your mercy.

Center the concerns of the marginalized, and may the words of the prophet live in our lives: ''Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.''

Grant that our work might bring good news to the poor and all of God's children might be blessed.

In the name of the God who loves us into freedom and frees us into loving. 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 executive clerk read the following letter:

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

To the Senate:

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2027.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

TRUMP PRESIDENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, American democracy faces a test of survival in 2024.

Almost 8 years ago, Donald Trump was elected President and commenced one of the most chaotic periods our country has seen in our lifetimes. Under a Trump Presidency, Republicans tried to rip away affordable healthcare for tens of millions of American families, and they nearly succeeded. Under a Trump Presidency, Republicans packed our courts with radical judges who took America back half a century by repealing Roe v. Wade.

This week, the Senate will take up a simple resolution cosponsored by every female Senator in our caucus and myself that asks a very simple question: Where do Senators stand on freedom of choice? Do we believe that a woman should have the basic right to reproductive care? Do we agree that the rights protected under Roe should be Federal law?

Freedom of choice is perhaps the defining issue for Americans this year, and, this week, every Senator must show where he or she stands.

Of course, there is more. Under a Trump Presidency, megacorporations and the richest of the rich—the very, very wealthy—saw their taxes go down and profits go up, while middle-class families kept paying more for prescription drugs, childcare, and basic necessities.

Under the Trump Presidency, America was plunged into utter chaos. The pandemic was far worse than it needed to be because Donald Trump refused to confront it head-on and refused to be honest to the American people. We lived in constant anxiety about the next tweet from the White House.

Our allies saw Trump and questioned if they could trust him, while autocrats saw Trump and wanted to be like him. It is no wonder that Trump went out of his way to pay fealty to dictators like Putin and buddy up to Kim Jong Un. It was downright un-American.

Four years later, Trump wants to do it all again. But there is a big difference between then and now. For all the chaos and disaster of the first Trump Presidency, it pales in comparison to the threat of a second Trump Presidency and the threat it would pose to our democracy.

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

Over the last few weeks, there has been a whole lot of attention about a policy platform drafted by the Heritage Foundation, arguably the most influential conservative think tank in America. The platform, in effect, is the Trump manifesto. The project is staffed by over 200 former officials of the Trump Presidency and is connected to Trump Cabinet members, former campaign advisers, political appointees, and more.

If you read through this Trump manifesto, it is very clear what the hard right is telling America: Put us in power, and we will gut America from the inside out.

Trump's manifesto calls for the most conservative agenda America has ever seen, one that makes 1964 Barry Goldwater look like a moderate.

The Trump manifesto lays the groundwork for a nationwide abortion ban and calls for removing mifepristone from the market. It calls for defunding the Department of Education.

The Trump manifesto calls for reversing Democrats' clean energy agenda, while empowering the Nation's biggest oil and gas polluters.

The Trump manifesto calls for silencing and attacking all of Donald Trump's political enemies. The hard right is done speaking in euphemisms. They are saying it straight to our faces: If you disagree with Donald Trump, watch your back.

To see this happen in America is bone-chilling.

MAGA's political threats are reminiscent of the autocratic fervor we saw in Europe in the early 20th century, and for the first time, we are wondering: Could it ever happen here in America?

I hope not, but it all keeps going.

The Trump manifesto also calls for defunding Federal law enforcement and replacing thousands of Federal personnel with individuals loyal, above all, to Donald Trump.

And, finally, of course, the Trump manifesto calls for more tax cuts for the very wealthy, more tax cuts for corporate elites, more tax cuts for megacorporations, and oil and gas polluters. This is really the end goal of MAGA extremism: tax cuts for the top 1 percent, dystopia for everybody else.

Donald Trump promised that he would be a dictator on day one, and this manifesto is the playbook for how he will follow through on that threat. It is dangerous. The damage may be irreversible. The destruction could be unthinkable. And it would be a betrayal of everything that our Framers fought for, that the Union fought for, that the ''greatest generation'' fought for.

Donald Trump cannot—must not—be allowed within 10 miles of the Oval Office ever again.

NATO

Mr. President, on NATO, this week, the United States will welcome NATO leaders to Washington for the 2024 NATO summit. Western democracy faces perhaps its gravest threat since the Cold War. So this year's NATO summit comes at an inflection point.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on. Putin's cruelty—cruelty—shows no sign of softening. We read yesterday a heartbreaking and infuriating report. Russian missile strikes obliterated a wing of the largest children's hospital in Kyiv, killing at least 31 Ukrainians, injuring another 150.

Shooting a missile at a children's hospital that had no military significance is vicious; it is nasty. It shows what a scoundrel Putin is.

My heart breaks for those children in hospital whose lives were taken away in the attack, the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters drowning in grief. Again, this was the largest children's hospital in the Ukrainian capital, where kids who had cancer were going—a place that should be off limits to anyone who is a decent, honorable human being; who has at all a heart.

Putin has none of that—no decency, no honor, no heart—and it shows you how utterly morally bankrupt Putin's invasion of Ukraine truly is.

A lot of hard-right extremists led by Donald Trump tried to kill Ukraine aid earlier this year, but Putin's attack against the children's hospital shows why it is essential for America to stand with Ukraine. They are fighting an evil brute in Russia, and the worst thing America can do is show weakness against Putin or tell Ukraine we will abandon them. I am glad we stepped up earlier.

So as the NATO leaders gather in DC this week, nothing less than the future of Western democracy is at stake. President Biden will bring an unmistakable message to our NATO allies, as well as to our adversaries watching across the world: America will never turn its back on NATO.

My Senate colleagues and I will be honored to welcome the leaders of NATO here to the Capitol this week, as well as President Zelenskyy of Ukraine. We in the Senate will send President Zelenskyy and our NATO allies the same message we have shared from day one: America will never turn its back on you.

The same cannot be said for Donald Trump. Remember, it was Donald Trump who called NATO ''obsolete'' and said that he would encourage Russia to do ''whatever the hell they want'' to our NATO allies. Amazing. This is the wrong message to send to NATO, with so much at stake around the world. It is another example of why the MAGA hard right can't be trusted to lead on the global stage.

FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. President, finally, on one other point, the Fire Grants and Safety Act, which we passed here in the Senate, helping our firefighters to get the equipment they need, adding to certain fire departments the more firefighters that they need, making us all safer, making our firefighters safer, and, finally, renewing the old Fire Grants and SAFER Act that Senator Dodd and I passed back in 2002, is a great thing.

Today, the President will sign it. I salute President Biden for supporting this legislation and helping us get it through the Congress.

I salute our firefighters, both paid and volunteer, who rush to danger to protect us when there is danger afloat. God bless them. I am glad that the Fire Grants and Safety Act that backs them up will be signed into law in a few hours.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NATO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in 1949, 12 nations gathered here in Washington to establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Seventy-five years later, our Nation's Capital welcomes NATO's 32 members back for a pivotal summit.

The most successful military alliance in human history has shepherded the free world through serious challenges—from nuclear-armed Cold War, through vicious terrorist attacks, to a new chapter of multipolar competition. This has always been a collective effort, but it has always required American leadership, and today, America and our allies face a serious test of resolve.

Russian aggression, Iran-backed terror, unchecked nuclear proliferation from North Korea, and China's bid for hegemony aren't just regional concerns; they are facets of an increasingly coordinated threat to Americans' security and prosperity.

The transatlantic alliance faces doubts at home and abroad about the credibility of our commitment to uphold this order. All NATO allies will share the risks if it is undone. All of us will suffer if autocrats and despots succeed in rewriting rules and redrawing maps. Even still, on the occasion of the Washington summit, there are encouraging signs that NATO is rising to meet the challenges.

Two years on, brutal Russian escalation hasn't just woken European allies from decades of neglect for their military capabilities; it has spurred a sea change in defense policy all across Europe and a renaissance of investment in defense industrial bases and cutting-edge weapons.

Across Europe, America's allies are investing 18 percent more on their defenses than they were a year ago. More than two-thirds of NATO's members

have now met or exceeded the alliance's 2 percent defense spending target. Just as important, many are committing 20 percent of their defense budgets to procuring new weapons and capabilities.

But the latest data did more than confirm the end of our ''holiday from history''; they also prove what I have been explaining to our colleagues for years: When America leads by example, allies invest right here in America. A full two-thirds of our allies' spending on new defense procurement is going to buy American-made weapons and systems. Right now, U.S. industry is filling more than $140 billion in contracts booked by European allies.

Many allies also are expanding their own defense industrial capacity—an encouraging and necessary step that will make NATO even more resilient.

Of course, one of the most encouraging developments since the last NATO summit has been the addition of two strong, new allies with highly capable militaries and cutting-edge industrial bases of their own. It was a tremendous honor to work closely with the leaders of Finland and Sweden throughout their accession to the alliance, and I am proud to join the Democratic leader in hosting them on Capitol Hill this week.

Today, the enemies of Western peace and prosperity are giving us good reason—good reason—to take the strength of our alliances and partnerships even more seriously. The authoritarians and rogue states seeking to undermine us are working together, and we can't afford not to do the same. That is why all NATO allies need to take hard power more seriously; why the 2-percent defense spending target is a floor but is not a ceiling; why these spending increases must be built into base budgets, not treated as one-off emergencies; and why contracting and procurement have to move at the speed of relevance, not the speed of bureaucracy.

These lessons apply as much to America as they do to our European allies, and they apply even more so to our neighbor to the north. Canada is one of the only allies without a plan to reach the 2-percent spending target.

It is encouraging that as NATO members address the deficiencies of our own collective security obligations, we are joined this week by essential non-NATO partners who are taking increasingly clear-eyed approaches to their own security.

The presence of leaders from the Indo-Pacific is an especially powerful reminder of our shared stake in the future of a Western order that preserves the freedom of navigation, territorial integrity, and the right to self-determination.

I will have more to say as the week goes on, but I am grateful for the opportunity to welcome America's friends to Washington at this critical time, and I am hopeful that together, the alliance will make headway on the serious business before us.

ENERGY

Mr. President, on one final matter, last week, a Federal judge in Louisiana blocked the Biden administration's de facto ban on new permitting for the export of America's abundant liquefied natural gas.

As I have said before, the administration's so-called pause is bad policy for a whole host of reasons. It endangers good-paying American jobs and could drive high prices for energy and consumer goods through the roof.

Of course, when the flow of clean American LNG slows down, it also presents close allies and trading partners with the prospect of increased reliance on dirtier energy from less savory places.

The overwhelming majority of U.S. exports go to consumers in Europe and Asia, but as the Biden administration tries to choke off American market dominance, Russian export capacity is actually surging to meet demand. Russia is lining its war chest with the spoils of its energy exports, and it is quite literally fueling the war in Ukraine with the proceeds of what the President's own Energy Secretary has described as ''the dirtiest form of natural gas on Earth.''

It is a dizzying move from an administration that has, until now, put green activists in the driver's seat of its energy policy. As we learned last week, it doesn't pass muster in Federal court, where a judge ruled in favor of the 16 States that sued to block this ridiculous—ridiculous—moratorium. The judge agreed with the plaintiffs that the Department of Energy failed to justify the pause on LNG exports and that they failed to consider the ''impact on national security, state revenues, employment opportunities, funding for schools and charities, and pollution allegedly caused by increased reliance on foreign energy sources.''

Well, there you have it—the courts have slapped down the Biden administration's disregard for the law. Now it is time to release American energy projects from the regulatory purgatory where they have been trapped for far too long.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Supreme Court recently concluded its term, and, as predicted, Democrats met the decisions they didn't like with howls of outrage. ''We will fight to rein in the outrageous abuses of this brazen Court,'' one Democrat offered temperately. ''We must expand the Court now,'' another cried, before it ''destroy[s] our democracy and our planet.'' Yet another announced that she would be filing impeachment articles against a Supreme Court Justice or Justices, presumably for the high crime of ruling in a way that she didn't like.

For years now—since at least the last administration—Democrats have been engaged in a concerted campaign to paint the Supreme Court as illegitimate and extreme. We have heard about ''stolen seats'' and ''MAGA justices'' and other melodramatic statements meant to persuade the American people that the Supreme Court has somehow been hijacked. But what it all boils down to is this: Democrats think that the only legitimate Supreme Court is a Supreme Court that rules in line with Democrats' policy preferences. That is it. That is what all of this boils down to.

Democrats can dress things up any way they like with a host of invented reasons for why this Court is illegitimate, but the truth of the matter is, Democrats' real problem with this Court is that a number of the Justices have had the temerity to periodically deliver rulings with which Democrats disagree. If this Court were universally delivering the outcome the Democrats want, they would have no problem with the Court or its Republican nominees.

I could spend time debunking Democrats' wild claims. I could point out just how often this Court delivers unanimous decisions. Yes, contrary to what you might think from Democrats' lurid statements, the Democrat nominees and the Republican nominees are frequently in unanimous agreement. Or I could talk about just how often some of the Court's more conservative Justices and some of the Court's more liberal justices agree. But I am not going do that today because I would like to spend a minute talking about the profound irresponsibility Democrats are displaying.

We hear a lot from Democrats about their concern for our institutions, and yet they are attempting to delegitimize a bedrock American institution, all for the crime of periodically daring to deliver decisions with which Democrats disagree.

At a time of deep political division, I can think of few things more irresponsible than attempting to shake Americans' faith in the impartiality of the Court and the legitimacy of our institutions.

I realize that Democrats don't like it when a decision doesn't go their way, and I completely understand that. I have disagreed with a few Supreme Court decisions in my time. But it is one thing—a legitimate thing—to disagree with a decision; it is another thing entirely to let your disagreement lead you into attempting to delegitimize a duly constituted Court composed of nine duly confirmed Justices.

I hate to tell Democrats, but in a democratic republic such as ours, you don't always get your way, and the

proper response when you don't get your way is not to attempt to tear down institutions or pack the Court so that you always get the outcome you want.

Before I close, there is one other thing I would like to address, and that is the disturbing anti-religious sentiment that has cropped up in recent Democrat attacks on the Court. It is not a new thing for Democrats, of course.

We all remember the Democrat ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee telling then-circuit court nominee Amy Coney Barrett that ''the dogma lives loudly within you,'' with the implication that anyone who takes his or her religious faith seriously can't be trusted to hold public office.

Another judicial nominee faced scrutiny for his membership in the Knights of Columbus—a Catholic organization that participates in such disturbing activities as serving veterans, raising money for the needy, and providing young people with scholarships.

Of course, during the last Presidential election cycle, a Biden staffer stated that she would prefer that orthodox Catholics, Muslims, and Jews not sit on the Supreme Court.

Now it would appear that that anti-religious sentiment is back, with more than one Senate Democrat suggesting that certain members of the Supreme Court can't be trusted because they happen to take their religious faith seriously. These Democrats take the fact that these members of the Court have periodically ruled in ways that Democrats don't like as evidence that they are attempting to impose their faith instead of the law, with the implication that religious people are incapable of distinguishing between the two.

The Constitution is very clear on whether being a person of faith can disqualify you from public office. From article VI:

[N]o religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Let me just repeat that.

[N]o religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

It is becoming clear that that isn't a section of our Constitution that Democrats agree with or at least understand, and that in and of itself is deeply disturbing.

I shouldn't have to tell Democrats that religious people are as capable as any other of distinguishing between their beliefs and the law or that our Founders did not intend for religious people to be second-class citizens or that a Supreme Court Justice disagreeing with a Democrat does not mean that the Supreme Court Justice is attempting to impose his or her faith. It likely means that he or she is trying to impose the law and the Constitution.

I am a little tired of members of the Democratic Party promoting the un-American idea that taking your faith seriously makes you less qualified to participate in the public square.

If Democrats really cared about protecting our democracy and American institutions, they would stop trying to undermine the legitimacy of the Supreme Court. But with Democrats' inability to deal with not getting their way—and with an upcoming election this November—I am not going to be holding my breath.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was 11 years ago that I wrote a letter to John Roberts, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court—11 years ago—asking him a basic question: Mr. Chief Justice, why is it that you believe the nine Justices that sit on the Supreme Court should be treated differently than any other person in Federal Government when it comes to a code of ethics?

I didn't receive a reply to that letter. We know what has happened since. Through private investigations and investigations by journalistic organizations, we have come to discover that at least one sitting Supreme Court Justice—Clarence Thomas—has received more than $4 million in gifts from billionaires. What kind of gifts? Travel, jet airplane travel, travel on yachts, long-term vacations—worth more than $4 million, largely undisclosed to the American public.

What is going on here? A Justice on the Supreme Court receives over $4 million in gifts from billionaires and doesn't disclose it to the public? What about other Federal judges in like circumstances? Do they have requirements when it comes to the gifts they can accept and what has to be disclosed? Of course they do—in detail. It is only the nine Supreme Court Justices that exempted themselves from the basic, enforceable, transparent code of ethics that applies to every other Federal judge in America.

So when my friend from South Dakota comes to the floor and says we are being too critical of the Supreme Court—$4 million in gifts? If any Member of the Senate received that kind of largesse, they would be held responsible for it under the law—and should be.

Secondly, this notion that being critical of the Supreme Court is somehow critical of the institution, I do raise questions—and I will in the statement I am about to make this morning—as to some of the most recent decisions. I think they are terrible. I think that in terms of their impact on the future of the Court and the future of the Constitution, we have legitimate concerns that should be raised. But to raise those questions is not to attack the integrity of the institution of the Court but the process and the decisionmaking that the Court has made.

Of course, throughout history, there have been times when the Court just plain got it wrong—Plessy v. Ferguson, a case which dominated for decades and said that separate but equal was acceptable under the law. It wasn't until Brown v. Board of Education in the 1950s that they finally reversed that. For decades, Plessy—this terrible, wrongheaded decision—governed the administration not only of justice but of education in America. It damaged and destroyed lives right and left. Were people critical of it? Yes. And they should have been.

We are living in a democracy with freedom of speech, and we should be able to express ourselves when we have serious misgivings about decisions by the Court.

I want to address two recent decisions by this Court that I think really deserve special attention.

The Court recently finished its term with a series of disastrous decisions that once again upended our constitutional landscape.

The Court's radical, conservative supermajority discarded decades of longstanding precedent to protect rich and powerful interests. The Court's decisions will immunize Presidents who commit crimes. Let me repeat that. The Court's decisions will immunize Presidents who commit crimes, make it harder to prosecute corrupt politicians, and make it easier for corporate special interests to overturn Federal protections that Americans need to remain safe and healthy.

Meanwhile, the Court's conservative supermajority failed to protect some of the most vulnerable, upholding laws that criminalize homelessness and denying Americans the right to challenge the government when their immigrant spouses are denied a visa.

The far-right Justices responsible for these decisions may claim they are guided by ''textualism'' or ''originalism''—we hear those terms frequently—but the reality is that they are engaged in judicial activism, pure and simple.

The Justices are cherry-picking their way through constitutional text and history to impose their own ideological agenda on the American people. In doing so, the majority has not only further damaged the Court's institutional integrity, they have undermined our democracy.

Start with the Court's rulings in Loper and Relentless. In these cases, the Court overruled Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council, a landmark, 40-year-old decision holding that courts must provide deference to an Agency's reasonable interpretation of ambiguous Federal law.

With authorization from Congress, scientists, engineers, and other experts at these Agencies use their expertise to establish rules that help to ensure that our food is safe, that medications are effective as promised, that we have clean air and water, stable financial markets, fair working conditions, and more. But after the Court's decision to overrule Chevron, unelected judges with no expertise will be empowered to

overturn rules issued by Agency experts when they are challenged by corporations.

In another case, Ohio v. EPA, Justice Neil Gorsuch inadvertently demonstrated how ill-equipped the Justices on the Court are to substitute their judgement for Agency experts. In an opinion siding with Republican States that challenged an EPA pollution control plan, Justice Gorsuch repeatedly—repeatedly—and incorrectly referred to nitrous oxide, which is laughing gas, as we know, rather than nitrogen oxide, the pollutant the EPA is seeking to control. So the Court was arguing that the Agencies didn't have the power to make these decisions in detail and failed to describe properly the entity that was being regulated by the EPA.

The Court's decision giving Justices like Justice Gorsuch the power to second-guess these Agency experts is a body blow to our government's ability to protect the health and safety of the American people.

In another misguided opinion, the Court's six Republican-appointed Justices ruled in Trump v. United States that a President may be immune from criminal prosecution for abusing the power of government for personal or political gain.

This case is unimaginable.

Specifically, the Court held:

[T]he nature of Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority. And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts.

Not only does the decision bar prosecuting a President for any official act, it prohibits prosecutors even from using any official act as evidence to help prove a President engaged in illegal unofficial acts.

And, in ruling that Donald Trump is ''absolutely immune from prosecution for the alleged conduct involving his discussions with Justice Department officials,'' the Court has given a green light to a future President to use the Justice Department for corrupt purposes.

The Justice Department, whose mission is to enforce the law, defend the interests of the United States, and ensure public safety, will no longer enjoy its traditional independence. It could, instead, serve as a weapon to be wielded by a corrupt President.

So what does all of this mean?

It means that a corrupt President may hide behind their office for protection from prosecution, under the law, for even the most egregious wrongdoing.

It means the Supreme Court's conservative majority has effectively endorsed Richard Nixon's infamous claim that ''when the president does it . . . that means that it is not illegal.'' In fact, much of the conduct at the heart of Nixon's Watergate scandal could, arguably, be considered official acts, making them presumptively immune under the current interpretation.

And, in the aftermath of Trump v. United States, a court would not even have been allowed to question Nixon's motives in order to have determined whether he acted unlawfully.

The Court's ruling has also left Congress and the judicial branch with limited options when dealing with a delusional or a corrupt executive.

The minority leader stated during the second Trump impeachment trial:

We have a criminal justice system in this country. We have civil litigation, and former presidents are not immune from being accountable by either one.

Unfortunately, this is no longer the case because the Court's conservative majority has demolished the ability to hold any President accountable for abuses of power.

It was not long ago that then-Judge Roberts sat before the Senate Judiciary Committee and told me directly and personally:

No man is above the law.

Then-Judge Gorsuch also testified, and he said:

Nobody is above the law in this country.

And then-Judge Kavanaugh told the committee:

No one is above the law. And that is just such a foundational principle of the Constitution and equal justice under the law.

But now they seem to think that a corrupt President is, in fact, above the law.

When the American people head to the polls this November, they should keep this case, Trump v. United States, in mind. We must ensure that our next leader is a person who will respect the rule of law even though he is now, because of this Supreme Court decision, immune from prosecution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NATO

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today, world leaders are descending on our Nation's Capital for an important NATO summit, the 2024 NATO summit—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is fitting that this gathering is taking place in our Nation's Capital because this is where the story of NATO began.

In April of 1949, leaders of the United States and our closest allies gathered here in the Nation's Capital to sign the North Atlantic Treaty. With the stroke of a pen, those 12 countries became the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The core mission of NATO can be summed up in only two words: collective defense. An attack against one ally is considered an attack against all allies. Of course, Europe had been through two devastating world wars, and the hope was, by creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, that aggression could be deterred and, thus, the peace maintained.

Seventy-five years ago, this commitment aimed to deter the Soviet Union from expanding its influence into Western Europe. Nearly 23 years ago, the collective defense clause was invoked for the first and only time in history in the wake of the attacks on the United States on 9/11. America's NATO allies were there when we needed them—an act of friendship and support that we should never forget.

Today, the collective defense clause continues to serve as a firewall that safeguards NATO member states and underpins global security. And in the 75 years since NATO was founded, its membership has grown from 12 to 32 countries, and its influence continues to grow with the recent additions of Sweden and Finland.

Beyond ensuring the security of its members, NATO plays a key role in maintaining peace and stability around the world. Suffice it to say, NATO leaders have a big job ahead of them this week. Conflicts are unfolding around the globe, and democracy is under attack by the world's leading aggressors.

Nearly 2½ years have passed since Russia invaded Ukraine, and the fighting has not let up. Yesterday, Russia fired missiles at a children's hospital in Kyiv and other sites across Ukraine—killing at least 38 people and injuring more than 100.

In addition to the fighting in Europe, a war is also raging in the Middle East, as we know. More than 9 months have passed since the horrific terrorist attacks by Hamas against civilians in Israel, but Israel is not only defending its sovereignty against Hamas. It is also battling direct fire from Hezbollah and Iran. Just to be clear, Iran is the head of the snake here. Hezbollah and Hamas are proxies for Iran, committed to the ultimate destruction of Israel.

In addition to the conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, tensions are growing in the Indo-Pacific as well. The Chinese Communist Party continues to bully and threaten China's neighbors in the region. Just last week, China anchored one of its Coast Guard ships off the coast of the Philippines in a clear act of intimidation. This came after another incident last month when Chinese Coast Guard crewmen attacked Filipino sailors trying to resupply the Sierra Madre. One sailor lost his thumb, and a Philippine Navy boat was left in tatters. Clearly, China is testing America's commitment and the commitments of democracies around the world to protect a treaty ally in the Pacific.

While the Senate was in recess last week, I had the privilege of traveling to Romania, Armenia, and Malta with a bipartisan delegation of Members led by our friend, Senator ROGER WICKER—the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee and one of the principal delegates to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Our conversations with our allies around the world affirmed a key point that cannot be overlooked: None of these conflicts that are playing out today are occurring in a vacuum—not

the wars in Ukraine or in the Middle East or the tensions in the Indo-Pacific. Everything is connected. We might wish that it weren't true, but it is inarguably true, and this instability we are facing today has serious downstream consequences.

As each of these conflicts has played out, we have witnessed a daunting realignment of powers around the world that is reminiscent of what we saw in the 1930s with the rise of Germany.

Today, Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran have grown closer and closer together through an intricate web of weapons, technology, and energy transfers. In short, the tyrants of the world today are drawing closer and closer together, forming a modern-day axis of evil. When these big powers are at odds, the international order frays, and the regional players take advantage of the situation as it suits their interests. That point was driven home during our visit to Armenia—the former Russian satellite—when we discussed the ongoing instability in the Caucasus.

Now, I know you have to pull out a map to figure out where some of these countries are, but they are critical in terms of our analysis of the threats not only in the region but in the potential to spread those threats and major conflicts to other parts of the world.

In 2020, Russia brokered a deal to end the military conflict between Armenia and its neighbor Azerbaijan over longstanding territorial disputes. Russia promised to deploy peacekeepers to the region to enforce that agreement, but it is safe to say that Russia has not upheld its end of the deal. Each year since that deal was reached, Azerbaijan, supported by Türkiye, has encroached further and further into Armenian territory, and Russia has done nothing to stop it, notwithstanding its agreement to do so. Understandably, Armenian leaders are outraged by the situation. They signed a treaty, after all, to prevent this exact scenario, and Russia has abandoned its promise.

Our conversations with the Armenian leaders were powerful reminders of why it is so important to honor our security commitments around the world. We have made a commitment to our NATO allies, to Ukraine, to Israel, and to other partners around the world to support their security. But the truth is, their security is part of our security because we know, from history, that conflicts can arise in unpredictable places and can spread like a wildfire, thus directly challenging the United States' national security.

So that is why we cannot and we must not back out of these promises and risk other countries seeing us as an unreliable ally, because the truth is that weakness or unreliability is a provocation to the bullies and tyrants and autocrats around the world. When they see weakness, they continue to probe until they come up against resistance. Whether we are talking about an ally or an adversary, countries around the world must not doubt America's commitment to our own national security, as well as the security of our allies, partners, and friends.

I say all of this to emphasize how much is at stake today. Presently, this is the most dangerous period of our history and of world history since World War II. We are talking about far more than the fates of individual states or governments. The stability of the international order is hanging in the balance.

With the NATO summit here in Washington this week, the eyes of the world are once again on the leadership. Like it or not, if the United States fails to lead, there is no other country that can fill the void. This is part of the responsibility that comes with being the preeminent economic and military power in the world—again, not for the purpose of conquest but for the purpose of deterring and discouraging conflicts from breaking out because, again, we know how these can spin out of control as a result of miscalculation or a mistake or otherwise.

Leaders from around the world—our friends and allies—are watching to see how the United States responds to the threats unfolding around the globe. They are watching us to see if we will live up to our commitments—things like the Budapest Memorandum in 1994, wherein we agreed to protect the sovereignty of Ukraine in exchange for their giving up their nuclear weapons. At the time, Ukraine had the third largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world, and they gave up those nuclear weapons in exchange for that guarantee to protect their sovereignty. That is part of what is at stake today in Ukraine.

Our friends and allies are watching our support for Ukraine, our assistance for Israel, and the message that we are sending to China. They are testing our attention span to see if we are so distracted by other major conflicts or other things happening around the world that it creates an opening for smaller ones, and they are watching to see if our commitments to our allies are truly ironclad and can be depended upon.

So, this week, President Biden has one job to do, and that is to deliver a clear and powerful message to our allies. He must reaffirm America's commitment to collective defense. He must demonstrate decisive leadership and solidarity with our NATO allies. He needs to deliver a strong warning to our would-be adversaries that attacks against the United States and our allies will not be tolerated.

Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—they are all watching, and there is no room for weakness or vacillation when it comes to sending this important message of deterrence. Deterrence, of course, is what maintains the peace. We never want war. We never want military conflict. We want to be so strong and so intimidating with our friends and allies that our adversaries won't take that step of initiating a military conflict.

I hope President Biden can summon up the energy and the forcefulness and the ability to express this important message to our friends and allies around the world because our adversaries are watching, but so are our friends.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

160-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MONOCACY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, in 1864, after 3 years of Civil War, many citizens of the North were ready for peace. The 13th Amendment had passed in this very Chamber but failed to do so in the House of Representatives, and the fate of Abraham Lincoln's Presidency—and perhaps the continuation of the war—was on the ballot.

In that spring of 1864, Lincoln placed his hand on a Hoosier general's shoulder, and he said: ''I believe it right to give you a chance.'' What he really meant was a second chance.

I rise to mark a day 160 years ago when that second chance and a refusal to flinch from duty, even in a forlorn hope, saved our Nation's Capital and possibly much more than that.

Not long after his meeting with Lincoln, that same soldier was ushered into the office of Secretary of War Ed Stanton.

''What do you know of the Middle Department?'' the Secretary asked.

''Nothing,'' his visitor replied.

''Nothing?'' the Secretary repeated.

''I am from the West,'' General Lew Wallace answered.

By ''the West,'' Wallace meant Crawfordsville, IN, and that is exactly where he was when the year began—an officer whose career appeared to be at a dead end.

Two years before, the division under his command arrived late to the Union lines during the first day of fighting at Shiloh. Wallace was scapegoated after one of the deadliest battles in the war up to that point. He was removed from his command in the Army of Tennessee and placed on reserve. Requests for a reinstatement failed.

''I had cast my last throw. What next?'' Wallace wondered.

The answer came from another Hoosier—President Abraham Lincoln. Wallace was to report to Washington and take command of the 8th Army Corps and the Middle Department even though he didn't even know where the Middle Department was headquartered. The answer, Stanton told him, was Baltimore, and that is where Wallace headed after buying a Rand McNally map of the United States for 15 cents.

In early July, Wallace sat at his desk studying that map closely. He had just received word from the anxious president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad that Confederate troops were advancing through the Shenandoah Valley. The path from there to Washington, DC, was wide open. The city was poorly defended with Union soldiers. They were away attacking Richmond at the time.

''Washington, seriously menaced, was incapable of self-defense—that much was clear,'' he wrote years later.

Staring at that map, Wallace understood that the threat was very real and his responsibility was crystal clear. Without orders—without orders—he departed for Monocacy Junction, where the roads and railroad leading to Washington and Baltimore crossed a tributary of the Potomac.

Upon arrival, he stood on a bluff looking down on the Monocacy River and the green pastures and golden wheat fields beyond it. He could see the steeples of Frederick, MD, not far off and the Catoctin Mountain on the horizon.

The peaceful summer was interrupted with the echo of distant gunfire. Soon it was clear: General Robert E. Lee had sent General Jubal Early north to take Washington. He had crossed the Potomac and was on his way east toward Monocacy Junction, perhaps to Baltimore—more likely to Washington, just 40 miles away.

Wallace had already moved with great urgency. He messaged Washington to recall troops and prepare for an attack. He called in what brigades or parts of brigades he could to augment his own men, eventually raising a force of several thousand. Then he spread them thinly along the eastern bank of the river, determined to block its bridge just long enough for reinforcements to arrive in the Capital.

On the night of July 8, the eve of the battle, Wallace laid down and placed his head on a folded coat, but anxiety made sleep impossible. Could he throw a hastily gathered and mostly green force in the way of a superior army, in an objective so hopeless? The Navy Yard up in flames, the Capitol menaced, the library inside it looted, the treasury emptied, foreign heads of state rushing to recognize the Confederacy—and then, most painfully, the image of Abraham Lincoln ''cloaked and hooded, stealing like a malefactor from the back door of the White House just as some gray-garbed Confederate brigadier burst in the front door.''

The next morning, July 9, when the Confederate Army of over 15,000 arrived at Monocacy River, it was met with fierce resistance from the outnumbered Federals. Rebel charges were repeatedly turned back until late in the afternoon, when Wallace, after heavy losses—nearly 1,300 dead and wounded—ordered his men to withdraw toward Baltimore.

Early's battered army paused for the night before it continued on to Washington. When he reached its gates on the 11th, Union reinforcements were waiting. A skirmish at Fort Stevens followed, and the rebels departed emptyhanded.

The Union stand cost the Confederates a full day—a full day—and with it, their chance at Washington.

Monocacy. Monocacy. Monocacy is usually unmentioned among the list of consequential Civil War battles, but today, on its 160th anniversary, we reflect on its importance. You see, had Early's men taken the Capital, however briefly, the humiliation could have persuaded a war-weary population to dismiss Abraham Lincoln.

What then would be the fate of the 13th Amendment or the eventual terms of peace? Because of Wallace's steely resolve and his men's uncommon valor, the questions went unanswered. Lincoln was reelected. The following January, the 13th Amendment to forever end slavery passed Congress. The war was over by April, and the Union was preserved. And General Lew Wallace, not unlike the hero of a novel he later wrote, was redeemed.

When it comes to words, Wallace will always be best known for ''Ben-Hur,'' but the message he forwarded to Washington after the Battle of Monocacy is timeless too. It should inspire all of us still, a reminder that rising to our duty, no matter the odds or even outcome, can change the course of history.

I did as I promised. Held the bridge to the last.

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

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

REMEMBERING JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this morning to discuss national defense and, in particular, the importance of the NATO alliance as quite a number of our friends from NATO have arrived in Washington to celebrate the 75th annual meeting of this important defense organization.

I can hardly talk about national defense and NATO and the importance of keeping our defenses strong without calling attention to the sad fact that our former colleague, Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, passed away today. I am told that Senators LANKFORD and MULLIN will seek recognition at a later time to speak extensively about this remarkable statesman who has passed from among us, and Members will be notified of when that might be should they want to join in.

But at this point, at this pivotal moment when I wish to talk about national defense, let me just say a word or two about my friend and colleague of some 30 years, Jim Inhofe.

As a young man, as a young family man, Jim Inhofe quickly learned how to build a business and create jobs, and he did so successfully. Only a few years later, as a municipal leader, he found out how to build consensus and he took that knowledge with him to Capitol Hill as a Member of the House of Representatives and then as our colleague here in the U.S. Senate.

Jim Inhofe demonstrated that he continued to know how to build consensus and get things done for his fellow Oklahomans as well as for his fellow Americans.

Anyone who knew Jim Inhofe knew that he was a dedicated Christian. Jim Inhofe was a man of great faith with, in particular, a heart for Sub-Saharan Africa. He visited there countless times, encouraged numerous—probably hundreds—of his fellow Senators and representatives to accompany him to visit some of the most challenged countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. He hosted countless Prayer Breakfasts there. He got to know the leaders in those countries and their families by name. He was a remarkable Christian friend to those in Africa.

Jim Inhofe was an accomplished pilot. He flew solo around the world at age 56. As a Member of Congress, he was known as a straight shooter who was not afraid to challenge the conventional wisdom, as he did so on numerous occasions.

Jim and his wife Kay were married for 64 years. Together, they had four children and 12 grandchildren, one of whom they found and adopted and rescued during a trip to Africa.

I would mention that Kay Inhofe has been a special friend and adviser to my wife Gayle for these decades.

Again, I am informed that Senators MULLIN and LANKFORD will lead fuller discussion of this remarkable statesman who has passed from among us. But today, as I talk about national defense and NATO, I send my love, and we in the Senate send our love and condolences to the entire family and to the State that he loved, Oklahoma.

NATO

Mr. President, I would note, as Members have seen and as the public is reading and hearing about, that this week, 32 nations are gathering in Washington for NATO's 75th anniversary summit. Our alliance has reached this remarkable milestone, 75 years. Its longevity reaffirms its past success and its enduring value.

Our bond must remain strong, particularly at this hour. We are in the most dangerous global security threat since World War II. Almost all of our witnesses before the Armed Services Committee tell us that we are in the most dangerous global security threat for generations. As we navigate today's new challenges, NATO still stands as an indispensable alliance.

In this consequential moment, NATO is receiving a new leader. I congratulate the outgoing Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, and I welcome our new Secretary General Mark Rutte.

NATO's 75th anniversary and its leadership transition provides Senators an opportunity. We have a chance to remember why NATO matters, and we have a chance to call upon every member—every Nation member—to recommit to our alliance. I call upon my colleagues in both Houses and in the administration, our friends, to recommit to this important and vital alliance.

As Mr. Rutte takes office, he has a significant challenge to confront.

Frankly, we all do. As I have pointed out from this desk numerous times, NATO faces a new axis of aggressors. China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are banding together. They are banding together to help Russia in its illegal invasion of Ukraine and they are banding together to pursue their designs on the free nations of this world.

This new axis poses a set of growing, interlocking strategic threats to the United States and our allies. In their own way, they have all been supporting Russia's illegal and unprovoked war on Ukraine.

And at this moment, I would have to pause and note the shameless and vicious Russian attack just earlier this week on a children's hospital in Kyiv, Ukraine.

This act by one of the most brutal dictators that has ever walked on the face of the Earth must go answered. It cannot go unanswered. And the very idea that the free nations of this world would seek to negotiate as peers with such a brutal war criminal as Vladimir Putin, to me, is unthinkable.

What in the world makes anyone think that this person who has violated every single principle of the organization for security and cooperation in Europe would negotiate in good faith and agree to that negotiation?

So we have a bleak situation, and it highlights NATO's importance. NATO was built for such a time as this. And in meeting with the leaders yesterday afternoon on the other end of this magnificent Capitol, I was heartened to hear that principle underscored.

After the devastation of two World Wars, NATO kept the peace by deterring the Soviet Union, and thank God we did. In the post-Cold War era, the alliance's support for Ukraine has demonstrated why NATO continues to be relevant.

Most NATO members have provided substantial military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. In short, the alliance celebrates its 75th birthday from a position of strength.

But we should not interpret NATO's accomplishments in the past as a license to let down our guard now. NATO's collective strength is only as strong as its members' individual commitments.

The truth is that our allies need to spend more on defense. We need, in the United States, to spend more on defense. It is a necessity. We need to build modern, capable militaries that can stand shoulder to shoulder together in a fight against this axis of aggressors.

We need the industrial might to match that force strength. In fact, most allies are meeting their obligations. This year, 23 out of 32 NATO countries will spend at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense, up from only 7 out of 32 at the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We all learned a lesson at that moment 2½ years ago.

At this point, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled roll call.

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

Mr. WICKER. Thank you very much to my colleagues and to the Chair.

The world has grown too dangerous for the remaining NATO members not to meet the 2-percent mark. We all must make it a priority to increase defense spending. It is shocking and unacceptable that some allies, especially some capable ones, have yet to reach the 2-percent requirement that they agreed to.

Friends can speak candidly to one another, and so I will. Our neighbor to the north, Canada, is among this group, which has not and, for several years in the future, will not reach its need.

I was able to meet with Prime Minister Trudeau just a few moments ago and was glad to hear him say that an announcement will be made from our friends in Canada, perhaps later this week, about a new plan to more quickly reach that 2-percent goal. And I call on him to fulfill that statement that he made to us in private. We look forward to that, and we congratulate him on that effort.

NATO allies shouldn't outsource security to others. But this challenge presents an opportunity, one that adds to the mandate we give the incoming Secretary General. The transatlantic industrial base has withered, and we also need to attend to that. And that should be part of Secretary General Rutte's new platform.

In the past, our friends of freedom have had to follow our lead as we pursue a ''peace through strength'' agenda. Today, Europe has not kept pace as it should.

The United States has begun investing heavily to rebuild its arsenal of democracy, and we need to continue doing so. But we are still waiting for the dramatic increase in European 155-mm artillery production. We have yet to see the expanded lines of long-range cruise missiles such as the Storm Shadow and the Scout.

We have heard promises of a reinvigorated defense industrial base in Europe, but those assurances have yet to be fulfilled.

So as he assumes office, Secretary General Rutte should join us in recognizing the 2-percent commitment is, in truth, insufficient in light of Russia's newly mobilized war economy. There are additional issues standing in NATO's way. Its members remain mired in their own domestic issues. They must, of course, attend to these domestic concerns, but they also remain tangled up in an alliance bureaucracy that struggles with basic expansions in munitions production capacity.

These challenges are significant, but Mr. Rutte and the elected governments of our alliance must not abide the status quo. We should consider this situation unsustainable, and we should say so.

NATO asks its members for 2 percent; in my 21st Century Peace Through Strength report, I recommended that we in the United States spend 5 percent of GDP on national defense—as did President Reagan. My plan is primarily designed to deter the Chinese Communist Party, but it also calls for the United States to deepen commitments to Europe.

For a few examples, I recommend permanently stationing an armored brigade combat team in Poland. My plan proposes increasing our rotational deployments in Eastern Europe. We should also improve intelligence sharing and communication among allied forces.

Time and again, the United States has learned, sometimes the hard way, we cannot walk away from Europe. Together, the transatlantic alliance represents half of the world's economy. There is simply no way to contain Beijing's economic aggression without working together closely.

Likewise, a stagnant U.S. military budget and halfhearted European defense spending cannot contain Russia's antagonism.

So thank you for your indulgence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I understand we have colleagues here and we have a vote, but I wanted to ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes prior to the vote.

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

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, yesterday the FTC, in a 4-to-1 decision, took action in a report, an interim staff report, that show that we should all be very concerned about the activities of PBM middlemen. These are the basic people who are supposedly getting discounts for us on drug prices but then actually pocket those discounts.

The final report, which we should be receiving—this interim report we should be receiving today basically says that market concentration and vertical integration are just giving these PBMs too much market power. The point is, are we going to do anything to stop that market power and to help the public who need better transparency on price?

It also says that PBMs are engaging in self-preferencing, meaning that they are steering those rebates back to themselves, and it is affecting pharmacies. It is affecting pharmacies in my State where now in downtown Seattle, you don't have any 24-hour pharmacies anymore, and pharmacy deserts are starting to happen.

The report also shows that PBMs may be using their market shares to force independent pharmacies into unfair contracts—that is what you get when you get a concentration of a market, and then you can basically push other people out of the market—and that PBMs and manufacturers are entering into rebate agreements that may impair or block access to lower cost drugs.

I urge my colleagues to get this report, to review it. I urge our colleagues here to take action on these PBM middlemen. This is a bipartisan effort. My colleague Senator GRASSLEY and I have legislation outlawing some of these practices at the FTC; and our colleagues Senator CRAPO and Senator WYDEN also have legislation that would help us on PBMs. So I thank my colleagues.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

I also ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture vote today, Tuesday, July 9, be waived.

I further ask that if the cloture vote is invoked on the Meriweather nomination, the confirmation vote be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, and the cloture vote on the Willoughby nomination occur at 5:45 p.m. today.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 380, Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2027.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mark Kelly, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons.

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 Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2027, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The yeas and nays resulted——yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 204 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING——4

Capito	Menendez
Cruz	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:11 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 LEE NOMINATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cramer	Menendez	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Rubio	

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 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. 536, Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Gary C. Peters, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Chris Van Hollen.

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 Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 206 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cramer	Menendez	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 42.

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 Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2024

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise to urge my Democratic and Republican colleagues to stand with the majority of Americans who believe a woman should have the right to choose what is best for her and her family, health, and future.

The bills we are advancing today are commonsense, straightforward measures that will ensure more women can access the safe reproductive care that they need and deserve. Our legislation will also ensure that doctors can do their jobs, get the training they need to keep their patients safe.

For 2 years, millions of women across this country have lived without full reproductive rights, while many more live in fear that their rights and freedoms could be on the chopping block. The overturning of Roe v. Wade has jeopardized Americans' lives, health, and future fertility. The Dobbs decision also forced women and their doctors to navigate a complicated and ever-changing patchwork of laws that dictate Americans' rights based on their ZIP codes.

For example, in my home State of Wisconsin, women were sent back to live under an 1849 criminal abortion ban. Judges and politicians were invited into the exam room, while lawyers told doctors how to do their jobs. And these dire impacts reached further than exam rooms; they reached into medical schools that are training our next generation of doctors.

For our top-ranked medical schools, a post-Roe reality sowed chaos as students and their instructors wondered how future doctors in our State would have access to the full slate of training necessary to safely practice obstetrics and gynecology.

The overturning of Roe put those medical schools' accreditations on the line. It opened the prospect that OB/GYNs might not be trained to provide sometimes lifesaving abortion care. No matter who you are, the idea that doctors could graduate without the proper training to do their jobs and save lives should scare all of us.

We also saw prospective students who might otherwise be attracted to our top-tier research institutions reconsider starting their careers in Wisconsin. We saw a downtick of OB/GYN residents interested in coming to our State. And while it is disheartening to say, can you blame them? Why would you want to start a career in a State that restricts you from doing your job and prevents your patients from exercising their right to control their own bodies?

That is why last year I introduced my Reproductive Health Care Training Act, commonsense legislation to support training for healthcare providers in abortion care, including for providers forced to travel out of State due to abortion restrictions.

My bill with Senator MURRAY would help ease the burden of travel costs for eligible medical programs to expand and support education for students, residents, and advanced practice clinicians in States that allow comprehensive training in abortion care.

Our legislation would also help ensure that medical programs accommodating an influx of students have the resources they need to provide training to students who must travel across State lines to complete their education.

The reality of post-Roe America is that there are still countless places in the United States where medical students cannot access training in comprehensive reproductive care. The Reproductive Health Care Training Act will ensure future doctors can meet the needs of their patients and provide safe care, especially in States like Wisconsin that have abortion restrictions.

Every woman, no matter where she lives, deserves access to comprehensive reproductive care. The Reproductive Health Care Training Act will ensure America's future doctors are able to provide the sometimes lifesaving care Americans deserve.

So as in legislative session, and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2024, the Reproductive Health Care Training Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first of all, let's discuss the title of this bill: Reproductive Health Care Training Act of 2023. Why are my friends across the aisle afraid to use the word ''abortion''?

This bill has nothing to do with reproductive healthcare. This is an abortion training act of 2023. Let's just call it like it is. This is the abortion training act of 2023.

What my colleague from Wisconsin didn't say or tell you is that this bill is unconstitutional. This bill uses taxpayer dollars to fund a direct pipeline of more abortions across the Nation through the Department of Health and Human Services.

This bill establishes a program to award grants or contracts to eligible entities for the purposes of expanding and supporting abortion training and for preparing and encouraging—encouraging—preparing and encouraging students to become abortionists. It encourages efforts to train abortionists with a focus on—get this—a focus on racial and ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, tribal, and medically underserved communities. Does this imply there is a priority to train and send abortionists to these groups?

This bill authorizes $25 million to be appropriated for this abortion training pipeline—again, against the Hyde Amendment. This is unconstitutional.

This bill has not received any type of markup in the Health Committee. The Federal Government should not be spending taxpayer dollars to encourage medical students and clinicians to take life when their principal duty, their sacred oath, is to protect life and to do no harm from conception to natural death. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Yet again my Republican colleagues have sent a clear message to women across America. They don't think women should have the right to control their bodies.

This bill would have ensured more women could access the safe reproductive care that they need and deserve, including sometimes lifesaving abortion care.

Instead, my colleagues have turned their back on the millions of women in States where abortion is restricted. They have turned their backs on millions of women who are increasingly struggling to find OB/GYN care in their community. They have turned their back on OB/GYN residents and students who just want to learn how to care for their patients.

Without access to training and comprehensive reproductive care for our doctors, more women in States like my own will live in healthcare deserts, without the care they need to stay healthy, start a family, and get screenings for cancer and other serious illnesses.

My Reproductive Health Care Training Act would have ensured America's future doctors have the training they need to provide safe care, especially in States that have abortion restrictions.

This fight is not over, and I am in it for as long as it takes to restore a woman's freedom to make her own decisions about her health, her family, and her future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1297

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here today with a very simple bill to protect doctors who are providing legal care against attacks from extreme out-of-state, out-of-touch politicians.

In my State, abortion is not only legal but protected by our State constitution. But when I talk to abortion providers in Spokane, where they see a lot of patients fleeing restrictive abortion bans from States like Idaho, they are terrified that they could face a lawsuit that will threaten their practice and their livelihood, just for doing their jobs, just for providing care their patients need—care that is, once again, completely legal in my State. We are talking about people who are following the law and simply want to provide care to their patients. This should be cut-and-dried.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1297, the Let Doctors Provide Reproductive Health Care Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; and, further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I object to S. 1297 for a simple reason: It would make it easier for unborn life to be ended.

The Supreme Court's Dobbs decision brought renewed hope to Americans who believe in the sanctity of each and every life, including life in the womb. After 49 years, a new culture of life is enriching our country from coast to coast.

But this bill would take us backward. This bill would, first of all, allow abortion on demand in pro-life States, so long as the patient is from another State. And that is crazy.

Second, this bill would expose doctors and nurses who work in religious organizations, clinics, and hospitals. It would expose them to costly lawsuits if they stand by their deeply held beliefs. That also is crazy.

And, finally, this bill would violate the spirit of bipartisan Hyde protections by providing millions of taxpayer dollars to the abortion industry. That also is crazy.

I was elected to protect life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all, including for life for the unborn. But this bill puts more unborn lives in danger. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, let's be clear. Republicans who are now in the middle of trying to rewrite history and claim they only want State politicians overruling women—already an extreme position, by the way—just made clear that actually, on second thought, they have no problem whatsoever with politicians targeting doctors in States like mine, where abortion is legal. I think that pretty much gives the game away.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2053

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, we are now 2 years into a world without Roe v. Wade, a world in which daughters have fewer rights than their mothers and their grandmothers did at their age.

In the 2 years since the Supreme Court overturned Roe, nearly half the States in our country have banned—or effectively banned—access to abortion. Women in those States have extremely limited options for accessing essential healthcare.

For many of these women, their only option for getting the reproductive care they need is going to another State. Last year alone, 171,000 Americans traveled across State lines to access an abortion.

Pro-choice States like Nevada are welcoming these women with open arms and providing them with the essential healthcare their own States have outlawed. In the last 2 years, the number of women coming to Southern Nevada from out of State to get abortion care has doubled.

But even though Nevada is a safe place for women who need healthcare, anti-choice politicians living outside my State are telling women: No, sorry, if you try to travel outside this State, we are going to prosecute anyone who helps you.

Elected officials in States like Tennessee and Texas and Alabama are trying to punish women for leaving their State for reproductive care, as well as anyone who helps them, including their doctors or even their employers. Why? Because for these anti-choice politicians, this is about controlling women.

That is why today I am calling for passage of my Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act. Our legislation reaffirms that women have a fundamental right to interstate travel and makes it crystal clear that States cannot prosecute women—or anyone who helps them—for going to another State to get the critical reproductive care that they need.

The Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act would also empower the Attorney General and anyone impacted to sue the anti-choice politicians who have violated their rights and put theses barbaric restrictions in place. And it would protect healthcare providers in pro-choice States like mine—in Nevada—who help these women traveling from out of State.

Now, I wrote this bill 2 years ago, after the fall of Roe v. Wade, because, like many women across the country, I could see that the anti-choice movement would never stop trying to dismantle women's rights. And we are seeing that play out before our very eyes. We are hearing it today on the floor. We see it in our States.

Last month, Lauren Miller came here to Washington to testify in a Senate subcommittee hearing and tell her story. Lauren was a mother of one and was thrilled to find out that she was pregnant once again, this time with twins. She and her husband couldn't wait to grow their family. But at her 12-week ultrasound, Lauren learned the most devastating news: Half of one of her twins' brains was filled with fluid, and it was not going to survive. Lauren needed to abort this fetus to save the other viable twin and to protect her own life.

The problem was that Lauren lived in Texas, where abortions are almost entirely banned. Lauren's doctors wouldn't even talk to her about having a lifesaving abortion because they were so afraid of Texas's intentionally confusing laws, and they did not want to be prosecuted for practicing medicine to help her.

In her testimony, Lauren said:

> My pregnancy was not my own. It belonged to the State.

Even after she ended up in the hospital at risk of organ damage to her kidneys and her brain, she still could not get the care that she needed. Lauren was forced to set aside several days and thousands of dollars while she was terribly ill so that she could fly to Colorado, just to access reproductive healthcare—just to access 21st century medicine.

And if that wasn't enough of a burden, Lauren and her husband were terrified to travel out of State because of Texas's bounty laws. In Texas, private

citizens can be paid by their government if they catch anyone who has helped someone access abortion care.

Oklahoma has adopted a similar law.

This is what happens when we give it to the States. This is what happened with the overturn of Roe v. Wade. When we are talking about States' rights, this is it. These laws mean people seeking abortions have to plan for their out-of-State travel as if they are doing something illegal.

Lauren and her husband had conversations about whether they should leave their cell phones at home and only use cash so they couldn't be tracked—in this day and age, like they were criminals of some sort, all because Lauren was dying from an entirely preventable health issue that she couldn't get care for in her own State.

When my colleagues and I first introduced the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act, anti-choice Republicans told us we were getting worked up over nothing. When we introduced and reintroduced it last year, anti-choice Republicans still told us we were overreaching. Anti-choice Republicans' main argument continues to be that it is just not necessary, that we are being hysterical, that we need to calm down.

Lauren Miller and her husband weren't being hysterical. She and her healthy son are living proof that we need to protect a woman's right to travel across State lines for abortion care.

My anti-choice colleagues can pretend this isn't happening right under their noses, but women across this country know the truth: Anti-choice politicians want to control women. They don't want women leaving the confines of their States with abortion bans, and they don't want us to have bodily autonomy.

Well, I stand with the vast majority of Americans who believe that politicians have no say in a woman's healthcare decisions. Women like Lauren Miller deserve access to life-saving care regardless of the State they live in. That is why we must pass the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act now. This is commonsense legislation to uphold a woman's constitutional right and freedom to interstate travel for healthcare.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and not withstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2053, the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act of 2023, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my pro-life colleagues and I most certainly do not oppose any individual's freedom to travel across this great country, but we do take issue with this effort to give bad actors cover from prosecution.

While this bill poses as protecting pregnant women from prosecution, it would actually put vulnerable women and girls in harm's way if it became law. This would allow traffickers and abusive partners, parents, or relatives to take vulnerable women and girls across State lines to obtain abortions in an attempt to cover up their abuse.

These same abusers would also be given the freedom to travel across State lines to stockpile dangerous chemical abortion drugs to bring back to a life-affirming State. The chemical abortion regimen can pose dramatic complications that a woman or girl should never have to deal with, especially without medical care at her home.

According to the FDA's own label, these abortion drugs send roughly 1 in 25 women to the emergency room.

With this legislative effort before us, we see pro-abortion advocates promoting the scariest possible scenario by allowing a teenage girl to start the chemical abortion process across State lines with mifepristone, only to be sent back to her home State to deal with the physically and emotionally painful process alone.

We can and must do far better to protect women and girls from this heartbreaking and dangerous situation, and we certainly should not be shielding bad actors from prosecution.

It is for these reasons that I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, No. 1, let's be very clear: This legislation has nothing to do with shielding bad actors. And, No. 2, mifepristone is a safe and effective drug and has been for over 50 years.

So for my colleagues who have been on this path to limit access to healthcare for women and to reproductive freedom rights, to claim and make this misinformation and these scare tactics, when they are not true, does not do right by women.

Let me just say this. A majority of this country—including men, including Democrats, Republicans, nonpartisans—support the right of a woman to choose. That is what this is about: continuing to fight for those rights.

A woman should have the freedom to access 21st century healthcare. Giving it to the States to make this decision is still giving it to elected officials to be in a room with women when they are making this decision. That is not the answer.

But until we can overturn Dobbs, we need legislation that is going to protect women so they can access this 21st century medication when they need it and come to States like mine without the fear of being prosecuted, and the doctors need to be protected. That is what this is about, and it will always be about giving the freedom to women for their access to healthcare in this country.

And I will tell you this. My colleagues and I will never stop fighting for this. It is too important for our children, our young girls, and their future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, to recap, we just tried to pass some very straightforward legislation: a bill to protect a woman's right to travel across State lines to get the healthcare she needs, a bill to protect a doctor's right to provide legal abortion care to their patients without being threatened by an out-of-State extremist, and a bill to ensure more health professionals can receive critical training in comprehensive reproductive healthcare to help meet the dire need for providers.

Not a single one of these bills should be controversial. To oppose these bills, as Republicans have just done, is truly extreme. Are we going to let politicians hold women who want an abortion captive in their States? Seriously. If a woman wants to travel somewhere so she can make her own personal decision about her healthcare, are Republicans going to tie her hands? And if a doctor in a State like mine, where abortion is fully legal and even protected by our State constitution—if our doctors treat a patient from somewhere like Idaho—something that happens every day, by the way—do we want to let out-of-State extremist politicians threaten and try to punish them?

Again, we are talking about healthcare providers performing an abortion in a State where abortion is legal and protected. Republicans are all for States' rights until it comes to letting a woman make her own healthcare decisions.

When it comes to training, let's be clear: Abortion is healthcare, and in some cases, a patient's life may depend on whether they can get that care or not. That is why we need to make sure that every provider can get the comprehensive reproductive health training that they need by supporting medical training programs that are doing this important work.

It is incredibly frustrating to me that, so far, Republicans have blocked these proposals from moving forward. It seems, when it comes to an abortion, there is no bill too simple for Republicans to oppose. There is no right too basic for Republicans to attack and no problem too important for Republicans to ignore.

Republicans haven't just voted down our efforts to restore abortion rights in every State, they have voted against the right to birth control; they have voted against the right to IVF; and now they have opposed letting patients

leave their States for care, letting doctors provide legal care to anyone who comes to them, and helping healthcare providers get the training they need to save a life.

But let's be clear: No matter this outcome, no matter how far Republicans follow the most extreme anti-abortion voices in their party, Democrats are going to keep standing against them, pushing for reproductive rights, and fighting for patients.

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

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

REMEMBERING JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, today, I take to the floor for the first time. I really am not one to speak a whole lot on the floor. My time in the House was very limited as to how many times I spoke on the House floor. Then, being in the Senate, this is my first time to speak, but it comes on an occasion that I feel is, I guess, the right time to speak.

A gentleman whom I took great pride in knowing, whom I referred to quite often as a grandfather, Senator Jim Inhofe, passed away, unfortunately, this morning.

And I was asked right off the bat, ''Would you be willing to do some interviews?'' on it. And then, obviously, we were asked to speak on the floor.

And I didn't even know what to say. How do you describe Senator Jim Inhofe, right? How do you describe his family—Miss Kay, who, from the first time I ever met her, she made me feel as comfortable as if I was her own child, just someone who took time to pet on me and love on me when I was trying to learn just to be in politics because politics was new.

Senator Inhofe would often take me by the hand—literally, by the hand—and say: Hey, listen to me, son. And over time he became quite a mentor—I mean, quite a mentor of mine.

And I get asked all the time: How do you plan on filling the shoes of Senator Inhofe? And I say: How do you fill the shoes of a gentleman whose middle name was ''Mountain''? How fitting is that, right? Senator James Mountain Inhofe, because he was a mountain of a man.

He blazed his own trail. He was full of grit and tenacity. You always knew where he stood. I never doubted what his thoughts were. He would tell me right off the bat. When it was time for a decision to be made, he would get the delegation together. He would come in, and he wasn't someone that demanded you to go with him. He just let you know where he was at and why he was right. And you found a lot of respect in that. At the same time, if he didn't agree with you, he let you know he didn't agree with you. But you can respect a guy that you always know where he stands.

So it saddens me deeply to know that, today, this Earth is less one gentleman that I think we all learned from. Everybody in this Chamber who knew James or Senator Inhofe knew a guy as a friend. You knew he was someone that you could trust.

I remember one time—it was in 2016—my wife and I, we were making a decision if we were going to continue to stay in public office. Quite frankly, I was done. I had my fill. I came from the private sector. And just politics, in itself, to me, was not something that I enjoyed. I was ready to just throw in the towel.

And Senator Inhofe called me. He says: Hey, come into my office, which, coming over from my little Senate office in Longworth, I went into this Taj Mahal office of Senator Inhofe's, and I just was in shock.

And he said: Do me a favor. He says: Don't leave yet. And I looked at him. He said: Just give it time. He said: I understand it is bad right now. I understand it is rough. He said: But take it from a guy who came out of the private sector—from me—who at that time had been in office almost 55 years. He said: Take it from me, a guy that came out of the private sector, how frustrating it can be. But it can also be the most rewarding thing you will ever do. It can be more satisfying than anything you have ever built if you will just stay put because, I promise you, it will get better.

And I can't say it has actually gotten better, but I can say that he was right, because it is gratifying. What he did is he allowed me to change my focus from understanding that all the outside distractions that can take place, all the nasty things that can happen on social media, the things that can be written about you that are out of your control, things that people automatically assume about you because you are in public office—that can all easily go away if you will stay focused on what you were elected to do, which is to serve the great State of Oklahoma and just focus on constituent service, focus on building things for the State, focus on staying passionate about what your passion is, and you can create such a legacy for yourself.

I don't think Senator Inhofe ever set out to build a legacy that his name is built upon. He always wanted to serve, from being mayor of the city of Tulsa, to being a Congressman for three terms, to serving in the Senate for almost 30 years. All he did every day was work hard for Oklahoma, and I am grateful to get to know him.

His family, the whole time he served—I have just got to brag about his family because, the whole time he served—which was a big thing for me too—it was, how do you balance the political life and the family life? Because if you knew Jim, Jim was—or Senator Inhofe—always going home. Miss Kay was his priority. If she was ill, wasn't feeling good, he was headed that way. And every time I talked to him on the plane, when we sat beside each other, when we would land, the first person he would call would be Miss Kay.

And he would want to know how she is doing and want to make sure that this project is being complete. And sometimes he would even talk to me about some of the projects going on to his house. It was always a priority.

And for me, who had six kids at home—and at the time when I got in office, my oldest was 7 years old—that was a concern of mine of how you can balance it.

And he says: MARKWAYNE, I have been doing this—like I said, at that time, when we first had that conversation, he had been in office for over 50 years. He says: I have done it, and I think I have raised some pretty good kids. His kids loved him. His wife loved him. His grandkids loved him.

And not to talk about the way that he necessarily left the world, but I think he left it the way he would want to, a guy that was always moving. He was always on the run. He always had a project. He never sat still. To be able to be here one day, go through a little trouble for a maybe a few days, and leave this Earth and people loving you and you had a great reputation—I don't know how any of us would rather be remembered.

And so, while I take the podium for the first time, I just want to say again, it is an honor to walk in that trail that he blazed because, as I said, I am not ever going to fill his shoes. But he built a trail, as people want to refer to it, as a mountain man. What did the mountain man do, right? The mountain man went up, and he blazed trails—new trails. He was in territory that no one else knew about. He blazed a trail that I could build a highway on, and I have full intentions of doing that.

So to Miss Kay, to his kids, and to his grandkids and to all his family, thank you for giving so much of your time to allow Senator Inhofe to serve. Thank you for giving him to me and allowing me to call him—even though he sometimes got mad at me because he thought I was talking about his age. I wasn't. I meant it in an affectionate way. Thank you for allowing me to call him my grandfather, because I lost both my grandfathers. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to know him and to know your family. May God bless you.

I think it is pretty evident when I say this: We are all going to miss him.

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

Mr. ROMNEY. I ask unanimous consent that the 5:45 vote occur now.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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. 512, Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., 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, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie K. 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 Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—7

Budd	Ernst	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Menendez	
Cruz	Rubio	

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

NOMINATION OF ROBIN MICHELLE MERIWEATHER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will vote to confirm Robin Michelle Meriweather to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Born in Detroit, MI, Judge Meriweather received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from Yale Law School. Following her graduation from law school, she clerked for Judge Merrick B. Garland on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit between 1998 and 1999. After her clerkship, she joined the law firm of Jenner and Block, LLP, as a litigation associate. There, Judge Meriweather's practice involved complex civil litigation, as well as matters concerning constitutional, statutory, and regulatory claims.

In 2007, she joined the civil division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia as an assistant U.S. attorney. Judge Meriweather became deputy chief of that division in 2011 and served in that capacity until 2017. Since January 2017, she has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Throughout her time on the bench, Judge Meriweather has issued more than 1,000 orders and presided over three trials.

Judge Meriweather's experience as a magistrate judge coupled with her experience in public and private practice have prepared her to serve honorably on the United States Court of Federal Claims.

I am proud to support her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL LEONARD ''BUTCH'' DOLLAGA

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of an esteemed and valued member of our Armed Forces, Rear Admiral Leonard ''Butch'' Dollaga, who will retire from the U.S. Navy on October 1, 2024, after 34 years in uniform. His long and distinguished service to our Nation reflects an unwavering devotion to duty and a great love of our country.

Rear Admiral Dollaga grew up next to the shipyards in Honolulu, HI, and his hometown of Vallejo, CA. He earned his commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1990 and upon graduation entered the fleet as a submarine officer. After serving as a division officer aboard USS *Los Angeles* (SSN 688), an engineer officer aboard USS *Rhode Island* (SSBN 740), and executive officer aboard USS *Cheyenne* (SSN 773), Rear Admiral Dollaga commanded USS *Charlotte* (SSN 766) in Pearl Harbor, HI. He also served as commodore of Submarine Development Squadron 12 in Groton, CT.

Ashore, Rear Admiral Dollaga's service reflected the same rigors he faced at sea. He served in a number of important roles, including admissions officer at the U.S. Naval Academy, technical assistant to the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, nuclear officer program manager and submarine officer community manager on the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel, instructor for the Submarine Command Course, Chief of the Joint Staff's Program and Budget Analysis Division, and Director of the Navy Appropriations Matters Congressional Liaison Office.

His flag assignments included serving as commander of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center in Groton, CT, and most recently as commander of Submarine Group SEVEN/Task Force 54/Task Force 74, where he led undersea operations in both the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command areas of responsibility.

Over the past 2 years, Admiral Dollaga has served as the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. As the principal representative of the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations to the Senate and House of Representatives, he has provided invaluable support to Members and congressional staff. Rear Admiral Dollaga understands the importance of maintaining a strong partnership between senior Navy leadership and the Hill. He ensured, to the best of his abilities, that

there were no surprises, and he never shied away from tough conversations.

Rear Admiral Dollaga provided exemplary vision, strategy, and direction in executing numerous hearings, briefings, and engagements with Congress on the strategic direction and challenging issues facing the Department of the Navy. As he brings this chapter of his life to a close, I want to personally thank him and ask that we honor him today for his more than three decades of leadership and service.

Submariners endure deployments that take them away from their family and the luxury of frequent communication with their loved ones. For this reason, I also want to recognize the service and sacrifice of Rear Admiral Dollaga's family: his wife Lani, his daughters Sarah and Malia, and his son Kyle. Without their support and sacrifice over these past 34 years, his service would not have been possible. They have been an integral part of his journey and deserve our Nation's gratitude. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Rear Admiral Dollaga on an outstanding career and in wishing him and his family all the best as they embark on a new chapter together.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Mr. FETTERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress. The U.S. Congress's roots can be traced to the First Continental Congress, which convened in Philadelphia's own Carpenters' Hall in 1774 and was one of the most significant events in the founding of our Nation. Colonial delegates solidified a united American identity by adopting the Declaration of Colonial Rights, which created the Colonial coalition that later signed the Declaration of Independence. After the U.S. War of Independence, the Continental Congress evolved into the Federation Congress and ultimately the U.S. Congress as established by the Constitution in 1787.

In July 2024, the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, the nonprofit organization founded in 1724 that owns and operates Carpenters' Hall, will convene the Young People's Continental Congress, YPCC. A diverse group of high school students and their teachers from the 13 original Colonies will gather in Philadelphia to explore our Nation's founding. A second convening in July 2025 will engage students and teachers from all 56 States and jurisdictions. YPCC is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage young people in history and civics, as well as to launch Philadelphia's celebration of the semiquincentennial of American independence in 2026.

YPCC delegates will discuss America's founding principles and how those principles have been expressed over our history. They will also experience Philadelphia's historic attractions to enhance their understanding of the democratic process and how our country was founded.

YPCC will harness the power of convening for a new generation of civic leaders and focus on the unique opportunity they have to help shape the conversations around what America looks like today. As generations of leaders have learned, there is nothing like being ''in the room where it happened.''

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF WYOMING

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the 150th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming. This important fraternal organization, also known as Wyoming Masons, will celebrate the occasion during their annual convention on August 12, 2024, in Casper, WY.

Freemasonry is one of the oldest fraternal organizations in the world. Members share a belief in ''the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of mankind.'' With a shared commitment to lives of honor, integrity, and character, the men of Freemasonry work to better themselves, their communities, and the world.

The first known masonic meeting in Wyoming took place at Independence Rock on July 4, 1862. Independence Rock is located on the Oregon and Mormon trails in central Wyoming between the cities of Casper and Rawlins. Twenty masons from the camped Oregon wagon trains participated in a masonic meeting.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming was established December 15, 1874, in Laramie City, territory of Wyoming. Four lodges with 211 members were represented. Edgar P. Snow was elected the first Grand Master. Today, Wyoming has 41 lodges with over 2100 members.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming is a member of the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference. The lodge recognizes several Appendant and Concordant organizations which provide opportunities for family members to interact with Masonic relatives.

These organizations include Job's Daughters International, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, York Rite of Freemasonry, Ancient Order of the Mystic Shrine, National Sojourners, Order of the Eastern Star, Ladies' Oriental Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, Allied Masonic Degrees, and Royal Order of Scotland.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming is led by its 2023–2024 elected officers: Grand Master Thomas G. Needham, Jackson, WY; Deputy Grand Master Scott Kitchner, Rock Springs, WY; Senior Grand Warden Gregory K. Shiek, Sheridan, WY; Junior Grand Warden Ken Thorpe, Jr., Sheridan, WY; Grand Treasurer John F. Nunley III, Cheyenne, WY; and Grand Secretary Beynon St. John, Lander, WY.

Those serving through appointments include Senior Grand Deacon E. Ray Leeman, Jr., Aladdin, WY; Junior Grand Deacon James K. Wamsley, Rock Springs, WY; Junior Grand Steward Bryan J. Compton, Jackson, WY; Junior Grand Steward Calvin E Van Zee, Laramie, WY; Grand Lecturer Weston G. Hubele, Mills, WY; Grand Chaplain Preston Goulette, Pinedale, WY; Grand Orator Thomas Jefferson Rodgers, Sheridan, WY; Grand Marshal Stephen H. Fowler, Evanston, WY; Grand Librarian Gary D. Skillern, Cheyenne, WY; Grand Historian Mark S. Young PGM, Gillette, WY; Grand Organist Tim Forbis, Cheyenne, WY; and Grand Tyler David N. Lankford, Pinedale, WY.

District lecturers are Bret D. Steger, Pine Bluffs, WY; David G. Hammond, Laramie, WY; Stephen H. Fowler, Evanston, WY; Kraig A. Kobert, Jackson, WY; Toby Errickson, Lander, WY; Christopher G. Neubauer, Casper, WY; Jeffrey D. Thomas, Guernsey, WY; Jon C. Rowe, Gillette, WY; Thomas Jefferson Rodgers, Sheridan, WY; Eric R. Kay, Thermopolis, WY; and Bryan G. Baird, Cowley, WY.

Special appointees are Masonic Service Association Coordinator Shawn Covert, Bar Nunn, WY; Masonic Renewal Representative Weston Hubele, Mills, WY; George Washington Masonic National Memorial Representative Roy C. Kinsey, Jackson, WY; and Grand Lodge Webmaster R. Aaron Roybal, Cheyenne, WY.

It is an honor to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming. I send my best wishes to all Wyoming masons as you pave the way for future generations.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK WINSTEAD

● Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I submit this statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor the public service of Mr. Jack Winstead. In both his professional and personal capacities, he has worked faithfully to make the most of Mississippi's natural resources and to care for our State's veterans.

Jack pursued his education at East Central Community College and Mississippi State University, but he had begun serving well before completing his studies. As an undergraduate, Jack began working with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, SCS. He went on to dedicate the next 35 years of his life to SCS.

Associations, commissions, and boards across the State have noticed Jack's expertise. Jack has not kept his skills to himself. Instead, he has given generously to the many who have

asked for his help. He has embraced leadership roles at the Mississippi Soil and Water Commission, the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, the Newton County Cattleman's Association, and more. Then-Governor Haley Barbour appointed him to the commission on environmental quality. Jack has worked on statewide, countywide, and local issues, and Mississippi's natural resources have benefited from his dedication.

All of those accolades are a testament to Jack's value to our State, but he is not focused on titles. Today, he is the president of the Friends of Mississippi Veterans, a group which cares for those who have served in uniform. In particular, Jack has been working to support the 600 men and women living in one of the State's veterans nursing homes. Jack and his wife Jeanette have also established an endowment scholarship at East Central Community College.

Jack has said he is grateful to serve those who have made such a difference to our Nation. It is exactly that spirit that characterizes the best of Mississippi, and, for that reason, I am eager to praise him today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:10 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 897. An act to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5441. An act to reauthorize Long Island Sound programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5443. An act to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5770. An act to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs.

H.R. 6062. An act to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 897. An act to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5441. An act to reauthorize Long Island Sound programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5443. An act to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5770. An act to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6062. An act to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. OSSOFF (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4640. A bill to strengthen trafficking victim assistance grant funding; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4641. A bill to provide for certain reforms pertaining to Chevron deference; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 4642. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an income tax on excess profits of certain corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4643. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 4644. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to increase funding for stormwater management for Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4645. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4646. A bill to provide grants to State and local governments that enact right to counsel legislation for low-income tenants facing eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4647. A bill to require the transfer of regulatory control of certain munitions exports from the Department of Commerce to the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 4648. A bill to require the President to establish a task force on streamlining the classified national security information system and narrowing of the criteria for classification of information, to make improvements with respect to such classification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 4649. A bill to amend the Mutual Security Act of 1954 by declaring that if all NATO countries consent to the accession of Ukraine to NATO membership, the United States will have grounds for withdrawing from the North Atlantic Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 753. A resolution calling for the immediate release of George Glezmann, a United States citizen who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on December 5, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of all Americans by the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 754. A resolution commending the courage, bravery, and resolve of the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters of Cuba, who, 3 years ago, stood in the face of brutal harassment, beatings, and torture to protest against the Communist Cuban regime, demanding access to their fundamental rights to life, dignity, and freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 755. A resolution designating June 2024 as National Cybersecurity Education Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 756. A resolution designating June 19, 2024, as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'' in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. Res. 757. A resolution designating the week of May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024, as ''Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Con. Res. 37. A concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to men and to Black women; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 159

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 159, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for mandatory restitution or civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 711

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

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 838, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 1384

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

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2517

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2517, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for periodic automatic reenrollment under qualified automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2768

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2768, a bill to protect hospital personnel from violence, and for other purposes.

S. 2796

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2796, a bill to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes.

S. 2911

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2911, a bill to prohibit the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purpose of imposing gun control.

S. 3096

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3096, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the regularized appointment of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3131

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3131, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand and clarify the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Drug Price Negotiation Program.

S. 3253

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3253, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require research and development on frost or cold weather insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 3444

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3444, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the accessibility of 9–8-8, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3819

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3819, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations to establish shrinkflation as an

unfair or deceptive act or practice, and for other purposes.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3832, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 4199

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4199, a bill to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4292, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 4299

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4299, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule relating to the collection of crashworthiness information under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4305

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4305, a bill to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 4322

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) 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. 4387

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 4387, a bill to prohibit transportation of any alien using certain methods of identification.

S. 4433

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 4433, a bill to enhance United States cooperation with European countries to improve the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 4464

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4464, a bill to require the United States Postal Service to apply certain requirements when closing a processing, shipping, delivery, or other facility supporting a post office, and for other purposes.

S. 4516

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4516, a bill to ensure equal protection of the law, to prevent racism in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 4532

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4532, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 4537

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4537, a bill to provide for congressional oversight of proposed changes to arms sales to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 4539

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4539, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

S. 4554

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4554, a bill to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the Dobbs v. Jackson decision on June 24, 2022.

S. 4580

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4580, a bill to establish, improve, or expand high-quality workforce development programs at community colleges, and for other purposes.

S. 4612

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4612, a bill to ensure that the background check system used for firearms purchases denies a firearm to a person prohibited from possessing a firearm by a lawful court order governing the pretrial release of the person.

S. 4613

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4613, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of LGBTQI Inclusion and a rural outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 4619

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4619, a bill to revise sections 552, 1461, and 1462 of title 18, United States Code, and section 305 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1305), and for other purposes.

S. 4624

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4624, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the status and timeline for completion of the redesigned Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry 2.0.

S. 4627

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4627, a bill to authorize additional appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for solid waste disposal systems of the Army, with an offset.

S.J. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 82, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Drug Administration relating to ''Medical Devices; Laboratory Developed Tests'' .

S.J. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 87, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to ''Clean Vehicle Credits Under Sections 25E and 30D; Transfer of Credits; Critical Minerals and Battery Components; Foreign Entities of Concern'' .

S. RES. 144

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 144, a resolution recognizing that it is the duty of the Federal Government to develop and implement a Transgender Bill of Rights to protect

and codify the rights of transgender and nonbinary people under the law and ensure their access to medical care, shelter, safety, and economic safety.

S. RES. 630

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 630, a resolution supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 75 years of accomplishments.

S. RES. 748

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 748, a resolution expressing that the United States should not enter into any bilateral or multilateral agreement to provide security guarantees or long-term security assistance to Ukraine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4645. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 4645

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Servicemember Student Loan Affordability Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. INTEREST RATE LIMITATION ON DEBT ENTERED INTO DURING MILITARY SERVICE TO CONSOLIDATE OR REFINANCE STUDENT LOANS INCURRED BEFORE MILITARY SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 207 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3937) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''ON DEBT INCURRED BEFORE SERVICE'' after ''LIMITATION TO 6 PERCENT'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) LIMITATION TO 6 PERCENT ON DEBT INCURRED DURING SERVICE TO CONSOLIDATE OR REFINANCE STUDENT LOANS INCURRED BEFORE SERVICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an obligation or liability bearing interest at a rate in excess of 6 percent per year that is incurred by a servicemember, or the servicemember and the servicemember's spouse jointly, during military service to consolidate or refinance one or more student loans incurred by the servicemember before such military service shall not bear an interest at a rate in excess of 6 percent during the period of military service.

''(B) LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply only to the consolidation or refinancing of student loans described in such subparagraph and shall not apply to the consolidation or refinancing of any other obligation or liability.'';

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by inserting ''or (2)'' after ''paragraph (1)''; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)''.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''the interest rate limitation in subsection (a)'' and inserting ''an interest rate limitation in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a)''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''EFFECTIVE AS OF DATE OF ORDER TO ACTIVE DUTY'' and inserting ''EFFECTIVE DATE''; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''in the case of an obligation or liability covered by subsection (a)(1), or as of the date the servicemember (or servicemember and spouse jointly) incurs the obligation or liability concerned under subsection (a)(2)''.

(c) STUDENT LOAN DEFINED.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) STUDENT LOAN.—The term 'student loan' means the following:

''(A) A Federal student loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

''(B) A private education loan as that term is defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a)).''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 753—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF GEORGE GLEZMANN, A UNITED STATES CITIZEN WHO WAS WRONGFULLY DETAINED BY THE TALIBAN ON DECEMBER 5, 2022, AND CONDEMNING THE WRONGFUL DETENTION OF ALL AMERICANS BY THE TALIBAN

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

S. RES. 753

Whereas George Glezmann is known to his family, friends, colleagues, and associates as a loving father, as well as a kind, service-oriented man to his community;

Whereas, in December 2022, George Glezmann traveled to Afghanistan for a five-day trip to explore the cultural landscape and rich history of the country;

Whereas the Taliban detained George Glezmann without charging him with a crime or granting him due process in any judicial proceedings;

Whereas, on September 29, 2023, George Glezmann was designated as wrongfully detained by United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken;

Whereas George Glezmann is being held in a nine-foot by nine-foot cell with other detainees and has been held in solitary confinement and underground for months at a time;

Whereas the Taliban has not granted George Glezmann any consular visits by Department of State personnel;

Whereas, during his detention, George Glezmann has had only seven phone calls totaling 54 minutes with his family and limited in-person visits with representatives of Qatar, the protecting power of the United States in Afghanistan;

Whereas George Glezmann is suffering from facial tumors, hypertension, severe malnutrition, and other medical conditions; and

Whereas George Glezmann turned 65 years old during his wrongful detention, and his physical and mental health are rapidly declining due to the stress and harsh conditions such that his family fears he will not survive his wrongful detention: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Taliban to immediately and unconditionally release George Glezmann and all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained in Afghanistan;

(2) urges the Taliban to respect George Glezmann's human rights and to provide full, unfettered, and consistent health and safety visits to George Glezmann while in detention;

(3) encourages the Government of Qatar, as the protecting power of the United States in Afghanistan, to continue its efforts to conduct basic health and wellness checks on George Glezmann, thanks Qatar for its efforts so far, and encourages Qatar to be involved in securing the release of George Glezmann;

(4) urges the President of the United States and all United States executive branch officials to continue to raise the case of George Glezmann and to press for his immediate release in all interactions with the Taliban;

(5) condemns the Taliban's practice of wrongful detention and demands that the Taliban stop detaining United States citizens for political gain;

(6) expresses sympathy for and solidarity with the families of all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained abroad; and

(7) expresses support for the family of George Glezmann and a commitment to bringing George Glezmann home.

SENATE RESOLUTION 754—COMMENDING THE COURAGE, BRAVERY, AND RESOLVE OF THE FATHERS, MOTHERS, SONS, AND DAUGHTERS OF CUBA, WHO, 3 YEARS AGO, STOOD IN THE FACE OF BRUTAL HARASSMENT, BEATINGS, AND TORTURE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE COMMUNIST CUBAN REGIME, DEMANDING ACCESS TO THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO LIFE, DIGNITY, AND FREEDOM

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 754

Whereas July 11, 2024, marks 3 years since the historic, pro-democracy demonstration in Cuba when thousands of courageous Cubans took to the streets in more than 40 cities, across all provinces, to demand access to their freedoms and civil liberties and call for an end to communism, censorship, and the oppression imposed by the totalitarian Cuban regime;

Whereas, in an attempt to silence the Cuban people and prevent future protests from taking place, the Cuban dictatorship responded with a wave of terror, repression,

and criminalization and detained and persecuted more than 1,400 protestors, including women and children;

Whereas, in a crude and savage effort to silence the Cuban people, the Communist regime cut internet connectivity and mobile services throughout Cuba, which hindered the Cuban people from organizing and hid from the outside world images and videos of the oppressive and brutal crackdown by the regime;

Whereas totalitarian regimes such as Communist China, Russia, Iran, Venezuela, and Nicaragua surveil and repress their citizens in a similar manner to the Cuban regime, with China, according to reports, even establishing an electronic eavesdropping facility in Cuba to spy on Americans and citizens of China abroad;

Whereas the ongoing imprisonment of José Daniel Ferrer García, a Cuban human rights and democracy activist who has worked tirelessly to advocate for fundamental civil liberties for the Cuban people, has suffered from the tactics of the brutal, despotic regime in Cuba, which aims to silence anyone who would dare speak out against its cruelty and barbarity;

Whereas, according to José Daniel Ferrer García's family in January 2022, since his unlawful arrest on July 11, 2021, he had been subjected to months of solitary confinement, physical and psychological torture, and inhumane treatment from Cuban operatives, resulting in dire health conditions;

Whereas José Daniel Ferrer García suffers from severe headaches, breathing problems, mouth bleeding, malnutrition, vision loss, and bouts of coughing with an inability to sleep, can barely sit in a chair properly, and shows physical signs of repeated torture;

Whereas, 3 years into his ongoing and unjust imprisonment by the Communist regime, José Daniel Ferrer García continues to be subjected to evil, inhumane treatment and has not had contact with his family;

Whereas, like José Daniel Ferrer García, 3 years after the historic demonstration, an unknown number of protesters remain in prison, including minors, many are being held without access to or communication with family members, international human rights organizations, or legal counsel, and some have even been disappeared;

Whereas, in an effort to intimidate Cubans from daring to protest again, the Cuban regime has held mass sham ''trials'' that lack any semblance of due process and has imposed disproportionate prison terms of up to 25 years for ill-defined charges such as ''public disorder, contempt, or violence such as rock-throwing,'' according to media reports;

Whereas the brutal and illegitimate Communist regime is terrified of the brave and resilient men and women of Cuba who stand resolute in speaking out against the regime's humanitarian crimes and efforts to persecute, kidnap, torture, and eventually kill anyone who stands up against its tyranny;

Whereas unilateral concessions to the Cuban regime in the form of weakened economic sanctions have effectively rewarded malicious governance, leading to more despicable and resolute repression of the Cuban people;

Whereas the corruption and failures of Cuba's closed, Communist economy, in which many industries are run by the Cuban military, have failed the people of Cuba; and

Whereas the international community should stand in solidarity with the Cuban people in condemning the human rights atrocities committed by the brutal, illegitimate, totalitarian, Communist regime and should demand freedom and democracy for the men, women, and children of Cuba: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the bravery, courage, and resolve of the members of the pro-democracy movement and all freedom activists in Cuba for risking their lives to bring freedom to the Cuban people;

(2) condemns the repression of the hundreds of pro-democracy activists and political prisoners, including children, that the Cuban regime is unjustly detaining and subjecting to physical and psychological torture, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;

(3) condemns the Cuban regime's brutal, totalitarian dictatorship and demands an end to the suffering of the men, women, and children of Cuba and the impunity of the regime's human rights abusers;

(4) calls for the international community to stand with the Cuban people and speak out against Cuba's repressive acts and infringement on fundamental freedoms, such as expression, belief, and assembly; and

(5) urges the Biden administration to put democracy, human rights, and civil liberties at the core of its Cuba policy by ceasing to provide unilateral concessions to the oppressive Cuban regime and by reimposing sanctions on the Cuban regime until all conditions in United States law for removing sanctions are met.

SENATE RESOLUTION 755—DESIGNATING JUNE 2024 AS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 755

Whereas recent cyberattacks and vulnerabilities present cybersecurity risks to individuals and organizations and increase the urgency to grow and sustain a knowledgeable and skilled cybersecurity workforce in both the public and private sectors;

Whereas, according to CyberSeek.org, as of April 2024, in the United States, there are 1,239,018 individuals in the cybersecurity workforce and 469,930 open jobs in cybersecurity;

Whereas a 2017 report entitled ''Supporting the Growth and Sustainment of the Nation's Cybersecurity Workforce: Building the Foundation for a More Secure American Future'', transmitted by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, proposed a vision to ''prepare, grow, and sustain a cybersecurity workforce that safeguards and promotes America's national security and economic prosperity'';

Whereas expanding cybersecurity education opportunities is important in order to address the cybersecurity workforce shortage and prepare the United States for ongoing and future national security threats;

Whereas cybersecurity education can—

(1) provide learning and career opportunities for students across the United States in elementary through postsecondary education; and

(2) bolster the capacity of the domestic workforce to defend the United States and secure the economy of the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, Congress authorized, as part of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 3388), the Cybersecurity Education Training Assistance Program (referred to in this preamble as ''CETAP''), a Department of Homeland Security initiative to provide cybersecurity career awareness, curricular resources, and professional development to elementary and secondary schools;

Whereas CYBER.ORG, a grantee of CETAP, has introduced cybersecurity concepts to more than 4,500,000 students and provided resources to more than 34,000 K–12 educators in all 50 States and 4 territories of the United States;

Whereas the mission of NICE, a partnership between government, academia, and the private sector led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, is ''to energize, promote, and coordinate a robust community working together to advance an integrated ecosystem of cybersecurity education, training, and workforce development'';

Whereas cybersecurity education is supported through multiple Federal programs and other related efforts, including—

(1) the Office of the National Cyber Director;

(2) the NICE Community Coordinating Council;

(3) the Advanced Technological Education program administered by the National Science Foundation;

(4) the CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service program administered by the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Homeland Security;

(5) the Department of Defense Cybersecurity Scholarship Program administered by the Department of Defense;

(6) the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative administered by the Partnership for Public Service;

(7) the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity administered by the National Security Agency;

(8) the Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award;

(9) Career Technical Education (CTE) CyberNet Academies administered by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education of the Department of Education;

(10) the GenCyber program administered by the National Security Agency, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation;

(11) widely used resources, including CareerOneStop, Occupational Outlook Handbook, and O*NET OnLine administered by the Department of Labor; and

(12) the Registered Apprenticeship Program administered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor; and

Whereas ensuring access to cybersecurity education for all students in the United States regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, or geographic location will expand opportunities for high-earning jobs in high-demand fields: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2024 as ''National Cybersecurity Education Month'';

(2) invites individuals and organizations in the United States—

(A) to recognize the essential role of cybersecurity education; and

(B) to support Federal, State, and local educational efforts;

(3) encourages educational and training institutions to increase the understanding and awareness of cybersecurity education at such institutions; and

(4) commits to—

(A) raising awareness about cybersecurity education; and

(B) taking legislative action in support of cybersecurity education to effectively build and sustain a skilled cybersecurity workforce.

SENATE RESOLUTION 756—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2024, AS ''JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY'' IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 756

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and enslaved African Americans were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'', as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in all 50 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations are held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2024, as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'';

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 757—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 5, 2024, THROUGH MAY 11, 2024, AS ''TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK''

Mr. MULLIN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 757

Whereas many people living with serious mental illnesses, including bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, and schizoaffective disorder, or gastrointestinal disorders and symptoms, including gastroparesis, upset stomach, nausea, and vomiting, may be treated with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents, such as antipsychotics and antiemetics;

Whereas, while ongoing treatment with medications can be necessary for serious mental illnesses or gastrointestinal disorders, prolonged use of medications is associated with tardive dyskinesia (referred to in this preamble as ''TD'');

Whereas TD is an involuntary movement disorder that is characterized by uncontrollable, abnormal, and repetitive movements of the face, torso, limbs, and fingers or toes;

Whereas even mild symptoms of TD can impact an individual physically, socially, and emotionally;

Whereas TD affects approximately 600,000 individuals in the United States and approximately 65 percent of individuals with TD have not been diagnosed, making it important to raise awareness about the symptoms;

Whereas it is important and recommended by the American Psychiatric Association that individuals taking medications be monitored for TD by a health care provider;

Whereas clinical research has led to approval of treatments for adults with TD by the Food and Drug Administration;

Whereas recognition and treatment of TD can make a positive impact in the lives of many individuals experiencing psychotic and mood disorders; and

Whereas the Senate can raise awareness of TD among the public and medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024, as ''Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week'';

(2) encourages each individual in the United States to become better informed about and aware of Tardive Dyskinesia; and

(3) encourages individuals experiencing uncontrollable, abnormal, and repetitive movements to consult a health care provider regarding their symptoms.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EQUAL PAY AND THE DISPARITY IN WAGES PAID TO MEN AND TO BLACK WOMEN

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 37

Whereas, July 9, 2024, is Black Women's Equal Pay Day, which marks the day that symbolizes how long into 2024 Black women must work to make what White, non-Hispanic men were paid in 2023;

Whereas section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) prohibits discrimination in compensation for equal work on the basis of sex;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) prohibits discrimination in compensation because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex;

Whereas, despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) 6 decades ago, which requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work, Census Bureau data show that Black women working full time, year round, are paid 69 cents for every dollar that is paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas, when part-time and part-year workers are included in the comparison, Black women are paid 66 cents for every dollar that is paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas, if the current trends continue, on average, Black women will have to wait over 100 years to achieve equal pay;

Whereas the median annual pay for a Black woman in the United States working full time, year round, is $49,480, which means that, if the current wage gap were to continue, the average Black woman would lose nearly $884,800 in potential earnings to the wage gap over the course of a 40-year career;

Whereas lost wages mean Black women have less money to support themselves and their families, save and invest for the future, and spend on goods and services, causing businesses and the economy to suffer;

Whereas Black women's median earnings are less than men's median earnings at every level of academic achievement;

Whereas Black women with bachelor's and master's degrees experience a higher wage gap in comparison with White, non-Hispanic men than in comparison with Black women with a high school diploma;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 68 percent of Black mothers are the sole or primary breadwinners for their families, compared to just more than one-third of non-Hispanic White mothers;

Whereas the lack of access to affordable, quality childcare, paid family and medical leave, paid sick leave, and other family-friendly workplace policies contributes to the wage gap by forcing many Black women to choose between having a job and getting quality care for themselves or their family members;

Whereas if the wage gap were eliminated, on average, a Black woman working full time would have enough money for more than 2 additional years of tuition and fees for a 4-year public university; the full cost of tuition and fees for a public 2-year community college; more than 41 additional months of premiums for employer-based family health insurance coverage with employer contributions; more than 50 weeks of food for a family of 4; more than 12 additional months of home ownership costs, including mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance, utilities, and fuel costs; more than 17 additional months of rental costs, including rent payments, utilities, and fuel; or the full cost of an average borrower's Federal student loan debt in under 2 years;

Whereas 38 percent of women have been sexually harassed at the workplace and over 78 percent of sexual harassment charges filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission are filed by women, yet research has found that only a small number of women who experience harassment formally

report incidents for reasons including fear of retaliation;

Whereas workplace harassment forces many women to leave their occupation or industry;

Whereas targets of harassment are 6.5 times as likely as individuals who are not targets to change jobs or pass up opportunities for advancement, contributing to the gender wage gap;

Whereas Black women were the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have filed a sexual harassment charge;

Whereas nearly two-thirds of workers that are paid the minimum wage or less are women and there is an overrepresentation of women of color in low-wage and tipped occupations;

Whereas 60 percent of private sector workers reported that they were either discouraged or prohibited by their employers from discussing wage and salary information, which can hide pay discrimination and prevent remedies;

Whereas the pay disparity Black women face is part of a wider set of disparities that Black women face in home ownership, unemployment, poverty, access to childcare, and the ability to accumulate wealth;

Whereas the gender wage gap for Black women has only narrowed by 5 cents in the last 2 decades;

Whereas true pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses the gender and racial injustices that Black women face daily;

Whereas the pandemic had a disproportionately negative economic impact on Black women; and

Whereas many national organizations have designated July 9, 2024, as Black Women's Equal Pay Day to represent the additional time that Black women must work to compensate for the lower wages paid to Black women in 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the disparity in wages paid to Black women and its impact on women, families, and the United States; and

(2) reaffirms its support for ensuring equal pay for equal work and narrowing the gender and racial wage gaps.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2075. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2076. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2077. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2078. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2079. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2080. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2081. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2082. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2083. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2084. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2085. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2086. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2087. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2088. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. VANCE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2089. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2090. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr . BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2091. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2092. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2093. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2094. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2095. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2096. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2097. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2098. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2099. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2100. Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2101. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2102. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2103. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2104. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2105. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2106. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2107. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2108. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2109. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2110. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2111. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2112. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2113. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2114. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2115. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2075. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DRINKING WATER WELL REPLACEMENT FOR CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration may enter into one or more agreements with the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, to reimburse the costs of the Town of Chincoteague directly associated with the removal of drinking water wells located on property administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the establishment of alternative drinking water wells on property under the administrative control, through lease, ownership, or easement, of the Town of Chincoteague.

(b) DURATION.—An agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall not exceed a period of 5 years.

SA 2076. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS EXPERIENCE OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 325. Veterans Experience Office

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department within the Office of the Secretary an office to be known as the 'Veterans Experience Office' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Office' in this section).

''(b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—(1) The head of the Office shall be the Chief Veterans Experience Officer.

''(2) The Chief Veterans Experience Officer shall—

''(A) be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals the Secretary considers qualified to perform the duties of the position; and

''(B) report directly to the Secretary.

''(c) FUNCTION.—The functions of the Office are as follows:

''(1) To carry out the key customer experience initiatives of the Department, including setting the customer experience strategy, framework, policy, and other guidance for the Department.

''(2) Requiring the heads of other organizations and offices within the Department to report regularly on customer experience metrics, action plans, and other customer experience improvement efforts.

''(3) To carry out such other functions relating to customer experience as the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(d) STAFF AND RESOURCES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the Office has such staff, resources, and access to customer experience information as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Office.

''(2) Funds available for basic pay and other administrative expenses of other Department organizations shall also be available to reimburse the Office for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs for services provided to such organizations.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''325. Veterans Experience Office.''.

SA 2077. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REINSTATEMENT OF ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3319, the following:

"§ 3319A. Victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; authority to retain transferred education benefits

''(a) REINSTATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary concerned may, subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, reinstate terminated educational assistance payments that were transferred to a spouse or a dependent child under section 3319 of this title if the Secretary concerned determines that the proximate cause for the termination of payment is—

''(1) the administrative separation or conviction by a court martial, or by civilian, Tribal, or State court, of a covered individual for a dependent-abuse offense; and

''(2) the administrative separation or conviction resulted in a discharge characterization of the covered individual that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.

''(b) APPLICATION.—(1) A spouse or dependent child described in subsection (a) seeking reinstatement of terminated educational assistance payments for a termination described in such subsection shall apply for such reinstatement.

''(2) An application under paragraph (1) shall include sufficient information to substantiate that a spouse or dependent child was the victim of dependent-abuse that resulted in a discharge characterization that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.

''(3) The Secretary shall consult with veterans service organizations to ensure that the application process under this subsection is trauma-informed.

''(c) LIMITATION.—Reinstated payments shall not exceed any unused portion of the educational benefits that were transferred to a spouse or dependent child pursuant to section 3319 of this title that remain unobligated at the time of discharge of the covered member.

''(d) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The Secretary concerned may determine that the proximate cause of termination of education benefits is dependent-abuse, as specified in regulations prescribed in subsection (e), only if—

''(1) the record for the administrative separation establishes, by a preponderance of evidence presented, that the covered individual perpetrated a dependent-abuse offense; or

''(2) the covered individual is convicted of a dependent-abuse offense.

''(e) REVIEW OF DETERMINATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, establish procedures by which a spouse or dependent child whose application for reinstatement of terminated educational assistance under subsection (b) is denied by the Secretary concerned may request the applicable Secretary review the application and denial.

''(2) Pursuant to a review by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security under paragraph (1) of an application and denial, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as the case may be, may overturn the denial if the Secretary determines such denial was made in error.

''(3) The Secretary receiving a request for a review of an application and denial pursuant to the procedures required by paragraph (1) shall review the application and denial and respond to the request not later than 30 days after receiving the request.

''(4) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, develop and make available to the public guidance on how a spouse or dependent child may request a review pursuant to the procedures established under paragraph (1).

''(f) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

''(2) Regulations under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) The procedure for application of reinstatement of education benefits.

''(B) The criminal offenses, or categories of offenses, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10), Federal criminal law, the criminal laws of the States and other jurisdictions of the United States, and the laws of other nations that are to be considered dependent-abuse offenses for the purposes of this section.

''(g) BAR TO DUPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.—An individual entitled to education assistance under this chapter who is also eligible for educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, or 35 of this title, chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 or section 510 of title 10, may not receive assistance under two or more such program concurrently, but shall elect (in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe) under which section to receive educational assistance.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'covered individual' means a member of the Armed Forces described in section 3311(b) of this title.

''(2) The term 'dependent-abuse offense' means conduct by a covered individual while a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days that—

''(A) involves abuse of the spouse or a dependent child of the member; and

''(B) is a criminal offense specified in regulations prescribed under subsection (e).

''(3) The term 'dependent child' has the meaning given such term in section 1408(h) of title 10.

''(4) The term 'spouse' means a person who was the beneficiary of transferred educational assistance payments at the time of discharge of a covered individual, who—

''(A) was married to the covered individual; or

''(B) divorced such individual prior to discharge for, as determined by the Secretary concerned, reasons relating to a dependent abuse-offense that resulted in a discharge characterization that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3319 the following new item:

''Sec. 3319A. Victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; authority to retain transferred education benefits .''.

SA 2078. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 3699C. High technology program

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Secretary provides covered individuals with the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education that the Secretary determines provide training or skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry.

''(2) Not more than 6,000 covered individuals may participate in the program under this section in any fiscal year.

''(b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary shall provide, to each covered individual who pursues a high technology program of education under this section, educational assistance in amounts equal to the amounts provided under section 3313(c)(1) of this title, including with respect to the housing stipend described in that section and in accordance with the treatment of programs that are distance learning and programs that are less than half-time.

''(2) Under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide such amounts of educational assistance to a covered individual for each of the following:

''(A) A high technology program of education.

''(B) A second such program if—

''(i) the second such program begins at least 18 months after the covered individual graduates from the first such program; and

''(ii) the covered individual uses educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title to pursue the second such program.

''(3) No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 of this title for that month.

''(c) CONTRACTS.—(1) For purposes of carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to enter into contracts with any number of qualified providers of high technology programs of education for the provision of such programs to covered individuals. Each such contract shall provide for the conditions under which the Secretary may terminate the contract with the provider and the procedures for providing for the graduation of students who were enrolled in a program provided by such provider in the case of such a termination.

''(2) A contract under this subsection shall provide that the Secretary shall pay to a provider—

''(A) upon the enrollment of a covered individual in the program, 25 percent of the cost of the tuition and other fees for the program of education for the individual;

''(B) upon graduation of the individual from the program, 25 percent of such cost; and

''(C) 50 percent of such cost upon—

''(i) the successful employment of the covered individual for a period—

''(I) of 180 days in the field of study of the program; and

''(II) that begins not later than 180 days following graduation of the covered individual from the program;

''(ii) the employment of the individual by the provider for a period of one year; or

''(iii) the enrollment of the individual in a program of education to continue education in such field of study.

''(3) For purposes of this section, a provider of a high technology program of education is qualified if—

''(A) the provider employs instructors whom the Secretary determines are experts in their respective fields in accordance with paragraph (5);

''(B) the provider has successfully provided the high technology program for at least one year;

''(C) the provider does not charge tuition and fees to a covered individual who receives assistance under this section to pursue such program that are higher than the tuition and fees charged by such provider to another individual; and

''(D) the provider meets the approval criteria developed by the Secretary under paragraph (4).

''(4)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe criteria for approving providers of a high technology program of education under this section.

''(B) In developing such criteria, the Secretary may consult with State approving agencies.

''(C) Such criteria are not required to meet the requirements of section 3672 of this title.

''(D) Such criteria shall include the job placement rate, in the field of study of a program of education, of covered individuals who complete such program of education.

''(5) The Secretary shall determine whether instructors are experts under paragraph (3)(A) based on evidence furnished to the Secretary by the provider regarding the ability of the instructors to—

''(A) identify professions in need of new employees to hire, tailor the programs to meet market needs, and identify the employers likely to hire graduates;

''(B) effectively teach the skills offered to covered individuals;

''(C) provide relevant industry experience in the fields of programs offered to incoming covered individuals; and

''(D) demonstrate relevant industry experience in such fields of programs.

''(6) In entering into contracts under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to a provider of a high technology program of education—

''(A) from which at least 70 percent of graduates find full-time employment in the field of study of the program during the 180-day period beginning on the date the student graduates from the program; or

''(B) that offers tuition reimbursement for any student who graduates from such a program and does not find employment described in subparagraph (A).

''(d) EFFECT ON OTHER ENTITLEMENT.—(1) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section has remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this section shall be charged at the rate of one month of such remaining entitlement for each such month of educational assistance under this section.

''(2) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section does not have remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, any educational assistance provided to such individual under this section shall be provided in addition to the entitlement that the individual has used.

''(3) The Secretary may not consider enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section to be assistance under a provision of law referred to in section 3695 of this title.

''(4)(A) An application for enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section shall include notice of the requirements relating to use of entitlement under paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

''(i) in the case of the enrollment of an individual referred to under paragraph (1), the amount of entitlement that is typically charged for such enrollment;

''(ii) an identification of any methods that may be available for minimizing the amount of entitlement required for such enrollment; and

''(iii) an element requiring applicants to acknowledge receipt of the notice under this subparagraph.

''(B) If the Secretary approves the enrollment of a covered individual in a high technology program of education under this section, the Secretary shall deliver electronically to the individual an award letter that provides notice of such approval and includes specific information describing how paragraphs (1) and (2) will be applied to the individual if the individual chooses to enroll in the program.

''(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall not approve the enrollment of any covered individual, not already enrolled, in any high technology programs of education under this section for any period during which the Secretary finds that more than 85 percent of the students enrolled in the program are having all or part of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid to or for them by the educational institution or by the Department of Veterans Affairs under this title or under chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, except with respect to tuition, fees, or other charges that are paid under a payment plan at an educational institution that the Secretary determines has a history of offering payment plans that are completed not later than 180 days after the end of the applicable term, quarter, or semester.

''(2) The Secretary may waive a requirement of paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines, pursuant to regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, such waiver to be in the interest of the covered individual and the Federal Government. Not later than 30 days after the Secretary waives such a requirement, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such waiver.

''(3)(A)(i) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a process by which an educational institution may request a review of a determination that the educational institution does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1).

''(ii) The Secretary may consult with a State approving agency regarding such process or such a review.

''(iii) Not later than 180 days after the Secretary establishes or revises a process under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such process.

''(B) An educational institution that requests a review under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall request the review not later than 30 days after the start of the term, quarter, or semester for which the determination described in subparagraph (A) applies; and

''(ii) may include any information that the educational institution believes the Department should have taken into account when making the determination, including with respect to any mitigating circumstances.

''(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (i), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of programs under this section during the year covered by the report. Each such report shall include each of the following:

''(1) The number of covered individuals enrolled in the program, disaggregated by type of educational institution, during the year covered by the report.

''(2) The number of covered individuals who completed a high technology program of education under the program during the year covered by the report.

''(3) The average employment rate of covered individuals who completed such a program of education during such year, as of 180 days after the date of completion.

''(4) The average length of time between the completion of such a program of education and employment.

''(5) The total number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who, as of the date of the submission of the report, are employed in a position related to technology.

''(6) The average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology, in various geographic areas determined by the Secretary.

''(7) The average salary of all individuals employed in positions related to technology in the geographic areas determined under subparagraph (F), and the difference, if any, between such average salary and the average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology.

''(8) The number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who subsequently enrolled in a second program of education under the program.

''(g) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION; CONSULTATION.—(1) The Secretary shall develop practices to use to collect information about covered individuals and providers of high technology programs of education.

''(2) For the purpose of carrying out program under this section, the Secretary may consult with providers of high technology programs of education and may establish an advisory group made up of representatives of such providers, private employers in the technology field, and other relevant groups or entities, as the Secretary determines necessary.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'covered individual' means any of the following:

''(A) A veteran whom the Secretary determines—

''(i) served an aggregate of at least 36 months on active duty in the Armed Forces (including service on active duty in entry level and skill training) and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; and

''(ii) has not attained the age of 62.

''(B) A member of the Armed Forces that the Secretary determines will become a veteran described in subparagraph (A) fewer than 180 days after the date of such determination.

''(2) The term 'high technology program of education' means a program of education—

''(A) offered by a public or private educational institution;

''(B) if offered by an institution of higher learning, that is provided directly by such institution rather than by an entity other than such institution under a contract or other agreement;

''(C) that does not lead to a degree;

''(D) that has a term of not less than six and not more than 28 weeks; and

''(E) that provides instruction in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information sciences.

''(i) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2028.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3699B the following new item:

''3699C. High technology program.''.

(b) EFFECT ON HIGH TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) HOUSING STIPEND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to each eligible veteran (not including an individual described in the second sentence of subsection (b)) who is enrolled in a high technology program of education under the pilot program on a full-time or part-time basis a monthly housing stipend equal to the product—

''(A) of—

''(i) in the case of a veteran pursuing resident training, the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E–5 residing in the military housing area that encompasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area in which is located the campus of the institution where the individual physically participates in a majority of classes; or

''(ii) in the case of a veteran pursuing a program of education through distance learning, a monthly amount equal to 50 percent of the national average of the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E–5, multiplied by

''(B) the lesser of—

''(i) 1.0; or

''(ii) the number of course hours borne by the individual in pursuit of the program of education involved, divided by the minimum number of course hours required for full-time pursuit of such program of education, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10.

''(2) BAR TO DUAL ELIGIBILITY.—No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 ot title 38, United States Code, for that month.'';

(2) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (6); and

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following new subsection (h):

''(h) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a pilot program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2023.''.

(c) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—Section 3680A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) Any independent study program except—

''(A) an independent study program (including such a program taken over open circuit television) that—

''(i) is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b);

''(ii) leads to—

''(I) a standard college degree;

''(II) a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning; or

''(III) a certificate that reflects graduation from a course of study offered by—

''(aa) an area career and technical education school (as defined in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; or

''(bb) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; and

''(iii) in the case of a program described in clause (ii)(III)—

''(I) provides training aligned with the requirements of employers in the State or local area where the program is located, which may include in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

''(II) provides a student, upon graduation from the program, with a recognized postsecondary credential that is recognized by employers in the relevant industry, which may include a credential recognized by industry or sector partnerships in the State or local area where the industry is located; and

''(III) meets such content and instructional standards as may be required to comply with the criteria under sections 3676(c)(14) and (15) of this title; or

''(B) an online high technology program of education (as defined in subsection (h)(2) of section 3699C of this title)—

''(i) the provider of which has entered into a contract with the Secretary under subsection (c) of such section;

''(ii) that has been provided to covered individuals (as defined in subsection (h)(1) of such section) under such contract for a period of at least five years;

''(iii) regarding which the Secretary has determined that the average employment rate of covered individuals who graduated from such program of education is 65 percent or higher for the year preceding such determination; and

''(iv) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (e) of such section.''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(8) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the enrollment of a veteran in an online high technology program described in subsection (a)(4)(B).''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (c) shall take effect on October 1, 2023.

SA 2079. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PRESENTATION TO PROMOTE BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS IN PRESEPARATION COUNSELING UNDER THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(20) A presentation that promotes the benefits available to veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Such presentation—

''(A) shall be standardized;

''(B) shall, before implementation, be reviewed and approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in collaboration with veterans service organizations that provide claims assistance under the benefits delivery at discharge program of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

''(C) shall be submitted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives for review at least 90 days before implementation;

''(D) where available, shall be presented with the participation of—

''(i) a representative of a veterans service organization recognized under section 5902 of title 38; or

''(ii) an individual—

''(I) recognized under section 5903 of such title; and

''(II) authorized by the Secretary concerned to so participate;

''(E) shall include information on how a veterans service organization may assist the member in filing a claim described in paragraph (19);

''(F) may not encourage the member to join a particular veterans service organization; and

''(G) may not exceed one hour in duration.''.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less than frequently than once each year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) identifies each veterans service organization that participated in a presentation under paragraph (20) of section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a);

(2) contains the number of members of the Armed Forces who attended such presentations; and

(3) includes any recommendations of the Secretary regarding changes to such presentation or to such paragraph.

SA 2080. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 1239. EXPANSION OF FORFEITED PROPERTY AVAILABLE TO REMEDIATE HARMS TO UKRAINE FROM RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1708 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5200) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''from any forfeiture fund'' after ''The Attorney General may transfer''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''which property belonged'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''which property—

''(A) belonged to, was possessed by, or was controlled by a person the property or interests in property of which were blocked pursuant to any covered legal authority;

''(B) was involved in an act in violation of, or a conspiracy or scheme to violate or cause a violation of—

''(i) any covered legal authority; or

''(ii) any restriction on the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of items imposed by the United States under the Export Administration Regulations, or any restriction on the export, reexport, or retransfer of defense articles under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations under subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to—

''(I) the Russian Federation, Belarus, the Crimea region of Ukraine, or the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic regions of Ukraine;

''(II) any person in any such country or region on a restricted parties list; or

''(III) any person located in any other country that has been added to a restricted parties list in connection with the malign conduct of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, including the annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in March 2014 and the invasion beginning in February 2022 of Ukraine, as substantially enabled by Belarus; or

''(C) was involved in any related conspiracy, scheme, or other Federal offense arising from the actions of, or doing business with or acting on behalf of, the Russian Federation, Belarus, or the Crimea region of Ukraine, or the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic regions of Ukraine.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The term 'covered legal authority' means any license, order, regulation, or prohibition imposed by the United States under the authority provided by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or any other provision of law, with respect to—

''(A) the Russian Federation;

''(B) the national emergency—

''(i) declared in Executive Order 13660 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine);

''(ii) expanded by—

''(I) Executive Order 13661 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of additional persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine); and

''(II) Executive Order 13662 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of additional persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine); and

''(iii) relied on for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13685 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to the Crimea region of Ukraine);

''(C) the national emergency, as it relates to the Russian Federation—

''(i) declared in Executive Order 13694 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking the property of certain persons engaging in significant malicious cyber-enabled activities); and

''(ii) relied on for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13757 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to taking additional steps to address the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities);

''(D) the national emergency—

''(i) declared in Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation);

''(ii) expanded by Executive Order 14066 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports and new investments with respect to continued Russian Federation efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine); and

''(iii) relied on for additional steps taken in—

''(I) Executive Order 14039 (22 U.S.C. 9526 note; relating to blocking property with respect to certain Russian energy export pipelines);

''(II) Executive Order 14068 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports, exports, and new investment with respect to continued Russian Federation aggression); and

''(III) Executive Order 14071 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting new investment in and certain services to the Russian Federation in response to continued Russian Federation aggression); and

''(iv) which may be expanded or relied on in future Executive orders; or

''(E) actions or policies that undermine the democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine or threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine.

''(4) The term 'Export Administration Regulations' has the meaning given that term in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

''(5) The term 'restricted parties list' means any of the following lists maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security:

''(A) The Entity List set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations.

''(B) The Denied Persons List maintained pursuant to section 764.3(a)(2) of the Export Administration Regulations.

''(C) The Unverified List set forth in Supplement No. 6 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations.''.

(b) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made in remediating the harms of Russian aggression toward Ukraine as a result of transfers made under subsection (a).''.

(c) PLAN REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for using the authority provided by section 1708 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, as amended by this section.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' has the meaning given that term by section 1708 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, as amended by this section.

SA 2081. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LIMITATIONS ON EXCEPTING POSITIONS FROM COMPETITIVE SERVICE AND TRANSFERRING POSITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency'' means any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government;

(2) the term ''competitive service'' has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code;

(3) the term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management; and

(4) the term ''excepted service'' has the meaning given the term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—A position in the competitive service may not be excepted from the competitive service unless that position is placed—

(1) in any of schedules A through E, as described in section 6.2 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 30, 2020; and

(2) under the terms and conditions under part 6 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 30, 2020.

(c) TRANSFERS.—

(1) WITHIN EXCEPTED SERVICE.—A position in the excepted service may not be transferred to any schedule other than a schedule described in subsection (b)(1).

(2) OPM CONSENT REQUIRED.—An agency may not transfer any occupied position from the competitive service or the excepted service into schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations, without the prior consent of the Director.

(3) LIMIT DURING PRESIDENTIAL TERM.—During any 4-year presidential term, an agency may not transfer from a position in the competitive service to a position in the excepted service the greater of the following:

(A) A total number of employees that is more than 1 percent of the total number of employees employed by that agency, as of the first day of that presidential term.

(B) 5 employees.

(4) EMPLOYEE CONSENT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section—

(A) an employee who occupies a position in the excepted service may not be transferred to an excepted service schedule other than the schedule in which that position is located without the prior written consent of the employee; and

(B) an employee who occupies a position in the competitive service may not be transferred to the excepted service without the prior written consent of the employee.

(d) OTHER MATTERS.—

(1) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding section 7425(b) of title 38, United States Code, this section shall apply to a position under chapter 73 or 74 of that title.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than March 15 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on the immediately preceding calendar year that lists—

(A) each position that, during the year covered by the report, was transferred from the competitive service to the excepted service and a justification as to why each such position was so transferred; and

(B) any violation of this section that occurred during the year covered by the report.

(e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue regulations to implement this section.

SA 2082. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—GOOD SAMARITAN REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED HARDROCK MINES ACT OF 2024

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024''.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE SITE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''abandoned hardrock mine site'' means an abandoned or inactive hardrock mine site and any facility associated with an abandoned or inactive hardrock mine site—

(i) that was used for the production of a mineral other than coal conducted on Federal land under sections 2319 through 2352 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the ''Mining Law of 1872''; 30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.) or on non-Federal land; and

(ii) for which, based on information supplied by the Good Samaritan after review of publicly available data and after review of other information in the possession of the Administrator, the Administrator or, in the case of a site on land owned by the United States, the Federal land management agency, determines that no responsible owner or operator has been identified—

(I) who is potentially liable for, or has been required to perform or pay for, environmental remediation activities under applicable law; and

(II) other than, in the case of a mine site located on land owned by the United States, a Federal land management agency that has not been involved in mining activity on that land, except that the approval of a plan of operations under the hardrock mining regulations of the applicable Federal land management agency shall not be considered involvement in the mining activity.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''abandoned hardrock mine site'' includes a hardrock mine site (including associated facilities) that was previously the subject of a completed response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) or a similar Federal and State reclamation or cleanup program, including the remediation of mine-scarred land under the brownfields revitalization program under section 104(k) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)).

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''abandoned hardrock mine site'' does not include a mine site (including associated facilities)—

(i) in a temporary shutdown or cessation;

(ii) included on the National Priorities List developed by the President in accordance with section 105(a)(8)(B) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9605(a)(8)(B)) or proposed for inclusion on that list;

(iii) that is the subject of a planned or ongoing response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) or a similar Federal and State reclamation or cleanup program;

(iv) that has a responsible owner or operator; or

(v) that actively mined or processed minerals after December 11, 1980.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) APPLICABLE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—The term ''applicable water quality standards'' means the water quality standards promulgated by the Administrator or adopted by a State or Indian tribe and approved by the Administrator pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(4) BASELINE CONDITIONS.—The term ''baseline conditions'' means the concentrations, locations, and releases of any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, as described in the Good Samaritan permit, present at an abandoned hardrock mine site prior to undertaking any action under this division.

(5) COOPERATING PERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''cooperating person'' means any person that is named by the Good Samaritan in the permit application as a cooperating entity.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''cooperating person'' does not include—

(i) a responsible owner or operator with respect to the abandoned hardrock mine site described in the permit application;

(ii) a person that had a role in the creation of historic mine residue at the abandoned hardrock mine site described in the permit application; or

(iii) a Federal agency.

(6) COVERED PERMIT.—The term ''covered permit'' means—

(A) a Good Samaritan permit; and

(B) an investigative sampling permit.

(7) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term ''Federal land management agency'' means any Federal agency authorized by law or executive order to exercise jurisdiction, custody, or control over land owned by the United States.

(8) GOOD SAMARITAN.—The term ''Good Samaritan'' means a person that, with respect to historic mine residue, as determined by the Administrator—

(A) is not a past or current owner or operator of—

(i) the abandoned hardrock mine site at which the historic mine residue is located; or

(ii) a portion of that abandoned hardrock mine site;

(B) had no role in the creation of the historic mine residue; and

(C) is not potentially liable under any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law for the remediation, treatment, or control of the historic mine residue.

(9) GOOD SAMARITAN PERMIT.—The term ''Good Samaritan permit'' means a permit granted by the Administrator under section 5004(a)(1).

(10) HISTORIC MINE RESIDUE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''historic mine residue'' means mine residue or any condition at an abandoned hardrock mine site resulting from hardrock mining activities.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''historic mine residue'' includes—

(i) previously mined ores and minerals other than coal that contribute to acid mine drainage or other pollution;

(ii) equipment (including materials in equipment);

(iii) any tailings facilities, heap leach piles, dump leach piles, waste rock, overburden, slag piles, or other waste or material resulting from any extraction, beneficiation, or other processing activity that occurred during the active operation of an abandoned hardrock mine site;

(iv) any acidic or otherwise polluted flow in surface water or groundwater that originates from, or is pooled and contained in, an inactive or abandoned hardrock mine site, such as underground workings, open pits, in-situ leaching operations, ponds, or impoundments;

(v) any hazardous substance (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601));

(vi) any pollutant or contaminant (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601)); and

(vii) any pollutant (as defined in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)).

(11) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in—

(A) section 518(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(h)); or

(B) section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601).

(12) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING PERMIT.—The term ''investigative sampling permit'' means a permit granted by the Administrator under section 5004(d)(1).

(13) PERSON.—The term ''person'' means any entity described in—

(A) section 502(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362(5)); or

(B) section 101(21) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601(21)).

(14) REMEDIATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''remediation'' means any action taken to investigate, characterize, or cleanup, in whole or in part, a discharge, release, or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment at or from an abandoned hardrock mine site, or to otherwise protect and improve human health and the environment.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''remediation'' includes any action to remove, treat, or contain historic mine residue to prevent, minimize, or reduce—

(i) the release or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that would harm human health or the environment; or

(ii) a migration or discharge of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that would harm human health or the environment.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term ''remediation'' does not include any action that requires plugging, opening, or otherwise altering the portal or adit of the abandoned hardrock mine site.

(15) RESERVATION.—The term ''reservation'' has the meaning given the term ''Indian country'' in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code.

(16) RESPONSIBLE OWNER OR OPERATOR.—The term ''responsible owner or operator'' means a person that is—

(A)(i) legally responsible under section 301 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311) for a discharge that originates from an abandoned hardrock mine site; and

(ii) financially able to comply with each requirement described in that section; or

(B)(i) a present or past owner or operator or other person that is liable with respect to a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant associated with the historic mine residue at or from an abandoned hardrock mine site under section 104, 106, 107, or 113 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604, 9606, 9607, 9613); and

(ii) financially able to comply with each requirement described in those sections, as applicable.

SEC. 5003. SCOPE.

Nothing in this division—

(1) except as provided in section 5004(n), reduces any existing liability under Federal, State, or local law;

(2) except as provided in section 5004(n), releases any person from liability under Federal, State, or local law, except in compliance with this division;

(3) authorizes the conduct of any mining or processing other than the conduct of any processing of previously mined ores, minerals, wastes, or other materials that is authorized by a Good Samaritan permit;

(4) imposes liability on the United States or a Federal land management agency pursuant to section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607) or section 301 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311); or

(5) relieves the United States or any Federal land management agency from any liability under section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607) or section 301 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311) that exists apart from any action undertaken pursuant to this division.

SEC. 5004. ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE SITE GOOD SAMARITAN PILOT PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a pilot program under which the Administrator shall grant not more than 15 Good Samaritan permits to carry out projects to remediate historic mine residue at any portions of abandoned hardrock mine sites in accordance with this division.

(2) OVERSIGHT OF PERMITS.—The Administrator may oversee the remediation project under paragraph (1), and any action taken by the applicable Good Samaritan or any cooperating person under the applicable Good Samaritan permit, for the duration of the Good Samaritan permit, as the Administrator determines to be necessary to review the status of the project.

(3) SUNSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the pilot program described in paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Administrator may grant a Good Samaritan permit pursuant to this division after the date identified in subparagraph (A) if the application for the Good Samaritan permit—

(i) was submitted not later than 180 days before that date; and

(ii) was completed in accordance with subsection (c) by not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) EFFECT ON CERTAIN PERMITS.—Any Good Samaritan permit granted by the deadline prescribed in subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, that is in effect on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act shall remain in effect after that date in accordance with—

(i) the terms and conditions of the Good Samaritan permit; and

(ii) this division.

(b) GOOD SAMARITAN PERMIT ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a Good Samaritan permit to carry out a project to remediate an abandoned hardrock mine site, a person shall demonstrate that, as determined by the Administrator—

(A) the abandoned hardrock mine site that is the subject of the application for a Good Samaritan permit is located in the United States;

(B) the purpose of the proposed project is the remediation at that abandoned hardrock mine site of historic mine residue;

(C) the proposed activities are designed to result in the partial or complete remediation of historic mine residue at the abandoned hardrock mine site within the term of the Good Samaritan permit;

(D) the proposed project poses a low risk to the environment, as determined by the Administrator;

(E) to the satisfaction of the Administrator, the person—

(i) possesses, or has the ability to secure, the financial and other resources necessary—

(I) to complete the permitted work, as determined by the Administrator; and

(II) to address any contingencies identified in the Good Samaritan permit application described in subsection (c);

(ii) possesses the proper and appropriate experience and capacity to complete the permitted work; and

(iii) will complete the permitted work; and

(F) the person is a Good Samaritan with respect to the historic mine residue proposed to be covered by the Good Samaritan permit.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF ALL RESPONSIBLE OWNERS OR OPERATORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan shall make reasonable and diligent efforts to identify, from a review of publicly available information in land records or on internet websites of Federal, State, and local regulatory authorities, all responsible owners or operators of an abandoned hardrock mine site proposed to be remediated by the Good Samaritan under this section.

(B) EXISTING RESPONSIBLE OWNER OR OPERATOR.—If the Administrator determines, based on information provided by a Good Samaritan or otherwise, that a responsible owner or operator exists for an abandoned hardrock mine site proposed to be remediated by the Good Samaritan, the Administrator shall deny the application for a Good Samaritan permit.

(c) APPLICATION FOR PERMITS.—To obtain a Good Samaritan permit, a person shall submit to the Administrator an application, signed by the person and any cooperating person, that provides, to the extent known or reasonably discoverable by the person on the date on which the application is submitted—

(1) a description of the abandoned hardrock mine site (including the boundaries of the abandoned hardrock mine site) proposed to be covered by the Good Samaritan permit;

(2) a description of all parties proposed to be involved in the remediation project, including any cooperating person and each member of an applicable corporation, association, partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity, or nonprofit association;

(3) evidence that the person has or will acquire all legal rights or the authority necessary to enter the relevant abandoned

hardrock mine site and perform the remediation described in the application;

(4) a detailed description of the historic mine residue to be remediated;

(5) a detailed description of the expertise and experience of the person and the resources available to the person to successfully implement and complete the remediation plan under paragraph (7);

(6) to the satisfaction of the Administrator and subject to subsection (d), a description of the baseline conditions caused by the historic mine residue to be remediated that includes—

(A) the nature and extent of any adverse impact on the water quality of any body of water caused by the drainage of historic mine residue or other discharges from the abandoned hardrock mine site;

(B) the flow rate and concentration of any drainage of historic mine residue or other discharge from the abandoned hardrock mine site in any body of water that has resulted in an adverse impact described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) any other release or threat of release of historic mine residue that has resulted in an adverse impact to human health or the environment;

(7) subject to subsection (d), a remediation plan for the abandoned hardrock mine site that describes—

(A) the nature and scope of the proposed remediation activities, including—

(i) any historic mine residue to be addressed by the remediation plan; and

(ii) a description of the goals of the remediation including, if applicable, with respect to—

(I) the reduction or prevention of a release, threat of release, or discharge to surface waters; or

(II) other appropriate goals relating to water or soil;

(B) each activity that the person proposes to take that is—

(i) designed to—

(I) improve or enhance water quality or site-specific soil or sediment quality relevant to the historic mine residue addressed by the remediation plan, including making measurable progress toward achieving applicable water quality standards; or

(II) otherwise protect human health and the environment (including through the prevention of a release, discharge, or threat of release to water, sediment, or soil); and

(ii) otherwise necessary to carry out an activity described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i);

(C) a plan describing the monitoring or other forms of assessment that will be undertaken by the person to evaluate the success of the activities described in subparagraph (A) during and after the remediation, with respect to the baseline conditions, as described in paragraph (6);

(D) to the satisfaction of the Administrator, detailed engineering plans for the project;

(E) detailed plans for any proposed recycling or reprocessing of historic mine residue to be conducted by the person (including a description of how all proposed recycling or reprocessing activities contribute to the remediation of the abandoned hardrock mine site); and

(F) identification of any proposed contractor that will perform any remediation activity;

(8) subject to subsection (d), a schedule for the work to be carried out under the project, including a schedule for periodic reporting by the person on the remediation of the abandoned hardrock mine site;

(9) a health and safety plan that is specifically designed for mining remediation work;

(10) a specific contingency plan that—

(A) includes provisions on response and notification to Federal, State, Tribal, and local authorities with jurisdiction over downstream waters that have the potential to be impacted by an unplanned release or discharge of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; and

(B) is designed to respond to unplanned adverse events (such as adverse weather events or a potential fluid release that may result from addressing pooled water or hydraulic pressure situations), including the sudden release of historic mine residue;

(11) subject to subsection (d), a project budget and description of financial resources that demonstrate that the permitted work, including any operation and maintenance, will be completed;

(12) subject to subsection (d), information demonstrating that the applicant has the financial resources to carry out the remediation (including any long-term monitoring that may be required by the Good Samaritan permit) or the ability to secure an appropriate third-party financial assurance, as determined by the Administrator, to ensure completion of the permitted work, including any long-term operations and maintenance of remediation activities that may be—

(A) proposed in the application for the Good Samaritan permit; or

(B) required by the Administrator as a condition of granting the permit;

(13) subject to subsection (d), a detailed plan for any required operation and maintenance of any remediation, including a timeline, if necessary;

(14) subject to subsection (d), a description of any planned post-remediation monitoring, if necessary; and

(15) subject to subsection (d), any other appropriate information, as determined by the Administrator or the applicant.

(d) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING.—

(1) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING PERMITS.—The Administrator may grant an investigative sampling permit for a period determined by the Administrator to authorize a Good Samaritan to conduct investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water to determine—

(A) baseline conditions; and

(B) whether the Good Samaritan—

(i) is willing to perform further remediation to address the historic mine residue; and

(ii) will proceed with a permit conversion under subsection (e)(1).

(2) NUMBER OF PERMITS.—

(A) LIMITATION.— Subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator may grant not more than 15 investigative sampling permits.

(B) APPLICABILITY TO CONVERTED PERMITS.—An investigative sampling permit that is not converted to a Good Samaritan permit pursuant to paragraph (5) may be eligible for reissuance by the Administrator subject to the overall total of not more than 15 investigative sampling permits allowed at any 1 time described in subparagraph (A).

(3) APPLICATION.—If a Good Samaritan proposes to conduct investigative sampling, the Good Samaritan shall submit to the Administrator an investigative sampling permit application that contains, to the satisfaction of the Administrator—

(A) each description required under paragraphs (1), (2), and (5) of subsection (c);

(B) to the extent reasonably known to the applicant, any previously documented water quality data describing conditions at the abandoned hardrock mine site;

(C) the evidence required under subsection (c)(3);

(D) each plan required under paragraphs (9) and (10) of subsection (c); and

(E) a detailed plan of the investigative sampling.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person submits an application that proposes only investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water that only includes the requirements described in paragraph (1), the Administrator may grant an investigative sampling permit that authorizes the person only to carry out the plan of investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water, as described in the investigative sampling permit application under paragraph (3).

(B) REPROCESSING.—An investigative sampling permit—

(i) shall not authorize a Good Samaritan or cooperating person to conduct any reprocessing of material; and

(ii) may authorize metallurgical testing of historic mine residue to determine whether reprocessing under subsection (f)(4)(B) is feasible.

(C) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SAMPLES.—In conducting investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water, a Good Samaritan shall—

(i) collect samples that are representative of the conditions present at the abandoned hardrock mine site that is the subject of the investigative sampling permit; and

(ii) retain publicly available records of all sampling events for a period of not less than 3 years.

(5) PERMIT CONVERSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the investigative sampling under the investigative sampling permit concludes, a Good Samaritan to whom an investigative sampling permit is granted under paragraph (1) may apply to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit under subsection (e)(1).

(6) PERMIT NOT CONVERTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B)(ii)(I), a Good Samaritan who obtains an investigative sampling permit may decline—

(i) to apply to convert the investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit under paragraph (5); and

(ii) to undertake remediation activities on the site where investigative sampling was conducted on conclusion of investigative sampling.

(B) EFFECT OF LACK OF CONVERSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding a refusal by a Good Samaritan to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit under subparagraph (A), but subject to clause (ii), the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (n) shall continue to apply to the Good Samaritan and any cooperating persons after the refusal to convert.

(ii) DEGRADATION OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY.—

(I) OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT.—If, before the date on which a Good Samaritan refuses to convert an investigative sampling permit under subparagraph (A), actions by the Good Samaritan or any cooperating person have caused conditions at the abandoned hardrock mine site to be measurably worse, as determined by the Administrator, when compared to conditions described pursuant to paragraph (3)(B), if applicable, the Administrator shall provide the Good Samaritan or cooperating person, as applicable, the opportunity to return the conditions at the abandoned hardrock mine site to those conditions.

(II) EFFECT.—If, pursuant to subclause (I), the applicable Good Samaritan or cooperating person does not return the surface water quality at the abandoned hardrock mine site to conditions described pursuant to paragraph (3)(B), if applicable, as determined by the Administrator, clause (i) shall not apply to the Good Samaritan or any cooperating persons.

(e) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING CONVERSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person to which an investigative sampling permit was granted may submit to the Administrator an application in accordance with paragraph (2) to convert the investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit.

(2) APPLICATION.—

(A) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING.—An application for the conversion of an investigative sampling permit under paragraph (1) shall include any requirement described in subsection (c) that was not included in full in the application submitted under subsection (d)(3).

(B) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—An application for permit conversion under this paragraph shall be subject to—

(i) environmental review and public comment procedures required by subsection (l); and

(ii) a public hearing, if requested.

(f) CONTENT OF PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan permit shall contain—

(A) the information described in subsection (c), including any modification required by the Administrator;

(B)(i) a provision that states that the Good Samaritan is responsible for securing, for all activities authorized under the Good Samaritan permit, all authorizations, licenses, and permits that are required under applicable law except for—

(I) section 301, 302, 306, 307, 402, or 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311, 1312, 1316, 1317, 1342, 1344); and

(II) authorizations, licenses, and permits that would not need to be obtained if the remediation was conducted pursuant to section 121 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621); or

(ii) in the case of an abandoned hardrock mine site in a State that is authorized to implement State law pursuant to section 402 or 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342, 1344) or on land of an Indian tribe that is authorized to implement Tribal law pursuant to that section, a provision that states that the Good Samaritan is responsible for securing, for all activities authorized under the Good Samaritan permit, all authorizations, licenses, and permits that are required under applicable law, except for—

(I) the State or Tribal law, as applicable; and

(II) authorizations, licenses, and permits that would not need to be obtained if the remediation was conducted pursuant to section 121 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621);

(C) specific public notification requirements, including the contact information for all appropriate response centers in accordance with subsection (o);

(D) in the case of a project on land owned by the United States, a notice that the Good Samaritan permit serves as an agreement for use and occupancy of Federal land that is enforceable by the applicable Federal land management agency; and

(E) any other terms and conditions determined to be appropriate by the Administrator or the Federal land management agency, as applicable.

(2) FORCE MAJEURE.—A Good Samaritan permit may include, at the request of the Good Samaritan, a provision that a Good Samaritan may assert a claim of force majeure for any violation of the Good Samaritan permit caused solely by—

(A) an act of God;

(B) an act of war;

(C) negligence on the part of the United States;

(D) an act or omission of a third party, if the Good Samaritan—

(i) exercises due care with respect to the actions of the Good Samaritan under the Good Samaritan permit, as determined by the Administrator;

(ii) took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of the third party, as determined by the Administrator; and

(iii) uses reasonable efforts—

(I) to anticipate any potential force majeure; and

(II) to address the effects of any potential force majeure; or

(E) a public health emergency declared by the Federal Government or a global government, such as a pandemic or an epidemic.

(3) MONITORING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Good Samaritan shall take such actions as the Good Samaritan permit requires to ensure appropriate baseline conditions monitoring, monitoring during the remediation project, and post-remediation monitoring of the environment under paragraphs (7) and (14) of subsection (c).

(B) MULTIPARTY MONITORING.—The Administrator may approve in a Good Samaritan permit the monitoring by multiple cooperating persons if, as determined by the Administrator—

(i) the multiparty monitoring will effectively accomplish the goals of this section; and

(ii) the Good Samaritan remains responsible for compliance with the terms of the Good Samaritan permit.

(4) OTHER DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) NO AUTHORIZATION OF MINING ACTIVITIES.—No mineral exploration, processing, beneficiation, or mining shall be—

(i) authorized by this division; or

(ii) covered by any waiver of liability provided by this division from applicable law.

(B) REPROCESSING OF MATERIALS.—A Good Samaritan may reprocess materials recovered during the implementation of a remediation plan only if—

(i) the project under the Good Samaritan permit is on land owned by the United States;

(ii) the applicable Federal land management agency has signed a decision document under subsection (l)(2)(G) approving reprocessing as part of a remediation plan;

(iii) the proceeds from the sale or use of the materials are used—

(I) to defray the costs of the remediation; and

(II) to the extent required by the Good Samaritan permit, to reimburse the Administrator or the head of a Federal land management agency for the purpose of carrying out this division;

(iv) any remaining proceeds are deposited into the appropriate Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund established by section 5005(a); and

(v) the materials only include historic mine residue.

(C) CONNECTION WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES.—The commingling or association of any other discharge of water or historic mine residue or any activity, project, or operation conducted on or after the date of enactment of this Act with any aspect of a project subject to a Good Samaritan permit shall not limit or reduce the liability of any person associated with the other discharge of water or historic mine residue or activity, project, or operation.

(g) ADDITIONAL WORK.—A Good Samaritan permit may (subject to subsection (r)(5) in the case of a project located on Federal land) allow the Good Samaritan to return to the abandoned hardrock mine site after the completion of the remediation to perform operations and maintenance or other work—

(1) to ensure the functionality of completed remediation activities at the abandoned hardrock mine site; or

(2) to protect public health and the environment.

(h) TIMING.—Work authorized under a Good Samaritan permit—

(1) shall commence, as applicable—

(A) not later than the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Administrator granted the Good Samaritan permit, unless the Administrator grants an extension under subsection (r)(2)(A); or

(B) if the grant of the Good Samaritan permit is the subject of a petition for judicial review, not later than the date that is 18 months after the date on which the judicial review, including any appeals, has concluded; and

(2) shall continue until completed, with temporary suspensions permitted during adverse weather or other conditions specified in the Good Samaritan permit.

(i) TRANSFER OF PERMITS.—A Good Samaritan permit may be transferred to another person only if—

(1) the Administrator determines that the transferee qualifies as a Good Samaritan;

(2) the transferee signs, and agrees to be bound by the terms of, the permit;

(3) the Administrator includes in the transferred permit any additional conditions necessary to meet the goals of this section; and

(4) in the case of a project under the Good Samaritan permit on land owned by the United States, the head of the applicable Federal land management agency approves the transfer.

(j) ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR AND FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—In carrying out this section—

(1) the Administrator shall—

(A) consult with prospective applicants;

(B) convene, coordinate, and lead the application review process;

(C) maintain all records relating to the Good Samaritan permit and the permit process;

(D) in the case of a proposed project on State, Tribal, or private land, provide an opportunity for cooperating persons and the public to participate in the Good Samaritan permit process, including—

(i) carrying out environmental review and public comment procedures pursuant to subsection (l); and

(ii) a public hearing, if requested; and

(E) enforce and otherwise carry out this section; and

(2) the head of an applicable Federal land management agency shall—

(A) in the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States, provide an opportunity for cooperating persons and the public to participate in the Good Samaritan permit process, including—

(i) carrying out environmental review and public comment procedures pursuant to subsection (l); and

(ii) a public hearing, if requested; and

(B) in coordination with the Administrator, enforce Good Samaritan permits issued under this section for projects on land owned by the United States.

(k) STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 14 days after the date on which the Administrator receives an application for the remediation of an abandoned hardrock mine site under this section that, as determined by the Administrator, is complete and meets all applicable requirements of subsection (c), the Administrator shall provide notice and a copy of the application to—

(1) each local government with jurisdiction over a drinking water utility, and each Indian tribe with reservation or off-reservation

treaty rights to land or water, located downstream from or otherwise near a proposed remediation project that is reasonably anticipated to be impacted by the remediation project or a potential release of contaminants from the abandoned hardrock mine site, as determined by the Administrator;

(2) each Federal, State, and Tribal agency that may have an interest in the application; and

(3) in the case of an abandoned hardrock mine site that is located partially or entirely on land owned by the United States, the Federal land management agency with jurisdiction over that land.

(l) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the issuance of a Good Samaritan permit to carry out a project for the remediation of an abandoned hardrock mine site, the Administrator shall ensure that environmental review and public comment procedures are carried out with respect to the proposed project.

(2) RELATION TO NEPA.—

(A) MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—Subject to subparagraph (F), the issuance or modification of a Good Samaritan permit by the Administrator shall be considered a major Federal action for purposes of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(B) LEAD AGENCY.—The lead agency for purposes of an environmental assessment and public comment under this subsection shall be—

(i) in the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States that is managed by only 1 Federal land management agency, the applicable Federal land management agency;

(ii) in the case of a proposed project entirely on State, Tribal, or private land, the Administrator;

(iii) in the case of a proposed project partially on land owned by the United States and partially on State, Tribal, or private land, the applicable Federal land management agency; and

(iv) in the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States that is managed by more than 1 Federal land management agency, the Federal land management agency selected by the Administrator to be the lead agency, after consultation with the applicable Federal land management agencies.

(C) COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the lead agency described in subparagraph (B) shall coordinate procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with State, Tribal, and Federal cooperating agencies, as applicable.

(D) COOPERATING AGENCY.—In the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States, the Administrator shall be a cooperating agency for purposes of an environmental assessment and public comment under this subsection.

(E) SINGLE NEPA DOCUMENT.—The lead agency described in subparagraph (B) may conduct a single environmental assessment for—

(i) the issuance of a Good Samaritan permit;

(ii) any activities authorized by a Good Samaritan permit; and

(iii) any applicable permits required by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

(F) NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan permit may only be issued if, after an environmental assessment, the head of the lead agency issues a finding of no significant impact (as defined in section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)).

(ii) SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.—If the head of the lead agency is unable to issue a finding of no significant impact (as so defined), the head of the lead agency shall not issue a Good Samaritan permit for the proposed project.

(G) DECISION DOCUMENT.—An approval or denial of a Good Samaritan permit may be issued as a single decision document that is signed by—

(i) the Administrator; and

(ii) in the case of a project on land owned by the United States, the head of the applicable Federal land management agency.

(H) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this paragraph exempts the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, as applicable, from any other requirements of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(m) PERMIT GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may grant a Good Samaritan permit to carry out a project for the remediation of an abandoned hardrock mine site only if—

(A) the Administrator determines that—

(i) the person seeking the permit is a Good Samaritan;

(ii) the application described in subsection (c) is complete;

(iii) the project is designed to remediate historic mine residue at the abandoned hardrock mine site to protect human health and the environment;

(iv) the proposed project is designed to meet all other goals, as determined by the Administrator, including any goals set forth in the application for the Good Samaritan permit that are accepted by the Administrator;

(v) the proposed activities, as compared to the baseline conditions described in the permit, will make measurable progress toward achieving—

(I) applicable water quality standards;

(II) improved soil quality;

(III) improved sediment quality;

(IV) other improved environmental or safety conditions; or

(V) reductions in threats to soil, sediment, or water quality or other environmental or safety conditions;

(vi) the applicant has—

(I) demonstrated that the applicant has the proper and appropriate experience and capacity to complete the permitted work;

(II) demonstrated that the applicant will complete the permitted work;

(III) the financial and other resources to address any contingencies identified in the Good Samaritan permit application described in subsections (b) and (c);

(IV) granted access and provided the authority to review the records of the applicant relevant to compliance with the requirements of the Good Samaritan permit; and

(V) demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Administrator, that—

(aa) the applicant has, or has access to, the financial resources to complete the project described in the Good Samaritan permit application, including any long-term monitoring and operations and maintenance that the Administrator may require the applicant to perform in the Good Samaritan permit; or

(bb) the applicant has established a third-party financial assurance mechanism, such as a corporate guarantee from a parent or other corporate affiliate, letter of credit, trust, surety bond, or insurance to assure that funds are available to complete the permitted work, including for operations and maintenance and to address potential contingencies, that—

(AA) establishes the Administrator or the head of the Federal land management agency as the beneficiary of the third-party financial assurance mechanism; and

(BB) allows the Administrator to retain and use the funds from the financial assurance mechanism in the event the Good Samaritan does not complete the remediation under the Good Samaritan permit; and

(vii) the project meets the requirements of this division;

(B) the State or Indian tribe with jurisdiction over land on which the abandoned hardrock mine site is located has been given an opportunity to review and, if necessary, comment on the grant of the Good Samaritan permit;

(C) in the case of a project proposed to be carried out under the Good Samaritan permit partially or entirely on land owned by the United States, pursuant to subsection (l), the head of the applicable Federal land management agency has signed a decision document approving the proposed project; and

(D) the Administrator or head of the Federal land management agency, as applicable, has provided—

(i) environmental review and public comment procedures required by subsection (l); and

(ii) a public hearing under that subsection, if requested.

(2) DEADLINE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall grant or deny a Good Samaritan permit by not later than—

(i) the date that is 180 days after the date of receipt by the Administrator of an application for the Good Samaritan permit that, as determined by the Administrator, is complete and meets all applicable requirements of subsection (c); or

(ii) such later date as may be determined by the Administrator with notification provided to the applicant.

(B) CONSTRUCTIVE DENIAL.—If the Administrator fails to grant or deny a Good Samaritan permit by the applicable deadline described in subparagraph (A), the application shall be considered to be denied.

(3) DISCRETIONARY ACTION.—The issuance of a permit by the Administrator and the approval of a project by the head of an applicable Federal land management agency shall be considered to be discretionary actions taken in the public interest.

(n) EFFECT OF PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan and any cooperating person undertaking remediation activities identified in, carried out pursuant to, and in compliance with, a covered permit—

(A) shall be considered to be in compliance with all requirements (including permitting requirements) under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (including any law or regulation implemented by a State or Indian tribe under section 402 or 404 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1342, 1344)) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) during the term of the covered permit, after the termination of the Good Samaritan permit, and after declining to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit, as applicable;

(B) shall not be required to obtain a permit under, or to comply with, section 301, 302, 306, 307, 402, or 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311, 1312, 1316, 1317, 1342, 1344), or any State or Tribal standards or regulations approved by the Administrator under those sections of that Act, during the term of the covered permit, after the termination of the Good Samaritan permit, and after declining to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit, as applicable; and

(C) shall not be required to obtain any authorizations, licenses, or permits that would

otherwise not need to be obtained if the remediation was conducted pursuant to section 121 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621).

(2) UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person (including a Good Samaritan or any cooperating person) that carries out any activity, including activities relating to mineral exploration, processing, beneficiation, or mining, including development, that is not authorized by the applicable covered permit shall be subject to all applicable law.

(B) LIABILITY.—Any activity not authorized by a covered permit, as determined by the Administrator, may be subject to liability and enforcement under all applicable law, including—

(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(ii) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(3) NO ENFORCEMENT OR LIABILITY FOR GOOD SAMARITANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (D) and (E), a Good Samaritan or cooperating person that is conducting a remediation activity identified in, pursuant to, and in compliance with a covered permit shall not be subject to enforcement or liability described in subparagraph (B) for—

(i) any actions undertaken that are authorized by the covered permit; or

(ii) any past, present, or future releases, threats of releases, or discharges of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at or from the abandoned hardrock mine site that is the subject of the covered permit (including any releases, threats of releases, or discharges that occurred prior to the grant of the covered permit).

(B) ENFORCEMENT OR LIABILITY DESCRIBED.—Enforcement or liability referred to in subparagraph (A) is enforcement, civil or criminal penalties, citizen suits and any liabilities for response costs, natural resource damage, or contribution under—

(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (including under any law or regulation administered by a State or Indian tribe under that Act); or

(ii) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(C) DURATION OF APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply during the term of the covered permit, after the termination of the Good Samaritan permit, and after declining to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit, as applicable.

(D) OTHER PARTIES.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) limits the liability of any person that is not described in that subparagraph.

(E) DECLINE IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if a Good Samaritan or cooperating person fails to comply with any term, condition, or limitation of a covered permit and that failure results in surface water quality or other environmental conditions that the Administrator determines are measurably worse than the baseline conditions as described in the permit (in the case of a Good Samaritan permit) or the conditions as described pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(B), if applicable (in the case of an investigative sampling permit), at the abandoned hardrock mine site, the Administrator shall—

(i) notify the Good Samaritan or cooperating person, as applicable, of the failure to comply; and

(ii) require the Good Samaritan or the cooperating person, as applicable, to undertake reasonable measures, as determined by the Administrator, to return surface water quality or other environmental conditions to those conditions.

(F) FAILURE TO CORRECT.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a Good Samaritan or cooperating person that fails to take any actions required under subparagraph (E)(ii) within a reasonable period of time, as established by the Administrator.

(G) MINOR OR CORRECTED PERMIT VIOLATIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the failure to comply with a term, condition, or limitation of a Good Samaritan permit or investigative sampling permit shall not be considered a permit violation or noncompliance with that permit if—

(i) that failure or noncompliance does not result in a measurable adverse impact, as determined by the Administrator, on water quality or other environmental conditions; or

(ii) the Good Samaritan or cooperating person complies with subparagraph (E)(ii).

(o) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF ADVERSE EVENT.—A Good Samaritan shall notify all appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities of any unplanned or previously unknown release of historic mine residue caused by the actions of the Good Samaritan or any cooperating person in accordance with—

(1) section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9603);

(2) section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11004);

(3) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(4) any other applicable provision of Federal law; and

(5) any other applicable provision of State, Tribal, or local law.

(p) GRANT ELIGIBILITY.—A remediation project conducted under a Good Samaritan permit shall be eligible for funding pursuant to—

(1) section 319 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329), for activities that are eligible for funding under that section; and

(2) section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)), subject to the condition that the recipient of the funding is otherwise eligible under that section to receive a grant to assess or remediate contamination at the site covered by the Good Samaritan permit.

(q) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY AND LIABILITY.—

(1) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of—

(A) the Administrator to take any responsive action authorized by law; or

(B) a Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency to carry out any emergency authority, including an emergency authority provided under Federal, State, Tribal, or local law.

(2) LIABILITY.—Except as specifically provided in this division, nothing in this division, a Good Samaritan permit, or an investigative sampling permit limits the liability of any person (including a Good Samaritan or any cooperating person) under any provision of law.

(r) TERMINATION OF GOOD SAMARITAN PERMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan permit shall terminate, as applicable—

(A) on inspection and notice from the Administrator to the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit that the permitted work has been completed in accordance with the terms of the Good Samaritan permit, as determined by the Administrator;

(B) if the Administrator terminates a permit under paragraph (4)(B); or

(C) except as provided in paragraph (2)—

(i) on the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Administrator granted the Good Samaritan permit, if the permitted work has not commenced by that date; or

(ii) if the grant of the Good Samaritan permit was the subject of a petition for judicial review, on the date that is 18 months after the date on which the judicial review, including any appeals, has concluded, if the permitted work has not commenced by that date.

(2) EXTENSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator is otherwise required to terminate a Good Samaritan permit under paragraph (1)(C), the Administrator may grant an extension of the Good Samaritan permit.

(B) LIMITATION.—Any extension granted under subparagraph (A) shall be not more than 180 days for each extension.

(3) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the termination of a Good Samaritan permit under paragraph (1), but subject to subparagraph (B), the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (n) shall continue to apply to the Good Samaritan and any cooperating persons after the termination, including to any long-term operations and maintenance pursuant to the agreement under paragraph (5).

(B) DEGRADATION OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY.—

(i) OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO BASELINE CONDITIONS.—If, at the time that 1 or more of the conditions described in paragraph (1) are met but before the Good Samaritan permit is terminated, actions by the Good Samaritan or cooperating person have caused surface water quality at the abandoned hardrock mine site to be measurably worse, as determined by the Administrator, when compared to baseline conditions described in the permit, the Administrator shall, before terminating the Good Samaritan permit, provide the Good Samaritan or cooperating person, as applicable, the opportunity to return surface water quality to those baseline conditions.

(ii) EFFECT.—If, pursuant to clause (i), the applicable Good Samaritan or cooperating person does not return the surface water quality at the abandoned hardrock mine site to the baseline conditions described in the permit, as determined by the Administrator, subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the Good Samaritan or any cooperating persons.

(4) UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a Good Samaritan permit may seek to modify or terminate the Good Samaritan permit to take into account any event or condition that—

(i) significantly reduces the feasibility or significantly increases the cost of completing the remediation project that is the subject of the Good Samaritan permit;

(ii) was not—

(I) reasonably contemplated by the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit; or

(II) taken into account in the remediation plan of the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit; and

(iii) is beyond the control of the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit, as determined by the Administrator.

(B) TERMINATION.—The Administrator shall terminate a Good Samaritan permit if—

(i) the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit seeks termination of the permit under subparagraph (A);

(ii) the factors described in subparagraph (A) are satisfied; and

(iii) the Administrator determines that remediation activities conducted by the Good Samaritan or cooperating person pursuant to the Good Samaritan permit may result in surface water quality conditions, or any

other environmental conditions, that will be worse than the baseline conditions, as described in the Good Samaritan permit, as applicable.

(5) LONG-TERM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.—In the case of a project that involves long-term operations and maintenance at an abandoned hardrock mine site located on land owned by the United States, the project may be considered complete and the Administrator, in coordination with the applicable Federal land management agency, may terminate the Good Samaritan permit under this subsection if the applicable Good Samaritan has entered into an agreement with the applicable Federal land management agency or a cooperating person for the long-term operations and maintenance that includes sufficient funding for the long-term operations and maintenance.

(s) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials, may promulgate any regulations that the Administrator determines to be necessary to carry out this division.

(2) GUIDANCE IF NO REGULATIONS PROMULGATED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator does not initiate a regulatory process to promulgate regulations under paragraph (1) within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials, shall issue guidance establishing specific requirements that the Administrator determines would facilitate the implementation of this section.

(B) PUBLIC COMMENTS.—Before finalizing any guidance issued under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall hold a 30-day public comment period.

SEC. 5005. SPECIAL ACCOUNTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund (referred to in this section as a ''Fund'') for—

(1) each Federal land management agency that authorizes a Good Samaritan to conduct a project on Federal land under the jurisdiction of that Federal land management agency under a Good Samaritan permit; and

(2) the Environmental Protection Agency.

(b) DEPOSITS.—Each Fund shall consist of—

(1) amounts provided in appropriation Acts;

(2) any proceeds from reprocessing deposited under section 5004(f)(4)(B)(iv);

(3) any financial assurance funds collected from an agreement described in section 5004(m)(1)(A)(vi)(V)(bb);

(4) any funds collected for long-term operations and maintenance under an agreement under section 5004(r)(5);

(5) any interest earned under an investment under subsection (c);

(6) any proceeds from the sale or redemption of investments held in the Fund; and

(7) any amounts donated to the Fund by any person.

(c) UNUSED FUNDS.—Amounts in each Fund not currently needed to carry out this division shall be—

(1) maintained as readily available or on deposit;

(2) invested in obligations of the United States or guaranteed by the United States; or

(3) invested in obligations, participations, or other instruments that are lawful investments for a fiduciary, a trust, or public funds.

(d) RETAIN AND USE AUTHORITY.—The Administrator and each head of a Federal land management agency, as appropriate, may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, retain and use money deposited in the applicable Fund without fiscal year limitation for the purpose of carrying out this division.

SEC. 5006. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of Federal land management agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report evaluating the Good Samaritan pilot program under this division.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of—

(A) the number, types, and objectives of Good Samaritan permits granted pursuant to this division; and

(B) each remediation project authorized by those Good Samaritan permits;

(2) interim or final qualitative and quantitative data on the results achieved under the Good Samaritan permits before the date of issuance of the report;

(3) a description of—

(A) any problems encountered in administering this division; and

(B) whether the problems have been or can be remedied by administrative action (including amendments to existing law);

(4) a description of progress made in achieving the purposes of this division; and

(5) recommendations on whether the Good Samaritan pilot program under this division should be continued, including a description of any modifications (including amendments to existing law) required to continue administering this division.

SA 2083. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. HEALTH ENGAGEMENT HUB DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM UNDER MEDICAID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(cc) HEALTH ENGAGEMENT HUB DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall conduct a demonstration program (referred to in this subsection as the 'demonstration program') for the purpose of increasing access to treatment for opiate use disorder and other drug use treatment through the establishment of Health Engagement Hubs that meet the criteria published by the Secretary under paragraph (2)(A).

''(2) PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall publish the following:

''(A) CERTIFICATION CRITERIA.—The criteria described in paragraph (3) for an organization to be certified by a State as a Health Engagement Hub for purposes of participating in the demonstration program.

''(B) PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—Guidance for States selected to participate in the demonstration program to use to establish a prospective payment system for services permitted under paragraph (3)(B) that are provided by a certified Health Engagement Hub participating in the demonstration program.

''(3) CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH ENGAGEMENT HUBS.—

''(A) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—In order to be certified as a Health Engagement Hub, an organization shall—

''(i) demonstrate that the organization is able to serve as an all-in-one location where individuals who are eligible for medical assistance under a State plan under this title or under a waiver of such plan who seek treatment for opiate use disorder or other drug use may access a range of social and medical services, in a drop-in manner and without prior appointment or proof of payment;

''(ii) provide the services specified in subparagraph (B) (in a manner reflecting person-centered care) which, if not available directly through the organization, shall be provided through formal relationships with other providers;

''(iii) demonstrate that in selecting the location for the Health Engagement Hub, the organization prioritized placement in communities disproportionately impacted by overdose, health issues, and other harms related to drug use, as well as areas that are medically underserved, rural, geographically isolated areas, tribal areas, or urban centers with under-resourced behavioral health infrastructure, including disadvantaged communities based on race, individuals experiencing homelessness, and communities negatively impacted by the criminal-legal system;

''(iv) give priority to establishing or adopting evidence-based models to increase engagement or improve outcomes for individuals with active, ongoing substance use, such as social work empowerment models approved by the Secretary, motivational interviewing models approved by the Secretary, or shared decision making models approved by the Secretary; and

''(v) meet—

''(I) the minimum staffing requirements described in subparagraph (C);

''(II) the experience requirement described in subparagraph (D); and

''(III) the community advisory board requirement described in subparagraph (E).

''(B) SCOPE OF SERVICES.—The services specified in this subparagraph are the following:

''(i) REQUIRED SERVICES.—

''(I) Harm reduction services and supplies provided directly by the organization or under an arrangement with an organization that offers harm reduction services (which may include a syringe service program, a Federally-qualified health center, a community health center, a Tribal health program, or an opioid treatment program that offers such services), that include—

''(aa) overdose education and naloxone distribution;

''(bb) safer drug use education and supplies;

''(cc) safer-sex supplies;

''(dd) emotional support and counseling services to reduce harms associated with substance use, including trauma-informed care; and

''(ee) access or referral to medications and drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of opioid use disorder with a strong evidence base of significantly reducing mortality (such as methadone and buprenorphine) and other substances, including stimulants, within 4 hours.

''(II) Substance use disorder screening and brief intervention.

''(III) Patient-centered and patient-driven physical and behavioral health care that has walk-in availability, is offered during nontraditional hours, including evenings and weekends, and includes—

''(aa) shared decision making for patients and providers for opioid use disorder, stimulant use disorder, or both, under which a patient and provider discuss the patient's diagnosis and condition together and evaluate treatment options together;

''(bb) primary mental health and substance use disorder services, including screening, assessment, and referrals to higher levels of care;

''(cc) wound care;

''(dd) infectious disease vaccination, screening, testing, and, to the extent practicable, treatment (including for HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and hepatitis testing and treatment);

''(ee) access or referral to sexual and reproductive health services;

''(ff) assessment and linkage or referrals to psychiatric services and other specialty care; and

''(gg) secure medication storage and inventory policies and procedures for patients experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

''(IV) Care coordination, complex case management, and other case management, care navigation, and care coordination services that may include—

''(aa) education and assistance with obtaining housing, transportation, and other public assistance benefits, including enrollment in the State plan under this title or under a waiver of such plan;

''(bb) identification services (such as assistance with obtaining a government-recognized form of identification);

''(cc) employment counseling;

''(dd) recovery support counseling;

''(ee) family reunification services; and

''(ff) criminal-legal services.

''(V) All services that may be provided under the Outreach Site/Street Place of Service code (POS Code 27 as of October 1, 2023) (or a successor place of service code).

''(VI) Community health outreach and navigation services to engage with and conduct outreach to community members that is provided by outreach and engagement staff described in subparagraph (C)(i)(IV).

''(ii) OPTIONAL SERVICES.—

''(I) Services and supplies to meet basic needs, including food, clothing, and hygiene supplies.

''(II) Evidence-based and culturally appropriate behavioral health services.

''(III) Medication management for physical and mental health conditions.

''(C) MINIMUM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The minimum staffing requirements specified in this subparagraph are the following:

''(I) At least 1 part-time or full-time health care provider who is licensed to practice in the State and is licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted, by the United States to prescribe controlled substances (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act) in the course of professional practice.

''(II) At least 1 part-time or full-time registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse who can provide medication management, medical case management, care coordination, wound care, vaccine administration, and community-based outreach.

''(III) At least 1 part-time or full-time licensed behavioral health staff who is qualified to assess and provide counseling and treatment recommendations for substance use and mental health diagnoses.

''(IV) Full-time outreach, engagement, and ongoing care navigation staff, including peer counselors, community health workers, and recovery coaches. At least 50 percent of such staff shall be individuals with a personal history of drug use.

''(ii) STAFFING THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES.—An organization may enter into an arrangement with a partner agency, such as a Federally-qualified health center, to satisfy the minimum staffing requirements specified in clause (i).

''(D) EXPERIENCE.—An organization shall have a demonstrated history of at least 12 months of service provision to individuals who use drugs, including those who continue with substance use while receiving health and social services.

''(E) COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.—An organization shall have a community advisory board composed of individuals with a history of substance use, or who continue with substance use, that meets, at a minimum, on—

''(i) a monthly basis, to review program utilization data and provide feedback to the organization; and

''(ii) on a quarterly basis, with the executives or board of directors of the organization to provide input on service delivery and receive feedback on actions taken based on previous feedback provided by the community advisory board.

''(4) PLANNING GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall award planning grants to States for the purpose of developing proposals to participate in the demonstration program.

''(B) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant awarded to a State under this paragraph shall be sufficient to pay 100 percent of the actual costs expended by a State to carry out the activities required under subparagraph (C).

''(C) USE OF FUNDS.—A State awarded a planning grant under this paragraph shall solicit input on the development of a proposal to participate in the demonstration program from patients, providers, harm reduction service providers, social service providers, and other stakeholders, with respect to—

''(i) identifying and certifying organizations as Health Engagement Hubs for purposes of participating in the demonstration program; and

''(ii) establishing a prospective payment system for services provided by a certified Health Engagement Hub participating in the demonstration program, in accordance with the guidance issued under paragraph (2)(B).

''(D) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this paragraph, to remain available until expended.

''(5) STATE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall solicit applications solely from the States awarded a planning grant under paragraph (4) to participate in the demonstration program.

''(B) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An application to participate in the demonstration program shall include the following:

''(i) A description of, including the estimated number of individuals in, the target population to be served by the State under the demonstration program.

''(ii) An assurance that at least ½ of the Health Engagement Hubs in the State shall be located in—

''(I) a county (or a municipality, if not contained within any county) where the mean drug overdose death rate per 100,000 people over the past 3 years for which official data is available from the State, is higher than the most recent available national average overdose death rate per 100,000 people, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; or

''(II) an area of the State that is designated under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act as a mental health professional shortage area.

''(iii) A description of the prospective payment system that is to be tested under the demonstration program.

''(iv) A list of the certified Health Engagement Hubs located in the State that will participate in the demonstration program.

''(v) Verification that each such certified Health Engagement Hub satisfies the requirements described in paragraph (3)(A).

''(vi) A description of the scope of the services that will be paid for under the prospective payment system (which includes at a minimum the required services described in paragraph (3)(B)(i)) that is to be tested under the demonstration program.

''(vii) Verification that the State has agreed to pay for such services at the at the rate established under the prospective payment system.

''(viii) Any other information that the Secretary may require relating to the demonstration program with respect to determining the soundness of the proposed prospective payment system.

''(C) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select from among the applications submitted at least 10 States to participate in the demonstration program based on geographic and demographic diversity.

''(ii) PRIORITY.—In addition to the criteria specified in clause (i), the Secretary shall prioritize selecting States with the highest rates of opioid- or stimulant-involved overdose death rates.

''(D) LENGTH OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—A State selected to participate in the demonstration program shall participate in the program for a 2-year period.

''(E) WAIVER OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall waive section 1902(a)(1) (relating to statewideness), section 1902(a)(10)(B) (relating to comparability), and any other provision of this title which would be directly contrary to the authority under this subsection as may be necessary for a State to participate in the demonstration program in accordance with this paragraph.

''(F) PAYMENTS TO STATES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay a State participating in the demonstration program the Federal matching percentage specified in clause (ii) for amounts expended by the State for medical assistance for services provided through certified Health Engagement Hubs to individuals enrolled under the State plan (or under a waiver of such plan) consisting of medications and drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of opioid use disorder and other substances, including stimulants, and the services specified by the State in its application under subparagraph (B)(vi), at the rate established under the prospective payment system established by the State for purposes of the demonstration program.

''(ii) FEDERAL MATCHING PERCENTAGE.—The Federal matching percentage specified in this clause is—

''(I) with respect to medical assistance described in clause (i) that is furnished to a newly eligible individual described in paragraph (2) of section 1905(y), the matching rate applicable under paragraph (1) of that section; and

''(II) with respect to medical assistance described in clause (i) that is furnished to an individual who is not a newly eligible individual (as so described), but who is eligible for medical assistance under the State plan under this title or under a waiver of such

plan, the enhanced FMAP applicable to the State under section 2105(b).

''(iii) APPLICATION.—Payments to States made under this subparagraph shall be considered to have been made under, and are subject to, the requirements of this section.

''(6) REPORTS.—

''(A) ANNUAL STATE REPORTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State selected to participate in the demonstration program under paragraph (5) shall submit an annual report to the Secretary on the demonstration program that includes the following:

''(I) An assessment of the extent to which Health Engagement Hubs funded under the demonstration program have increased access to treatment for opiate use disorder and other drug use treatment, health services for individuals who use drugs, and other social services under State plans under this title or under waivers of such plans in the area or areas of States targeted by the demonstration program compared to other areas of the State.

''(II) An assessment on the impact of Health Engagement Hubs on reducing opioid and stimulant overdose mortality rates and the rate of adherence to prescribed medication for opioid use, hospitalization rates, and housing status for the population served by a Health Engagement Hub as compared to populations that are not served by a Health Engagement Hub.

''(III) A description of the successes of the demonstration program.

''(IV) Recommendations for improvements to the demonstration program, including whether the demonstration program should be continued, expanded, modified, or terminated.

''(ii) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated such sums as are necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes of making payments to States for expenditures attributable to collecting and reporting the information required under this subparagraph.

''(B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress that describes the information, findings, and recommendations in the annual State reports submitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION RESULTS.—The Secretary shall include with the first 3 annual reports submitted by the Secretary under this subparagraph the findings and conclusions of the implementation evaluation required by paragraph (7).

''(7) IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit public input and fund an implementation evaluation of the planning grants awarded under paragraph (4) and the initial set of States selected for the demonstration program under paragraph (5) to determine the reach, effectiveness, adoption, and implementation of the demonstration program in each such State to document the degree to which the services were implemented as intended and allow for a complete assessment of the impact of the Health Engagement Hubs in each such State.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) INFORMATION.—The evaluation shall include information on the characteristics of the individuals who receive services, service utilization metrics over time (including by staff role), and input from interviews with such individuals and staff.

''(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In order to be eligible to conduct the evaluation, an entity shall have documented experience conducting implementation evaluations of health and social services programs for individuals who use drugs.

''(C) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this paragraph, to remain available until expended.''.

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the conclusion of the demonstration program established under subsection (cc) of section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b), as added by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct and publish a comparative analysis on the impacts of the health engagement hubs certified under such program (in this section referred to as ''health engagement hubs'') compared to the impacts of other opioid treatment programs and health care organizations that offer behavioral health care or substance use disorder services.

(2) CONTENT OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis required under this section shall include the following:

(A) Data and information analyzing differences in rates among individuals who receive behavioral health care or substance use disorder services through a health engagement hub and among individuals who receive such care or services through a program or organization referred to in paragraph (1) for each of the following factors:

(i) Changes in rates of mortality.

(ii) Changes in rates of recidivism.

(iii) Rates of relapse.

(iv) Rates of hospital and emergency department utilization.

(v) Frequency of visits for care or services.

(vi) Rates of successful intervention through the administration of buprenorphine or other medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorder.

(B) Data and information comparing the racial and socioeconomic demographics, housing status, employment, and other metrics, as recommended by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, of the population groups that receive behavioral health care or substance use disorder services through a health engagement hub or through a program or organization referred to in paragraph (1).

SA 2084. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 3699C. High technology program

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Secretary provides covered individuals with the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education that the Secretary determines provide training or skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry.

''(2) Not more than 6,000 covered individuals may participate in the program under this section in any fiscal year.

''(b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary shall provide, to each covered individual who pursues a high technology program of education under this section, educational assistance in amounts equal to the amounts provided under section 3313(c)(1) of this title, including with respect to the housing stipend described in that section and in accordance with the treatment of programs that are distance learning and programs that are less than half-time.

''(2) Under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide such amounts of educational assistance to a covered individual for each of the following:

''(A) A high technology program of education.

''(B) A second such program if—

''(i) the second such program begins at least 18 months after the covered individual graduates from the first such program; and

''(ii) the covered individual uses educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title to pursue the second such program.

''(3) No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 of this title for that month.

''(c) CONTRACTS.—(1) For purposes of carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to enter into contracts with any number of qualified providers of high technology programs of education for the provision of such programs to covered individuals. Each such contract shall provide for the conditions under which the Secretary may terminate the contract with the provider and the procedures for providing for the graduation of students who were enrolled in a program provided by such provider in the case of such a termination.

''(2) A contract under this subsection shall provide that the Secretary shall pay to a provider—

''(A) upon the enrollment of a covered individual in the program, 25 percent of the cost of the tuition and other fees for the program of education for the individual;

''(B) upon graduation of the individual from the program, 25 percent of such cost; and

''(C) 50 percent of such cost upon—

''(i) the successful employment of the covered individual for a period—

''(I) of 180 days in the field of study of the program; and

''(II) that begins not later than 180 days following graduation of the covered individual from the program;

''(ii) the employment of the individual by the provider for a period of one year; or

''(iii) the enrollment of the individual in a program of education to continue education in such field of study.

''(3) For purposes of this section, a provider of a high technology program of education is qualified if—

''(A) the provider employs instructors whom the Secretary determines are experts in their respective fields in accordance with paragraph (5);

''(B) the provider has successfully provided the high technology program for at least one year;

''(C) the provider does not charge tuition and fees to a covered individual who receives assistance under this section to pursue such program that are higher than the tuition and fees charged by such provider to another individual; and

''(D) the provider meets the approval criteria developed by the Secretary under paragraph (4).

''(4)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe criteria for approving providers of a high technology program of education under this section.

''(B) In developing such criteria, the Secretary may consult with State approving agencies.

''(C) Such criteria are not required to meet the requirements of section 3672 of this title.

''(D) Such criteria shall include the job placement rate, in the field of study of a program of education, of covered individuals who complete such program of education.

''(5) The Secretary shall determine whether instructors are experts under paragraph (3)(A) based on evidence furnished to the Secretary by the provider regarding the ability of the instructors to—

''(A) identify professions in need of new employees to hire, tailor the programs to meet market needs, and identify the employers likely to hire graduates;

''(B) effectively teach the skills offered to covered individuals;

''(C) provide relevant industry experience in the fields of programs offered to incoming covered individuals; and

''(D) demonstrate relevant industry experience in such fields of programs.

''(6) In entering into contracts under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to a provider of a high technology program of education—

''(A) from which at least 70 percent of graduates find full-time employment in the field of study of the program during the 180-day period beginning on the date the student graduates from the program; or

''(B) that offers tuition reimbursement for any student who graduates from such a program and does not find employment described in subparagraph (A).

''(d) EFFECT ON OTHER ENTITLEMENT.—(1) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section has remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this section shall be charged at the rate of one month of such remaining entitlement for each such month of educational assistance under this section.

''(2) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section does not have remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, any educational assistance provided to such individual under this section shall be provided in addition to the entitlement that the individual has used.

''(3) The Secretary may not consider enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section to be assistance under a provision of law referred to in section 3695 of this title.

''(4)(A) An application for enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section shall include notice of the requirements relating to use of entitlement under paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

''(i) in the case of the enrollment of an individual referred to under paragraph (1), the amount of entitlement that is typically charged for such enrollment;

''(ii) an identification of any methods that may be available for minimizing the amount of entitlement required for such enrollment; and

''(iii) an element requiring applicants to acknowledge receipt of the notice under this subparagraph.

''(B) If the Secretary approves the enrollment of a covered individual in a high technology program of education under this section, the Secretary shall deliver electronically to the individual an award letter that provides notice of such approval and includes specific information describing how paragraphs (1) and (2) will be applied to the individual if the individual chooses to enroll in the program.

''(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall not approve the enrollment of any covered individual, not already enrolled, in any high technology programs of education under this section for any period during which the Secretary finds that more than 85 percent of the students enrolled in the program are having all or part of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid to or for them by the educational institution or by the Department of Veterans Affairs under this title or under chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, except with respect to tuition, fees, or other charges that are paid under a payment plan at an educational institution that the Secretary determines has a history of offering payment plans that are completed not later than 180 days after the end of the applicable term, quarter, or semester.

''(2) The Secretary may waive a requirement of paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines, pursuant to regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, such waiver to be in the interest of the covered individual and the Federal Government. Not later than 30 days after the Secretary waives such a requirement, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such waiver.

''(3)(A)(i) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a process by which an educational institution may request a review of a determination that the educational institution does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1).

''(ii) The Secretary may consult with a State approving agency regarding such process or such a review.

''(iii) Not later than 180 days after the Secretary establishes or revises a process under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such process.

''(B) An educational institution that requests a review under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall request the review not later than 30 days after the start of the term, quarter, or semester for which the determination described in subparagraph (A) applies; and

''(ii) may include any information that the educational institution believes the Department should have taken into account when making the determination, including with respect to any mitigating circumstances.

''(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (i), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of programs under this section during the year covered by the report. Each such report shall include each of the following:

''(1) The number of covered individuals enrolled in the program, disaggregated by type of educational institution, during the year covered by the report.

''(2) The number of covered individuals who completed a high technology program of education under the program during the year covered by the report.

''(3) The average employment rate of covered individuals who completed such a program of education during such year, as of 180 days after the date of completion.

''(4) The average length of time between the completion of such a program of education and employment.

''(5) The total number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who, as of the date of the submission of the report, are employed in a position related to technology.

''(6) The average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology, in various geographic areas determined by the Secretary.

''(7) The average salary of all individuals employed in positions related to technology in the geographic areas determined under subparagraph (F), and the difference, if any, between such average salary and the average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology.

''(8) The number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who subsequently enrolled in a second program of education under the program.

''(g) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION; CONSULTATION.—(1) The Secretary shall develop practices to use to collect information about covered individuals and providers of high technology programs of education.

''(2) For the purpose of carrying out program under this section, the Secretary may consult with providers of high technology programs of education and may establish an advisory group made up of representatives of such providers, private employers in the technology field, and other relevant groups or entities, as the Secretary determines necessary.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'covered individual' means any of the following:

''(A) A veteran whom the Secretary determines—

''(i) served an aggregate of at least 36 months on active duty in the Armed Forces (including service on active duty in entry level and skill training) and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; and

''(ii) has not attained the age of 62.

''(B) A member of the Armed Forces that the Secretary determines will become a veteran described in subparagraph (A) fewer than 180 days after the date of such determination.

''(2) The term 'high technology program of education' means a program of education—

''(A) offered by a public or private educational institution;

''(B) if offered by an institution of higher learning, that is provided directly by such institution rather than by an entity other than such institution under a contract or other agreement;

''(C) that does not lead to a degree;

''(D) that has a term of not less than six and not more than 28 weeks; and

''(E) that provides instruction in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information sciences.

''(i) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2028.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3699B the following new item:

''3699C. High technology program.''.

(b) EFFECT ON HIGH TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) HOUSING STIPEND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to each eligible veteran (not including an individual described in the second sentence of

subsection (b)) who is enrolled in a high technology program of education under the pilot program on a full-time or part-time basis a monthly housing stipend equal to the product—

''(A) of—

''(i) in the case of a veteran pursuing resident training, the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E–5 residing in the military housing area that encompasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area in which is located the campus of the institution where the individual physically participates in a majority of classes; or

''(ii) in the case of a veteran pursuing a program of education through distance learning, a monthly amount equal to 50 percent of the national average of the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E–5, multiplied by

''(B) the lesser of—

''(i) 1.0; or

''(ii) the number of course hours borne by the individual in pursuit of the program of education involved, divided by the minimum number of course hours required for full-time pursuit of such program of education, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10.

''(2) BAR TO DUAL ELIGIBILITY.—No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 ot title 38, United States Code, for that month.'';

(2) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (6); and

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following new subsection (h):

''(h) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a pilot program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2023.''.

(c) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—Section 3680A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) Any independent study program except—

''(A) an independent study program (including such a program taken over open circuit television) that—

''(i) is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b);

''(ii) leads to—

''(I) a standard college degree;

''(II) a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning; or

''(III) a certificate that reflects graduation from a course of study offered by—

''(aa) an area career and technical education school (as defined in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; or

''(bb) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; and

''(iii) in the case of a program described in clause (ii)(III)—

''(I) provides training aligned with the requirements of employers in the State or local area where the program is located, which may include in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

''(II) provides a student, upon graduation from the program, with a recognized postsecondary credential that is recognized by employers in the relevant industry, which may include a credential recognized by industry or sector partnerships in the State or local area where the industry is located; and

''(III) meets such content and instructional standards as may be required to comply with the criteria under sections 3676(c)(14) and (15) of this title; or

''(B) an online high technology program of education (as defined in subsection (h)(2) of section 3699C of this title)—

''(i) the provider of which has entered into a contract with the Secretary under subsection (c) of such section;

''(ii) that has been provided to covered individuals (as defined in subsection (h)(1) of such section) under such contract for a period of at least five years;

''(iii) regarding which the Secretary has determined that the average employment rate of covered individuals who graduated from such program of education is 65 percent or higher for the year preceding such determination; and

''(iv) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (e) of such section.''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(8) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the enrollment of a veteran in an online high technology program described in subsection (a)(4)(B).''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (c) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2085. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—FISH Act of 2024

SEC. 1096. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2024'' or the ''FISH Act of 2024''.

SEC. 1096A. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise provided, the term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ''beneficial owner'' means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

(3) FISH.—The term ''fish'' means finfish, crustaceans, and mollusks.

(4) FORCED LABOR.—The term ''forced labor'' has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

(5) IUU FISHING.—The term ''IUU fishing'' has the meaning given the term ''illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing'' in the implementing regulations or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant to section 609(e) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(e)).

(6) REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The terms ''regional fisheries management organization'' and ''RFMO'' have the meaning given the terms in section 303 of the Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

(7) SEAFOOD.—The term ''seafood'' means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(8) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise provided, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

SEC. 1096B. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and subnational levels), civil society, international organizations, international financial institutions, subnational coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private sector, in a concerted effort—

(1) to continue the broad effort across the Federal Government to counter IUU fishing, including any potential links to forced labor, human trafficking, and other threats to maritime security, as outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

(2) to, additionally—

(A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fishing at its sources; and

(B) support continued implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement, as well as joint research and follow-on actions that ensure sustainability of fish stocks in Arctic international waters.

SEC. 1096C. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLACK LIST.

Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

''(c) BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL LIST).—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of vessels, fleets, and beneficial owners of vessels or fleets engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing (referred to in this section as the 'IUU vessel list').

''(2) INCLUSION ON LIST.—The IUU vessel list shall include any vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet for which the Secretary determines there is a strong basis to believe that a vessel is any of the following (even if the Secretary has only partial information regarding the vessel):

''(A) A vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization.

''(B) A vessel taking part in fishing that undermines the effectiveness of an international fishery management organization's conservation and management measures, including a foreign vessel (defined in section 110 of title 46, United States Code)—

''(i) exceeding applicable international fishery management organization catch limits; or

''(ii) that is operating inconsistent with relevant catch allocation arrangements of the international fishery management organization, even if operating under the authority of a foreign country that is not a member of the international fishery management organization.

''(C) A vessel, either on the high seas or in the exclusive economic zone of another country, identified and reported by United States authorities to an international fishery management organization to be conducting IUU

fishing when the United States has reason to believe the foreign country to which the vessel is registered or documented is not addressing the allegation.

''(D) A vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet on the high seas identified by United States authorities to be conducting IUU fishing or fishing that involves the use of forced labor, including individuals and entities subject to a withhold release order issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) or any other U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforcement action, sanctions imposed by the Department of the Treasury under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), or any other United States Government forced labor prevention or enforcement action that has not been subsequently revoked.

''(E) A vessel that provides services (excluding emergency or enforcement services) to a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, including transshipment, resupply, refueling, or pilotage.

''(F) A foreign vessel (defined in section 110 of title 46, United States Code) that is a fishing vessel engaged in commercial fishing within the exclusive economic zone of the United States without a permit issued under title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.).

''(G) A vessel that has the same beneficial owner as a vessel on the IUU vessel list at the time of the infraction.

''(H) A vessel or beneficial owner of a vessel subject to economic sanctions administered by the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control for transnational criminal activity associated with IUU fishing under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg. 44757, 84 Fed. Reg. 10255; relating to blocking property of transnational criminal organizations), or any other applicable economic sanctions program, including sanctions imposed by the Department of the Treasury under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

''(3) NOMINATIONS TO BE PUT ON THE BLACK LIST.—The Secretary shall accept nominations for putting a vessel on the IUU vessel list from—

''(A) the head of an executive branch agency that is a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031);

''(B) a country that is a member of the Combined Maritime Forces; or

''(C) civil organizations that have data-sharing agreements with a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing.

''(4) PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION.—The Secretary may put a vessel on the IUU vessel list only after notification to the vessel's beneficial owner and a review of any information that the owner provides within 90 days of the notification.

''(5) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall publish its procedures for adding vessels on, and removing vessels from, the IUU vessel list. The Secretary shall publish the IUU vessel list itself in the Federal Register annually and on a website, which shall be updated any time a vessel is added to the IUU vessel list, and include the following information (as much as is available and confirmed) for each vessel on the IUU vessel list:

''(A) The name of the vessel and previous names of the vessel.

''(B) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) number of the vessel, or other Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag state permit number or authorized vessel number issued by an international fishery management organization).

''(C) The maritime mobile service identity number and call sign of the vessel.

''(D) The address of each beneficial owner of the vessel.

''(E) The country where the vessel is registered or documented, and where it was previously registered if known.

''(F) The date of inclusion on the IUU vessel list of the vessel.

''(G) An indication of whether the vessel is part of the Food and Agriculture Organization's global record.

''(H) Any other identifying information on the vessel, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(I) The basis for the Secretary's inclusion of the vessel on the IUU vessel list under paragraph (2).

''(d) CONSEQUENCES OF BEING ON BLACK LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for the purposes of inspection and enforcement or in case of force majeure, a vessel on the IUU vessel list is prohibited from—

''(A) accessing United States ports and using port services;

''(B) traveling through the United States territorial sea unless it is conducting innocent passage in accordance with customary international law; and

''(C) delivering or receiving supplies or services, or transshipment, within waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, unless such actions are in accordance with customary international law.

''(2) SERVICING PROHIBITED.—No vessel of the United States may service a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, except in an emergency involving life and safety or to facilitate enforcement.

''(3) IMPORTS PROHIBITED.—The import of seafood or seafood products caught, processed, or transported by vessels on the IUU vessel list is prohibited and shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of section 606.

''(e) ENFORCEMENT OF BLACK LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a vessel of the United States on the IUU vessel list and the cargo of such vessel shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States in the same manner as merchandise is forfeited for violation of the customs revenue laws.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The cargo of seafood of a vessel of the United States on the IUU vessel list shall not be subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States if the cargo of seafood is in the possession of an importer who has paid for the cargo of seafood and did not know, or did not have any reason to know, that the seafood was the product of IUU fishing.

''(f) PERMANENCY OF BLACK LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet that is put on the IUU vessel list shall remain on the IUU vessel list.

''(2) REVOCATION OF WRO.—The Secretary shall remove a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was added to the IUU vessel list because it was found by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to have had a withhold release order issued pursuant to section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) and the withhold release order was subsequently revoked.

''(3) APPLICATION BY OWNER FOR POTENTIAL REMOVAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With the concurrence of the Secretary of State and consultation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Secretary may remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the beneficial owner of the vessel submits an application for removal to the Secretary that meets the standards that the Secretary has set out for removal.

''(B) STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall include in the standards set out for removal a determination that the vessel or vessel owner has not engaged in IUU fishing or forced labor during the 5-year period preceding the date of the application for removal. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall determine whether each application for removal demonstrates that sufficient corrective action has been taken to remediate the violations and infractions that led to the inclusion on the IUU vessel list.

''(C) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION.—In considering an application for removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant information from all sources.

''(4) REMOVAL DUE TO INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTION.—The Secretary may remove a vessel from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was put on the list because it was a vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A), and the international fishery management organization removed the vessel from its IUU vessel list.

''(g) REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2024, the Secretary shall issue regulations to set a process for establishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list on the date the vessel becomes eligible for such addition or removal.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise provided, the term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

''(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term 'beneficial owner' means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

''(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

''(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

''(3) FORCED LABOR.—The term 'forced labor' has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

''(4) INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term 'international fishery management organization' means an international organization established by any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement for the conservation and management of fish.

''(5) IUU FISHING.—The term 'IUU fishing' has the meaning given the term 'illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing' in the implementing regulations or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant to section 609(e).

''(6) SEAFOOD.—The term 'seafood' means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

SEC. 1096D. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR SANCTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may impose the measures described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any foreign person or foreign vessel, regardless of ownership, that the Secretary of the Treasury determines has participated in—

(A) the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer (including transportation) of a fish species that is an endangered species, as defined in section of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532), directly or indirectly; or

(B) IUU fishing;

(2) a leader or official of an entity that has engaged in, or whose members have engaged in, any of the activities described in paragraph (1);

(3) an entity determined to have owned, operated, chartered, or controlled a vessel whose personnel are engaged in the activities described in paragraph (1) at a time period relating to the activities;

(4) an entity that commits any action described in section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) as a basis to be put on the IUU vessel list under such section; and

(5) an entity that has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, a foreign person or foreign vessel described in paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be imposed under subsection (a) are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person or entity described in subsection (a) including, to the extent appropriate, the vessel of which the person is the beneficial owner, if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of a foreign person described in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect; and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the person's possession.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person or entity.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under subsection (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other international obligations.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to a person or entity providing provisions to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are intended for the safety and care of the crew aboard the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or other significant damage.

(4) HUMANITARIAN EXCEPTION.—The President may not impose sanctions under this section with respect to any person or entity for conducting or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices or for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

(f) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section (which may include regulatory exceptions), including under section 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704).

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or in any amendment made by this section, may be construed to limit the authority of the President pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', ''alien'', and ''lawfully admitted for permanent residence'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 1096E. AGREEMENTS.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.—In negotiating any relevant agreement with a foreign nation or nations after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing and forced labor and strive to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to combat IUU fishing and forced labor.

(b) SECRETARY OF STATE ENCOURAGEMENT.—Together with other government partners, if appropriate, the Secretary of State should encourage other nations to ratify treaties and agreements that address IUU fishing to which the United States is a party, including the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the High Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement, the Port State Measures Agreement, and other applicable agreements, and pursue bilateral and multilateral initiatives to raise international ambition to combat IUU fishing, including in the G7 and G20, the United Nations, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and through voluntary multilateral efforts. The bilateral and multilateral initiatives should address underlying drivers of IUU fishing and forced labor, such as the practice of transshipment, flags of convenience vessels, and government subsidies of the distant water fishing industry.

SEC. 1096F. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

(a) INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED OF IUU FISHING.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall strive, in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, to increase, from year to year, its observation of vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fishing and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to consider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent practicable.

(b) FOLLOW UP.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional fisheries management organizations to determine what corrective measures each country has taken after vessels that are registered or documented by the country have been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with information management rules of the relevant regional fisheries management organizations, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report to Congress on—

(1) the total number of bilateral agreements utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU patrols and future patrol plans for operations with partner nations where bilateral agreements are required to effectively execute the counter-IUU mission and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral agreements;

(2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while conducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to the respective country where the vessel is registered or documented, and what actions are taken to document or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack thereof, taken by the country;

(3) the country where the vessel is registered or documented, the country where the vessel was previously registered and documented if known, and status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast Guard;

(4) incident details on vessels observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas, boarding refusals, and what action was taken; and

(5) any other potential enforcement actions that could decrease IUU fishing on the high seas.

SEC. 1096G. IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON IUU FISHING.—Section 3551(c) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(15) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against IUU fishing, particularly focusing on nations identified under section 609(a) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)); and

''(16) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against associated abuses, such as forced labor and other illegal labor practices, and increasing enforcement and other actions across relevant import control and assessment programs, using as resources—

''(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7112);

''(B) the Trafficking in Persons Report required under section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107); and

''(C) United States Customs and Border Protection's Forced Labor Division and enforcement activities and regulations authorized under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).''.

(b) SECRETARY OF STATE IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Administrator, shall—

(1) identify regional fisheries management organizations that the United States is party to that do not have a high seas boarding and inspection program; and

(2) identify obstacles, needed authorities, or existing efforts to increase implementation of these programs, and take action as appropriate.

SEC. 1096H. STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.

Section 3552 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032) is amended by adding at the end:

''(c) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 3 years after the publication of the strategic plan submitted under subsection (a), the Working Group shall identify information and resources to prevent fish and fish products from IUU fishing and forced labor from entering United States commerce without increasing burden or trade barriers on seafood not produced from IUU fishing. The report shall include the following:

''(1) Identification of relevant data streams collected by Working Group members.

''(2) Identification of legal, jurisdictional, or other barriers to the sharing of such data.

''(3) In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, recommendations for joint enforcement protocols, collaboration, and information sharing between Federal agencies and States.

''(4) Recommendations for sharing and developing forensic resources between Federal agencies and States.

''(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity for United States Customs and Border Protection and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct more effective field investigations and enforcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement officials.

''(6) Recommendations for improving data collection and automated risk-targeting of seafood imports within the United States' International Trade Data System and Automated Commercial Environment.

''(7) Recommendations for the dissemination of IUU fishing and forced labor analysis and information to those governmental and non-governmental entities that could use it for action and awareness, with the aim to establish an IUU fishing information sharing center.

''(8) Recommendations for an implementation strategy, including measures for ensuring that trade in seafood not linked to IUU fishing and forced labor is not impeded.

''(9) An analysis of the IUU fishing policies and regulatory regimes of other countries in order to develop policy and regulatory alternatives for United States consideration.''.

SEC. 1096I. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, are encouraged to increase support to programs that provide technical assistance, institutional capacity, and investment to nations' fisheries sectors for sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing and forced labor. The focus of such support is encouraged to be on priority regions and priority flag states identified under section 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

(b) ANALYSIS OF US CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES.—In order to maximize efforts on preventing IUU fishing at its sources, the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) shall analyze United States capacity-building expertise and resources to provide support to nations' fisheries sectors. This analysis may include an assessment of potential avenues for in-country public-private collaboration and multilateral collaboration on developing local fisheries science, fisheries management, maritime enforcement, and maritime judicial capabilities.

SEC. 1096J. PREVENTING IMPORTATION OF SEAFOOD AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VESSELS USING FORCED LABOR.

The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in coordination with the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a strategy for utilizing relevant United States Government data to identify imports of seafood harvested on foreign vessels using forced labor; and

(2) publish information regarding the strategy developed under paragraph (1) on the website of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SEC. 1096K. REPORTS.

(a) IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Administrator and the Working Group established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031), shall conduct a study to assess the impact of new technology (such as remote observing, the use of drones, development of risk assessment tools and data-sharing software, immediate containerization of fish on fishing vessels, satellite Wi-Fi technology on fishing vessels, and other technology-enhanced new fishing practices) on IUU fishing and associated crimes (such as trafficking and forced labor) and propose ways to integrate these technologies into global fisheries enforcement and management.

(b) RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FISHING INDUSTRIES' INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER AND ON THE UNITED STATES SEAFOOD AND FISHING INDUSTRY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with support from the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, shall—

(1) conduct a study on the collaboration between the Russian and Chinese fishing industries and on the role of seafood reprocessing in China (including that of raw materials originating in Russia) in global seafood markets and its impact on United States seafood importers, processors, and consumers; and

(2) complete a report on the study that includes classified and unclassified portions, as the Secretary of State determines necessary.

(c) FISHERMEN CONDUCTING UNLAWFUL FISHING IN THE ECONOMIC EXCLUSION ZONE.—Section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) THE IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING AND FORCED LABOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with relevant members of the Working Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the following:

''(A) An analysis that quantifies the occurrence and extent of IUU fishing and forced labor among flag states.

''(B) An evaluation of the costs to the United States economy of IUU fishing and forced labor.

''(C) An assessment of the costs to the global economy of IUU fishing and forced labor.

''(D) An assessment of the effectiveness of response strategies to counter IUU fishing, including both domestic programs and foreign capacity-building and partnering programs.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $4,000,000.''.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act that includes—

(1) the findings of the National Academies; and

(2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry.

SA 2086. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3___. STORMWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS AND TESTING AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES.

(a) REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, with respect to each permit under section 402(p) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(p)) that applies to a facility of the Department of Defense, request from the State that issued the permit, or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as applicable, a modification to such permit to require—

(1) monitoring of discharges of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances not less frequently than quarterly; and

(2) implementation of appropriate best management practices or control technologies to reduce such discharges consistent with the requirements of such Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of Defense is not required to request a modification to a permit under subsection (a) if such permit contains the elements specified under paragraphs (1) and (2) of such subsection.

(c) FUNDING FOR MONITORING AND REDUCTION OF DISCHARGES.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary of Defense in each fiscal year for remediation efforts relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, not less than one percent shall be obligated or expended annually to carry out activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

SA 2087. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 605. INCREASE IN BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING INSIDE THE UNITED STATES FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

Paragraph (3) of section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(3) The monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing for an area of the United States for a member of a uniformed service shall be the amount of the monthly cost of adequate housing in that area, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, for members of the uniformed services serving in the same pay grade and with the same dependency status as the member.''.

SA 2088. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. VANCE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. JUSTICE FOR UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF STATE SPONSORED TERRORISM.

Subsection (d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV) of the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144(d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating item (bb) as item (dd);

(2) by inserting after item (aa) the following:

''(bb) IRAN HOSTAGES.—There are authorized to be appropriated and there are appropriated to the Fund such sums as are necessary to make full and complete payments for amounts outstanding and unpaid on claims under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (c)(2), which shall be paid by the Fund on the claims not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this item.

''(cc) LIMITATION.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to item (bb) may not be used for a purpose other than to make payments under this clause.'';

(3) in item (cc), as so redesignated, by inserting ''item (bb) or'' before ''subclauses''; and

(4) in item (aa), by striking ''disperses'' and inserting ''disburses''.

SA 2089. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1095. GAO REPORT ON VESSEL FIRES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of marine firefighting authorities, jurisdiction, plan review, and other considerations with respect to vessel fires at waterfront facilities and within the navigable waters of the United States up to 3 nautical miles from the shoreline.

(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) examine factors that affect Federal and non-Federal collaboration aimed at reducing vessel and waterfront facility fire risk to local communities;

(2) focus on the prevalence and frequency of vessel fires described in subsection (a); and

(3) make recommendations for preparedness, responses to, training for, and other items for consideration.

SA 2090. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1266. CHINA GRAND STRATEGY COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission, to be known as the ''China Grand Strategy Commission'' (in this section referred to as the ''Commission''), to develop a consensus on a comprehensive grand strategy and whole-of-government approach with respect to the United States relationship with the People's Republic of China for purposes of—

(1) ensuring a holistic approach toward the People's Republic of China across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(2) defining specific steps necessary to build a stable international order that accounts for the People's Republic of China's participation in that order; and

(3) providing actionable recommendations with respect to the United States relationship with the People's Republic of China, which are aimed at protecting and strengthening United States national security interests.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of the following members:

(i) The Deputy National Security Advisor.

(ii) The Deputy Secretary of Defense.

(iii) The Deputy Secretary of State.

(iv) The Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

(v) The Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

(vi) The Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

(vii) Three members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, one of whom shall be a Member of the Senate and two of whom shall not be.

(viii) Three members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, one of whom shall be a Member of the Senate and two of whom shall not be.

(ix) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives and two of whom shall not be.

(x) Three members appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives and two of whom shall not be.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members described in clauses (vii) through (x) of subparagraph (A) who are not Members of Congress shall be individuals who are nationally recognized and have well-documented expertise, knowledge, or experience in—

(i) the history, culture, economy, or national security policies of the People's Republic of China;

(ii) the United States economy;

(iii) the use of intelligence information by national policymakers and military leaders;

(iv) the implementation, funding, or oversight of the foreign and national security policies of the United States; or

(v) the implementation, funding, or oversight of economic and trade policies of the United States.

(C) AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—An official who appoints members of the Commission may not appoint an individual as a member of the Commission if such individual possesses any personal or financial interest in the discharge of any of the duties of the Commission.

(2) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall have two co-chairpersons, selected from among the members of the Commission, of whom—

(i) one co-chairperson shall be a member of the Democratic Party; and

(ii) one co-chairperson shall be a member of the Republican Party.

(B) CONSENSUS.—The individuals selected to serve as the co-chairpersons of the Commission shall be jointly agreed upon by the President, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and

the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) APPOINTMENT; INITIAL MEETING.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall hold its initial meeting on or before the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) MEETINGS; QUORUM; VACANCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After its initial meeting, the Commission shall meet upon the call of the co-chairpersons of the Commission.

(2) QUORUM.—Ten members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting business, except that two members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of receiving testimony.

(3) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy on the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(4) QUORUM WITH VACANCIES.—If vacancies on the Commission occur on any day after the date that is 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Commission as of such day.

(e) ACTIONS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act by resolution agreed to by a majority of the members of the Commission voting and present.

(2) PANELS.—The Commission may establish panels composed of less than the full membership of the Commission for purposes of carrying out the duties of the Commission under this section. The actions of any such panel shall be subject to the review and control of the Commission. Any findings and determinations made by such a panel shall not be considered to be the findings and determinations of the Commission unless approved by the Commission.

(3) DELEGATION.—Any member, agent, or staff member of the Commission may, if authorized by the co-chairpersons of the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take pursuant to this section.

(f) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—The duties of the Commission are as follows:

(1) To define the core objectives and priorities of the strategy described in subsection (a).

(2) To provide definitions of the terms ''grand strategy'' and ''stable international order'' as such terms relate to United States national security interests and policy toward the People's Republic of China.

(3) To recommend steps toward a stable international order that includes the People's Republic of China that accounts for the People's Republic of China's participation in that order.

(4) To consider the manner in which the United States and the allies and partners of the United States cooperate and compete with the People's Republic of China and to identify areas for such cooperation and competition.

(5) To consider methods for recalibrating economic ties with the People's Republic of China, and any necessary modifications to such ties that may be undertaken by the United States Government.

(6) To consider methods for recalibrating additional non-economic ties with the People's Republic of China, and any necessary modifications to such ties to be undertaken by the United States Government, including research, political, and security ties.

(7) To understand the linkages across multiple levels of the Federal Government with respect to United States policy toward the People's Republic of China.

(8) To seek to protect and strengthen global democracy and democratic norms.

(9) To understand the history, culture, and goals of the People's Republic of China and to consider the manner in which the People's Republic of China defines and seeks to implement its goals.

(10) To review—

(A) the strategies and intentions of the People's Republic of China that affect United States national and global interests;

(B) the purpose and efficacy of current programs for the defense of the United States; and

(C) the capabilities of the Federal Government for understanding whether, and the manner in which, the People's Republic of China is currently being deterred or thwarted in its aims and ambitions, including in cyberspace.

(11) To detail and evaluate current United States policy and strategic interests, including the pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, with respect to the People's Republic of China, and the manner in which United States policy affects the policy of the People's Republic of China.

(12) To assess the manner in which the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation may have impacted the People's Republic of China's calculations on an invasion of Taiwan and the implications of such impact on the prospects for short-term, medium-term, and long-term stability in the Taiwan Strait.

(13) In evaluating options for such strategy, to consider possible structures and authorities that need to be established, revised, or augmented within the Federal Government to maintain United States national security interests in relation to policy toward the People's Republic of China.

(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission or, as delegated by the co-chairpersons of the Commission, any panel or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out this section—

(A) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths as the Commission, or such designated panel or designated member, considers necessary; and

(B) subject to paragraph (2), require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, as the Commission or such designated panel or designated member considers necessary.

(2) SUBPOENAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subpoenas may be issued under paragraph (1)(B) under the signature of the co-chairpersons of the Commission, and may be served by any person designated by such co-chairpersons.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The provisions of sections 102 through 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 192–194) shall apply in the case of any failure of a witness to comply with any subpoena or to testify when summoned under authority of this section.

(3) CONTRACTS.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this section.

(4) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure directly from any executive department, agency, bureau, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Government information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the purposes of this section.

(B) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—Each such department, agency, bureau, board, commission, office, establishment, or instrumentality shall, to the extent authorized by law, furnish such information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the Commission, upon request made by a co-chairperson of the Commission.

(C) HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The Commission shall handle and protect all classified information provided to it under this section in accordance with applicable law.

(5) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(A) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Commission, on a nonreimbursable basis, such administrative services, funds, staff, facilities, and other support services as are necessary for the performance of the Commission's duties under this section.

(B) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—Other Federal departments and agencies may provide the Commission such services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support as such departments and agencies consider advisable and as may be authorized by law.

(C) COOPERATION.—The Commission shall receive the full and timely cooperation of any official, department, or agency of the Federal Government whose assistance is necessary, as jointly determined by the co-chairpersons of the Commission, for the fulfillment of the duties of the Commission, including the provision of full and current briefings and analyses.

(6) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(7) GIFTS.—A member or staff of the Commission may not receive a gift or benefit by reason of the service of such member or staff to the Commission.

(h) STAFF AND COMPENSATION.—

(1) STAFF.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—The co-chairpersons of the Commission, in accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission, shall appoint and fix the compensation of a staff director and such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this paragraph may exceed the equivalent of that payable to a person occupying a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(B) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—A Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(2) COMMISSION MEMBERS.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii) and except as provided in subparagraph (B), each member of the Commission may be compensated at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Commission under this section.

(ii) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Commission who are Members of Congress or officers or employees of the Federal Government may

not receive additional pay by reason of their service on the Commission.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of the Commission may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Commission may procure the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title.

(4) SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS, STAFF, AND CONSULTANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate Federal agencies or departments shall cooperate with the Commission in expeditiously providing to Commission members, staff, and consultants appropriate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant to existing procedures and requirements, except that no person shall be provided access to classified information under this Act without the appropriate security clearances.

(B) EXPEDITED PROCESSING.—The Office of Senate Security and the Office of House Security shall ensure the expedited processing of appropriate security clearances for personnel appointed to the Commission by their respective Senate and House of Representatives offices under processes developed for the clearance of legislative branch employees.

(i) TREATMENT OF INFORMATION RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall assume responsibility for the handling and disposition of any information related to the national security of the United States that is received, considered, or used by the Commission under this section.

(2) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Information related to the national security of the United States that is provided to the Commission by the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, or the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives may not be further provided or released without the approval of the chairperson of such committee.

(3) ACCESS AFTER TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after the termination of the Commission under subsection (k), only the members and designated staff of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Director of National Intelligence (and the designees of the Director), and such other officials of the executive branch as the President may designate shall have access to information related to the national security of the United States that is received, considered, or used by the Commission.

(j) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1, 2027, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Director of National Intelligence a final report on the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form and shall include a classified annex.

(k) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, and all the authorities of this section, shall terminate at the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the final report is submitted under subsection (j).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TERMINATION.—The Commission may use the 120-day period referred to in paragraph (1) for the purpose of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to Congress concerning the final report required by subsection (j) and disseminating such report.

(l) ASSESSMENTS OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the final report required by subsection (j) is submitted, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Director of National Intelligence shall each submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment of the final report that includes such comments on the findings and recommendations contained in the final report as the Director or Secretary, as applicable, considers appropriate.

(m) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The provisions chapter 10 of part I of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the Commission.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.—The provisions of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Freedom of Information Act''), shall not apply to the activities, records, and proceedings of the Commission under this section.

(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense, $5,000,000 shall be made available to carry out this section, to remain available until the termination of the Commission.

(o) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 2091. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title III, add the following:

SEC. 324. MODIFICATION OF RESTRICTION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS CONTAINING PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE OR PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 3062 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 333. RESTRICTION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS CONTAINING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

''(a) RESTRICTION ON PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS.—The Department of Defense may not procure any covered item that contains or is produced using any of the following:

''(1) Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

''(2) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

''(3) Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS).

''(4) Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS).

''(5) Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).

''(6) GenX.

''(b) INCLUSION IN CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall include the prohibition under subsection (a) in any contract entered into by the Department of Defense to procure a covered item.

''(c) NO OBLIGATION TO TEST.—In carrying out the prohibition under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall not have an obligation to test a covered item to confirm the absence of perfluoroalkyl substances or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

''(d) EXISTING INVENTORY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to impact existing inventories of covered items procured by the Secretary of Defense before the effective date of this section.

''(e) COVERED ITEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered item' means—

''(1) non-stick cookware or food service ware for use in galleys or dining facilities;

''(2) food packaging materials;

''(3) cleaning products;

''(4) carpeting; and

''(5) rugs and upholstered furniture.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on April 1, 2026.

SA 2092. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 891. PROCUREMENT OF CLEANING PRODUCTS.

The Secretary of Defense shall, to the maximum extent practicable, only procure cleaning products that are identified by—

(1) the Safer Choice program; or

(2) an independent third-party organization that provides certifications in a manner consistent with the Safer Choice program.

SA 2093. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Supporting Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Republic of Georgia

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Georgian People's Act'' or the ''GPA Act''.

SEC. 1292. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On April 9, 1991, the Republic of Georgia declared independence from the Soviet Union, and on March 24, 1992, the United States and Georgia established formal diplomatic relations.

(2) Since 1993, the territorial integrity of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions.

(3) At the 2008 Summit in Bucharest, NATO recognized the aspirations of Georgia to join NATO and committed that Georgia would become a member of the Alliance.

(4) On August 7, 2008, the Russian Federation invaded Georgia and thereafter occupied 20 percent of its territory, all of which it continues to occupy.

(5) On January 9, 2009, the United States and Georgia signed the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, affirming the close relationship between the United States and Georgia based on the shared principles of democracy, free markets, defense and security cooperation, and cultural exchanges.

(6) Georgia made significant contributions to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and was the largest troop contributor among NATO partners to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

(7) The United States and Georgia have maintained a strong security partnership, including the U.S.-Georgia Security Cooperation Framework, signed in November 2019, and the Georgia Defense and Deterrence Enhancement Initiative, launched in October 2021.

(8) The United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and condemns the continued occupation by Russia of the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

(9) The United States has continuously supported the democratic wishes of the Georgian people, who have long maintained their aspirations to join the European Union and NATO.

(10) During and following her tenure as United States Ambassador and Plenipotentiary to Georgia between 2020 and 2023, Kelly Degnan has been the subject of slander and verbal abuse from members of the Government of Georgia.

(11) As recently as October 2023, reputable polling indicates that 86 percent of the Georgian public support Georgia becoming a member of the European Union.

(12) Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Georgia—

(A) has not imposed its own sanctions on Russia; and

(B) has increased economic ties, including initiating many direct flights to and from Russia;

(C) has eased visa requirements for Russians visiting Georgia; and

(D) is perceived as a conduit of Russia's sanctions evasion endeavors.

(13) Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the subsequent rounds of international sanctions placed on Russia as a result of such invasion, Georgia saw its trade with Russia grow by 34 percent between January and June 2023.

(14) Georgia's geographic position as both a Black Sea littoral nation and its proximity to the Caspian Sea could further strengthen Georgia's economy by transporting natural gas through the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline Project.

(15) In June 2022, when the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova received candidate status for membership in the European Union, the European Council stated it would only be ready to grant Georgia candidate status once the country has addressed the 12 priorities outlined by the European Commission.

(16) In December 2023, the European Union granted Georgia the status of candidate country, with the understanding that Georgia would act consistent with the recommendations of the European Commission by continuing to advance the outlined reform priorities and increasing its alignment with the European Union's foreign and security policy positions.

(17) On February 24, 2023, a foreign agents bill was introduced in the Parliament of Georgia—

(A) to impose restrictions on civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and independent media organizations; and

(B) to stigmatize such organizations as ''foreign agents''.

(18) On March 7, 2023, the Parliament of Georgia accelerated the passage of that bill, which led to—

(A) large-scale protests that Georgian authorities confronted by deploying tear gas and water cannons; and

(B) the withdrawal of the bill by the Parliament.

(19) On April 15, 2024, the foreign agents bill, which was renamed ''the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence'', was reintroduced in the Parliament of Georgia with minor changes that did not reflect the express wishes of the Georgian people, which provoked—

(A) large-scale protests in Tbilisi and around the country; and

(B) the ejection of opposition parliamentarians from parliamentary hearings.

(20) On April 29, 2024, former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, who is currently the Honorary Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream Party, gave a speech in which he—

(A) harshly attacked American and European partners;

(B) alleged that the goal of foreign funding of civil society and nongovernmental organizations in Georgia is to deprive Georgia of its state sovereignty; and

(C) promised to punish opposition political groups.

(21) In the face of massive, nation-wide protests against the foreign agents bill, Georgian authorities have, in some cases, deployed disproportionate force against largely peaceful protestors, including—

(A) reportedly attacking journalists covering the protests and members of the political opposition; and

(B) threatening civil society leaders and family members of protestors at their homes.

(22) On May 14, 2024, the Parliament of Georgia passed the foreign agents bill against the wishes of the Georgian people.

(23) On May 21, 2024, the Venice Commission issued an opinion regarding Georgia's foreign influence law in which it ''strongly recommend[ed] repealing the Law in its current form, as its fundamental flaws will involve significant negative consequences for the freedoms of association and expression, the right to privacy, the right to participate in public affairs as well as the prohibition of discrimination.''.

SEC. 1293. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to call on all political parties and elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia to continue working on addressing the reform plan outlined by the European Commission to advance Georgia's recently granted candidate status, which the people of Georgia have freely elected to pursue;

(2) to call on the Government of Georgia to institute the required reforms, which are to be developed through an inclusive and transparent consultation process with opposition parties and civil society organizations;

(3) to express serious concern that impediments to strengthening the democratic institutions and processes of Georgia, including the foreign agents bill, will slow or halt Georgia's progress toward achieving its Euro-Atlantic aspirations, be perceived as stagnating the democratic trajectory of Georgia, and result in negative domestic and international consequences for the Government of Georgia;

(4) to impose swift consequences on individuals who are directly responsible for leading or have directly and knowingly engaged in leading, actions or policies that significantly undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(5) to emphasize the importance of contributing to international efforts—

(A) to combat Russian aggression, including through sanctions on trade with Russia and the implementation and enforcement of worldwide sanctions on Russia; and

(B) to reduce, rather than increase, trade ties between Georgia and Russia;

(6) to call on all political parties, elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia, and officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respect the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, including for the press, and the rule of law, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive civil society;

(7) to call on the Government of Georgia to release all persons detained or imprisoned on politically motivated grounds and drop any pending charges against them;

(8) to call on the Government of Georgia to ensure that the national elections scheduled for October 2024 are free, fair, and reflective of the will of the Georgian people; and

(9) to continue impressing upon the Government of Georgia that the United States is committed to sustaining and deepening bilateral relations and supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

SEC. 1294. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN AGENTS BILL.—The term ''foreign agents bill'' means the ''On Transparency of Foreign Influence'' bill, which was reintroduced in the Parliament of Georgia in April 2024.

(3) GEORGIA.—The term ''Georgia'' means the Republic of Georgia.

(4) NATO.—The term ''NATO'' means the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of State.

CHAPTER 1—CONDITIONS ON ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

Subchapter A—Sanctions

SEC. 1295. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', and ''alien'' have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means any individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(4) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—The term ''immediate family members'' has the meaning given the term ''immediate relatives'' in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(A)(i)).

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person within the United States.

SEC. 1295A. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United States to support the constitutionally stated aspirations of Georgia to become a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which—

(1) is made clear under Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia; and

(2) is supported by 86 percent of the citizens of Georgia.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) acts of blocking Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia, due to undue influence from corrupt or oligarchic forces, constitute a form of corruption;

(2) the United States should consider travel restrictions or sanctions on individuals responsible for any actions preventing Georgia from moving toward Euro-Atlantic integration, which include acts of violence or intimidation against Georgian citizens, members of civil society, and members of an opposition political party;

(3) the United States, in response to recent events in Georgia, should reassess whether recent actions undertaken by individuals in Georgia should result in the imposition of sanctions by the United States for acts of significant corruption and human rights abuses; and

(4) the United States should consider revoking the visas of nationals of Georgia and their family members who—

(A) live in the United States; and

(B) are determined to meet the criteria described in section 103(a).

SEC. 1295B. INADMISSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN BLOCKING EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify and make a determination as to whether any of the following foreign persons has knowingly engaged in significant acts of corruption, or acts of violence or intimidation in relation to the blocking of Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia:

(1) Any individual who, on or after January 1, 2012, has served as a member of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia, as a senior staff member of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia, or as a current or former senior official of a Georgian political party.

(2) Any individual who is serving as an official in a leadership position working on behalf of the Government of Georgia, including law enforcement, intelligence, judicial, or local or municipal government.

(3) An immediate family member of an official described in paragraph (1) or a person described in paragraph (2).

(b) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (a) is subject to immediate revocation regardless of the issue date of such visa or documentation.

(2) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation of a visa or other entry documentation of any alien pursuant to paragraph (1) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(A) take effect immediately; and

(B) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of such alien.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a written report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—

(1) lists any foreign person for whom the Secretary has determined has knowingly engaged in an activity described in subsection (a); and

(2) a detailed justification for each such positive determination.

(d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (c) shall be submitted in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note).

(e) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the application of subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that—

(1) such waiver would serve a compelling national interest; or

(2) the circumstances which caused the individual to be ineligible have sufficiently changed.

SEC. 1295C. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO UNDERMINING PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in subsection (b) shall be applied to any foreign person the President determines, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) is responsible for, complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in or attempted to engage in, actions or policies, including ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(2) is or has been a leader or official of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in any activity described in paragraph (1); or

(3) is an immediate family member of a person subject to sanctions for conduct described in paragraph (1) or (2) who benefitted from such conduct.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding the requirements under section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the President shall exercise all authorities granted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (a) is subject to revocation regardless of the issue date of the visa or other entry documentation.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if, not later than 15 days before the date on which such waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (b)(1) or any regulation, license, or order issued under that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subtitle, or in any amendment made by this subtitle, may be construed to limit the authority of the President to designate or sanction persons pursuant to an applicable Executive order or otherwise pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(e) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary for the implementation of this section.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days before prescribing regulations pursuant to paragraph (1), the President shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this section that the regulations are implementing.

(f) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions imposed on a foreign person pursuant

to this section shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that the conditions requiring such sanctions no longer apply; or

(2) December 31, 2029.

(g) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2029.

SEC. 1295D. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BROADER CORRUPTION IN GEORGIA.

(a) DETERMINATION AND REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

(A) a list of all foreign persons about whom the Secretary has made a positive determination pursuant to section 103(a); and

(B) a determination as to whether any foreign person on the list described in subparagraph (A) qualifies under existing sanctions authorities described in subsection (b).

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be provided in unclassified form, but a classified annex may be provided separately containing additional contextual information pertaining to the justification for the issuance of any waiver, as described in paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are sanctions applicable with respect to a person for acts of significant corruption, involvement in human rights abuses, or harmful foreign activities in Georgia under—

(1) Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation); or

(2) Executive Order 13818 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking the property of persons involved in serious human rights abuse or corruption).

(c) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a request from the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate or of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives with respect to whether a foreign person meets meet the criteria for the imposition of sanctions described in subsection (b), the President shall—

(1) determine if the person meets such criteria; and

(2) submit a written justification to such chairman and ranking member detailing whether the President imposed or intends to impose sanctions described in this section with respect to such person.

SEC. 1295E. EXCEPTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ''agricultural commodity'' has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(2) GOOD.—The term ''good'' means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ''medical device'' has the meaning given the term ''device'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(4) MEDICINE.—The term ''medicine'' has the meaning given the term ''drug'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply to—

(A) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(B) any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling such alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this subtitle shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(4) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply to—

(A) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, or humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(B) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in subparagraph (A).

Subchapter B—Improving Bilateral Relations With Georgia

SEC. 1296. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TOWARD GEORGIA.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY ON GEORGIA.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to express that if the Government of Georgia proceeds to pass the foreign agents law and other legislation further inhibiting its ability to advance its accession into the European Union—

(A) the United States Government's policy toward Georgia should take into consideration these updated circumstances; and

(B) the United States should review all forms of foreign and security assistance made available to the Government of Georgia; and

(2) to reevaluate its policy toward the Government of Georgia if the Government of Georgia takes the required steps—

(A) to reorient itself toward its European Union accession agenda; and

(B) to advance policy or legislation reflecting the express wishes of the Georgian people.

(b) 5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed strategy which shall—

(1) outline specific objectives for enhancing bilateral ties which reflect the current domestic political environment in Georgia;

(2) determine what tools, resources, and funding should be available and assess whether Georgia should remain the second-highest recipient of United States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

(3) determine the extent to which the United States should continue to invest in its defense partnership with Georgia;

(4) explore how the United States can continue to support civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(5) determine whether the Government of Georgia remains committed to expanding trade ties with the United States and Europe and whether the United States Government should continue to invest in Georgian projects.

SEC. 1296A. REPORT ON REVIEW OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the USAID Administrator and other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that outlines all assistance provided by any United States Government agency to the Government of Georgia that are not explicitly focused on democracy or rule of law and shall include—

(1) a detailed overview of each project; and

(2) associated funding allocations, including projected funding for each project.

(b) SUSPENSION OF PROJECTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the report required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Secretary shall—

(1) suspend all projects in Georgia carried out by the Department of State or other United States Government agencies that primarily provide material aid, reputational advantage, or sustenance to state actors, officials, or their proxies who undermine the democracy of Georgia and enable Russian aggression within and outside of Georgia; and

(2) consult with the appropriate congressional committees before any programming actions are taken in response to such review.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) REPROGRAMMING.—The Secretary may reprogram any amounts that cannot be absorbed to support democracy and rule-of-law initiatives in Georgia to other initiatives taking place in other countries in the Europe and Eurasia region after notifying the appropriate congressional committees.

(2) LIMITATION.—No amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the Act entitled ''An Act Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes'', approved April 24, 2024 (Public Law 118–50) may be obligated or expended for any assistance to Georgia unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) such obligation or expenditure is in the vital national security interest of the United States; or

(B) the Government of Georgia is taking measures—

(i) to represent the democratic wishes of the citizens of Georgia; and

(ii) to uphold its constitutional obligation to advance membership in the European Union and NATO.

SEC. 1296B. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES-GEORGIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should suspend the United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission, established through the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership on January 9, 2009, until after the Government of Georgia takes measures—

(1) to represent the democratic wishes of the citizens of Georgia; and

(2) to uphold its constitutional obligation to advance the country towards membership in the European Union and NATO.

SEC. 1296C. DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH GEORGIA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States—

(1) is proud of the strong defense relationship between the United States and Georgia, which was—

(A) cemented in 2002 through a Defense Cooperation Agreement; and

(B) further enhanced in October 2021 by the Georgia Defense and Deterrence Enhancement Initiative.

(2) is grateful to the Georgian Defense forces for their contributions to international peacekeeping missions, including—

(A) the NATO-led Kosovo Force mission;

(B) the European Union Military Operation in the Central African Republic; and

(C) its deployment of forces in support of United States forces in Iraq from 2006 to 2008;

(3) is grateful to the Georgian Ministry of Defense's contributions toward the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (referred to in this section as the ''ISAF'') in Afghanistan, whereby—

(A) Georgia was one of the largest contributors of troops per capita for a non-NATO country; and

(B) 32 Georgian soldiers died and 280 Georgian soldiers were wounded in support of the ISAF mission; and

(4) should, to the extent possible, sustain strong ties between the United States military and the Georgian Ministry of Defense.

(b) DEFENSE REVIEW.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a defense review to determine whether the United States, in response to recent political developments in Georgia, should continue to support the military needs of Georgia.

CHAPTER 2—ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE

SEC. 1297. STATEMENT OF POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue supporting the ongoing development of democratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elections, freedom of association, an independent and accountable judiciary, an independent media, public-sector transparency and accountability, the rule of law, countering malign influence, and anticorruption efforts;

(2) to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders;

(3) to continue to support the Georgian people and civil society organizations that reflect the aspirations of the Georgian people for democracy and a future with the people of Europe;

(4) to continue supporting the capacity of the Government of Georgia to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity from further Russian aggression or encroachment;

(5) to support domestic and international efforts, including polling, pre-election and election-day observation efforts, to support the execution of free and fair elections in Georgia in October 2024;

(6) to continue supporting the right of the Georgian people to freely engage in peaceful protest, determine their future, and make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, including regarding Georgia's relationship with other countries and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries or those acting on their behalf; and

(7) to underscore the unwavering bipartisan support from Congress in supporting the democratic aspirations of the Georgian people.

SEC. 1297A. DEMOCRACY AND RULE-OF-LAW PROGRAMMING.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING EFFECT OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA.—It is the policy of the United States to undertake efforts, in partnership with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to ensure that the national elections in Georgia that are scheduled to be held in October 2024 are conducted in a manner that is free, fair, and reflective of the will of the Georgian people and show evidence of a broader and sustainable democratic trajectory.

(b) FUNDING.—From the amounts appropriated to the Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia account under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024, or under the comparable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025, not less than $50,000,000 shall be made available—

(1) to strengthen democracy and civil society in Georgia, including for transparency, independent media, rule of law, anti-corruption efforts, countering malign influence, and good governance initiatives; and

(2) to support the Georgian people's efforts to advance their aspirations for membership in the European Union and Euro-Atlantic integration.

(c) REVIEW OF SUPPORT.—In response to the passage of the foreign agents law, the Secretary and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall undertake a review of efforts to determine—

(1) how best to continue providing support to civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(2) whether additional funds should be allocated to the National Endowment for Democracy for initiatives in Georgia.

SEC. 1297B. REPORT ON DISINFORMATION AND CORRUPTION IN GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with such agencies as the Secretary considers relevant, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of efforts within and outside of Georgia to spread disinformation within Georgia to mischaracterize or undermine the bilateral relationships between the United States and Georgia and the European Union and Georgia;

(2) a list of—

(A) sources that have played an active role in advancing disinformation campaigns to erode public support for the United States, the European Union, and NATO within Georgia; and

(B) efforts undertaken by the Government of Georgia to sanction actors involved in the spread of disinformation that limits its Euro-Atlantic aspirations;

(3) an assessment of the extent to which corrupt actors are undermining the ability of political parties and democratic institutions in Georgia to uphold and adhere to the principles of transparency and good governance;

(4) a list of policy options to assist the Government of Georgia in helping protect democracy and the rule of law by punishing bad actors;

(5) an overview of efforts in Georgia designed—

(A) to suppress a free and independent media; or

(B) to harass and intimidate civil society;

(6) a list of actors responsible for—

(A) the suppression of a free and independent media in Georgia; or

(B) harassment and intimidation of civil society in Georgia;

(7) an assessment of—

(A) the Russian Federation's influence and information operations in Georgia; and

(B) connections between the influence and operations described in subparagraph (A) and the broader agenda of the Russian Federation in the region; and

(8) an assessment of—

(A) the People's Republic of China's influence and information operations in Georgia; and

(B) connections between the influence and operations described in subparagraph (A) and the broader agenda of the People's Republic of China in the region.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex.

SEC. 1297C. REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IN GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, as determined by the Secretary, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representativesa that includes—

(1) a list of prisoners within the Georgian prison system that the Department of State considers to be imprisoned for political reasons or otherwise wrongfully detained, especially those who have been detained since March 2024; and

(2) a description of efforts to work with Georgian authorities to advocate for the release of such prisoners.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

SEC. 1297D. SUNSET.

This subtitle, except for section 1295C, shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2094. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1095. AUTHORITY TO REIMBURSE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SALARIES FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Section 503(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2311(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(2) by striking ''(a) The'' and inserting ''(a)(1) The'';

(3) in the matter following subparagraph (C) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section), by striking ''Sales which'' and inserting the following:

''(2)(A) Sales that''; and

(4) in paragraph (2) (as designated by paragraph (3) of this section)—

(A) by striking ''paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(C)''; and

(B) by striking ''United States'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''United States other than members of—

''(i) the Coast Guard; and

''(ii) the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps who are ordered to active duty pursuant to chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, and at the request of the Secretary of State, including units of the Air National Guard providing support to such missions under the

Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron.

''(B) Members of reserve components described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall, pursuant to section 515(e), serve under the direction and supervision of the Chief of the appropriate United States Diplomatic Mission and are not part of any State Partnership Program established under section 341 of title 10, United States Code.''.

SA 2095. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. SMALL BUSINESS PROCUREMENT.

Section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by inserting after ''(g)'' the following: ''GOALS FOR PARTICIPATION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.—''; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking the second sentence; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—In meeting each of the goals under subparagraph (A), the Government shall—

''(i) increase the number of small business concerns awarded contracts; and

''(ii) ensure the participation of a broad spectrum of small business concerns from a wide variety of industries.''; and

(2) in subsection (y)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) The number of new small business entrants, including new small business entrants that are small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women awarded prime contracts in each North American Industry Classification System code during the fiscal year, and a comparison to the number awarded prime contracts during the prior fiscal year, if available.'';

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(i) by striking ''(E)'' and inserting ''(F)'';

(ii) by striking ''award of'' and all that follows through ''owned and controlled by women'' and inserting the following: ''award of—

''(i) prime contracts to an increasing number of small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women, from a wide variety of industries; and

''(ii) subcontracts to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women''; and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking the heading and inserting ''DEFINITIONS.—'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(iii) by striking ''subsection, the'' and inserting: ''subsection:

''(A) NEW SMALL BUSINESS ENTRANT.—The term 'new small business entrant' means a small business concern that—

''(i) has been awarded a prime contract; and

''(ii) has not previously been awarded a prime contract.

''(B) SCORECARD.—The''.

SA 2096. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. ACCOUNTABILITY IN WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term ''small business concern owned and controlled by women'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(b) ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.—

(1) ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION IN PRIME CONTRACTING AND SUBCONTRACTING FOR WOSBS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each prime contract award and subcontract award that is counted for the purpose of meeting the goals for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by women in procurement contracts for Federal agencies, as established in section 15(g)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(2)), shall be entered into with small business concerns certified by the Administrator or by a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) to meet the requirements under section 3(n) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 632(n)) to be a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall take effect on October 1 of the second fiscal year beginning after the Administrator promulgates the regulations required under paragraph (3).

(2) PHASED APPROACH TO ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR WOSBS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any small business concern that self-certified as a small business concern owned and controlled by women may—

(A) if the small business concern files a certification application with the Administrator before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), maintain such self-certification until the Administrator makes a determination with respect to such certification; and

(B) if the small business concern does not file a certification application before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), lose, at the end of such 1-year period, any self-certification of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this subsection.

SA 2097. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. LIMITATION ON FEDERAL AGENCY CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.

Section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) LIMITATION ON CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'covered category of small business concern' means—

''(I) a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;

''(II) a qualified HUBZone small business concern;

''(III) a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; or

''(IV) a small business concern owned and controlled by women; and

''(ii) the term 'credit' means the value of a prime contract.

''(B) GENERAL RULE.—A Federal agency may allocate credit for a single prime contract awarded to a small business concern not more than 2 times for purposes of demonstrating compliance with the goals of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A).

''(C) ALLOCATION OF CREDIT.—

''(i) FIRST ALLOCATION.—The first allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by small business concerns.

''(ii) SECOND ALLOCATION.—A second allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied as follows:

''(I) If the prime contract was awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by the applicable covered category of small business concern.

''(II) If the prime contract was not awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit may only be applied towards a single goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A), determined at the election of the contracting officer, for participation by a covered category of small business concern that is applicable to the recipient of the prime contract, without regard to whether the recipient of the prime contract qualifies as

more than 1 covered category of small business concern.

''(D) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this paragraph.

''(E) PHASE-IN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—This paragraph shall apply with respect to the fourth fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and each fiscal year thereafter.

''(ii) INTERIM SCORING.—For the first, second, and third full fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall submit to each Federal agency and to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives an assessment of the agency, providing—

''(I) an evaluation of whether the Federal agency met the contracting goals under this subsection for the fiscal year; and

''(II) an evaluation of whether the Federal agency would have met the contracting goals under this subsection for the fiscal year, if this paragraph had been in effect.

''(iii) CONSULTATIONS.—The Administrator may consult with, and make recommendations to, a Federal agency if the evaluation under clause (ii)(II) identifies that the agency would not have met the contracting goals under this subsection, if this paragraph had been in effect.

''(iv) PUBLIC NOTICE.—For the third full fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall also make the information in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (ii) available to the public.''.

SA 2098. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. PLAIN LANGUAGE IN CONTRACTING.

(a) ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY IN COVERED NOTICES FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered notice shall be written—

(A) in a manner that is clear, concise, and accessible to a small business concern; and

(B) in a manner consistent, to the extent practicable, with the Federal plain language guidelines established pursuant to the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(2) INCLUSION OF KEY WORDS IN COVERED NOTICES.—Each covered notice shall, to the maximum extent practicable, include key words in the description of the covered notice such that a small business concern seeking contract opportunities using the single governmentwide point of entry described under section 1708 of title 41, United States Code, can easily identify and understand such covered notice.

(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue rules to carry out this subsection.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED NOTICE.—The term ''covered notice'' means a notice pertaining to small business concerns published by a Federal agency on the single governmentwide point of entry described under section 1708 of title 41, United States Code.

(B) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms ''Federal agency'' and ''small business concern'' have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SA 2099. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PILOT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO SCALE TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO SCALE TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(aa) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(aa)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) PILOT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO SCALE TECHNOLOGIES.—Upon request by a Federal agency, the Administrator shall grant a waiver from the requirement under paragraph (1) with respect to a Phase II award under the SBIR program or STTR program of the Federal agency if the Federal agency ensures that—

''(A) the total funding associated with the Phase II award under the SBIR program and the STTR program does not exceed $20,000,000;

''(B) not more than 33 percent of the total funding, public or private, included or required by the funding agreement may be paid with funding under the SBIR program or the STTR program of the Federal agency;

''(C) for the Department of Defense, the Phase II award directly supports a Department of Defense operational need and has a clearly defined transition path to support military capabilities; and

''(D) if the waiver is granted—

''(i) not more than 25 percent of the SBIR program budget of the Federal agency for any fiscal year will be expended on Phase II awards for which a waiver is granted under this paragraph; and

''(ii) not more than 25 percent of the STTR program budget of the Federal agency for any fiscal year will be expended on Phase II awards for which a waiver is granted under this paragraph.''.

(2) SUNSET.—Effective on October 1, 2025, section 9(aa) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(aa)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (5); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT; PILOT PROGRAM FOR ACCELERATION OF HIGH PRIORITY TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(i) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives;

(iv) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(v) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(B) the terms ''armed forces'' and ''Secretary concerned'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of title 10, United States Code;

(C) the term ''major system'' has the meaning given the term in section 3041 of title 10, United States Code;

(D) the terms ''Phase I'', ''Phase II'', ''Phase III'', ''SBIR'', and ''STTR'' have the meanings given those terms in section 9(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(e)); and

(E) the term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the Defense Innovation Unit of the Department of Defense shall establish a mechanism, such as a major system, to provide small business concerns with direct access to program and requirements offices throughout the Department of Defense that may purchase technology from small business concerns under Phase III of the SBIR or STTR program of the Department of Defense.

(3) PILOT PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) SET ASIDE.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act, or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025, to carry out an SBIR program of a component of the armed forces, that component shall use 1 percent of those amounts to provide for the procurement of high priority technologies (as so identified by the chief acquisition officer of the component), specifically the procurement of systems that have been supported through Phase I or Phase II awards of that program but have not become programs of record.

(ii) COMBINING FUNDING.—For the purposes of clause (i), multiple components of the armed forces may combine amounts that each component is required to use as described in that clause to jointly provide for the procurement of high priority technologies.

(B) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the chief acquisition officer of each component of the armed forces shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of which technologies that officer has identified as high priority technologies under subparagraph (A).

(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains policy change recommendations identified as a result of the pilot program carried out under this paragraph by the applicable component of the armed forces to facilitate the rapid adoption of technologies supported by the SBIR program of the component.

(c) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF AWARDS AND NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(yy) LIMITATIONS ON TOTAL SBIR AND STTR AWARD AMOUNTS AND APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT.—A single small business concern, including any subsidiary or affiliated entity of the small business concern, may not receive more than $50,000,000 in Phase I and Phase II awards, in the aggregate, from Federal agencies participating in the SBIR or STTR program.

''(2) APPLICATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A small business concern may not submit more than 10 applications to a single Federal agency for each SBIR or STTR program award solicitation of the Federal agency.

''(B) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Department of Defense shall consist of 1 Federal agency.''.

SA 2100. Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. ___. AM RADIO FOR EVERY VEHICLE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) AM BROADCAST BAND.—The term ''AM broadcast band'' means the band of frequencies between 535 kilohertz and 1705 kilohertz, inclusive.

(3) AM BROADCAST STATION.—The term ''AM broadcast station'' means a broadcast station licensed for the dissemination of radio communications—

(A) intended to be received by the public; and

(B) operated on a channel in the AM broadcast band.

(4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(5) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term ''Comptroller General'' means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(6) DEVICE.—The term ''device'' means a piece of equipment or an apparatus that is designed—

(A) to receive signals transmitted by a radio broadcast station (as defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153)); and

(B) to play back content or programming derived from those signals.

(7) DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''digital audio AM broadcast station'' means an AM broadcast station that—

(i) is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; and

(ii) uses an In-band On-channel system (as defined in section 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) for broadcasting purposes.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''digital audio AM broadcast station'' does not include an all-digital AM station (as defined in section 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)).

(8) INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM; IPAWS.—The terms ''Integrated Public Alert and Warning System'' and ''IPAWS'' mean the public alert and warning system of the United States described in section 526 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o).

(9) MANUFACTURER.—The term ''manufacturer'' has the meaning given the term in section 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

(10) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term ''passenger motor vehicle'' has the meaning given the term in section 32101 of title 49, United States Code.

(11) RECEIVE.—The term ''receive'' means to receive a broadcast signal via over-the-air transmission.

(12) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Transportation.

(13) SIGNAL.—The term ''signal'' means radio frequency energy that a holder of a radio station license granted or authorized by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to sections 301 and 307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301, 307) intentionally emits or causes to be emitted at a specified frequency for the purpose of transmitting content or programming to the public.

(14) STANDARD EQUIPMENT.—The term ''standard equipment'' means motor vehicle equipment (as defined in section 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code) that—

(A) is installed as a system, part, or component of a motor vehicle as originally manufactured; and

(B) the manufacturer of the motor vehicle recommends or authorizes to be included in the motor vehicle for no additional or separate monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the base price of a motor vehicle.

(b) AM BROADCAST STATIONS RULE.—

(1) RULE REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator and the Federal Communications Commission, shall issue a rule—

(A) requiring devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations be installed as standard equipment in passenger motor vehicles—

(i) manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce; and

(ii) manufactured after the effective date of the rule;

(B) requiring access to AM broadcast stations in a manner that is easily accessible to a driver after the effective date of the rule; and

(C) allowing a manufacturer to comply with that rule by installing devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by digital audio AM broadcast stations as standard equipment in passenger motor vehicles manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce after the effective date of the rule.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in issuing the rule required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish an effective date for the rule that is not less than 2 years, but not more than 3 years, after the date on which the rule is issued.

(B) CERTAIN MANUFACTURERS.—In issuing the rule required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish an effective date for the rule that is at least 4 years after the date on which the rule is issued with respect to manufacturers that manufactured not more than 40,000 passenger motor vehicles for sale in the United States in 2022.

(3) INTERIM REQUIREMENT.—For passenger motor vehicles manufactured after the date of enactment of this Act and manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce between the period of time beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the effective date of the rule issued under paragraph (1) that do not include devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations, the manufacturer of the passenger motor vehicles—

(A) shall provide clear and conspicuous labeling to inform purchasers of those passenger motor vehicles that the passenger motor vehicles do not include devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations; and

(B) may not charge an additional or separate monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the base price of the passenger motor vehicles, for access to AM broadcast stations for the period of time described in this paragraph.

(4) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—When the rule issued under paragraph (1) is in effect, a State or a political subdivision of a State may not prescribe or continue in effect a law, regulation, or other requirement applicable to access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles.

(5) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person failing to comply with the rule issued under paragraph (1) shall be liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty in accordance with section 30165(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code.

(B) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States to enjoin a violation of the rule issued under paragraph (1) in accordance with section 30163 of title 49, United States Code.

(6) GAO STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a comprehensive study on disseminating emergency alerts and warnings to the public.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an assessment of—

(I) the role of passenger motor vehicles in IPAWS communications, including by providing access to AM broadcast stations;

(II) the advantages, effectiveness, limitations, resilience, and accessibility of existing IPAWS communication technologies, including AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles;

(III) the advantages, effectiveness, limitations, resilience, and accessibility of AM broadcast stations relative to other IPAWS communication technologies in passenger motor vehicles; and

(IV) whether other IPAWS communication technologies are capable of ensuring the President (or a designee) can reach at least 90 percent of the population of the United States at a time of crisis, including at night; and

(ii) a description of any ongoing efforts to integrate new and emerging technologies and communication platforms into the IPAWS framework.

(C) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In conducting the study required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(ii) the Federal Communications Commission;

(iii) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration;

(iv) the Secretary;

(v) Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local emergency management officials;

(vi) first responders;

(vii) technology experts in resilience and accessibility;

(viii) radio broadcasters;

(ix) manufacturers of passenger motor vehicles; and

(x) other relevant stakeholders, as determined by the Comptroller General.

(7) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

(A) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the results of the study required by paragraph (6)(A), including

recommendations for legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General provides the briefing required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of the study required under paragraph (6)(A), including recommendations for legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(8) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years after the date on which the Secretary issued the rule required by paragraph (1), the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator and the Federal Communications Commission, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that shall include an assessment of—

(A) the impacts of the rule issued under that paragraph, including the impacts on public safety; and

(B) changes to IPAWS communication technologies that enable resilient and accessible alerts to drivers and passengers of passenger motor vehicles.

SA 2101. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 595(a), in the matter proposed to be inserted in section 503(c)(1)(A)(i) of chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, as clause (i)(II), strike ''one in-person recruitment event'' and insert ''four in-person recruitment events''.

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following:

SEC. 597B. STUDY ON SERVICE ELIGIBILITY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall complete a study on the eligibility of United States citizens aged 17–24 for military service.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An analysis of historical trends over at least 30 years preceding the date of the study of the eligibility of United States citizens aged 17–24 for military service.

(2) An analysis of the reasons for ineligibility, including an identification of the percentage of citizens who fail to meet eligibility standards for each of the following reasons:

(A) Physical fitness.

(B) Drug abuse.

(C) Mental health.

(D) Other medical issues.

(E) Aptitude.

(F) Conduct.

(3) An analysis of the potential impacts of increased rates of social media usage on the reasons described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (2).

(4) An analysis of the number of individuals on a yearly basis who seek a waiver for one or more reasons of ineligibility, compared to the number of individuals who receive a waiver and join the relevant military service.

(5) An analysis of the average time it takes for each military service to process a request for a waiver.

(6) An analysis of the reasons that waivers are not processed more quickly.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include recommendations—

(1) suggesting measures that could be taken by Federal and State leaders to decrease the percentages of United States citizens failing to meet eligibility standards described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (b)(2); and

(2) proposing measures that the Department of Defense, and Congress, could take to improve the waiver process and reduce wait times for decisions on waiver requests.

(d) FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.— The Secretary of Defense may contract with a federally funded research and development center to support the completion of the study required under subsection (a).

(e) PUBLIC REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall publish on a public website of the Department of Defense a report containing the findings of the study.

(2) ANNEX.—The Secretary may submit to the congressional defense committees a classified or unclassified annex to the report required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 597C. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MARKETING REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall complete a review of the advertising and marketing models used by each of the military services in support of recruiting efforts.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) assess the efficacy of marketing across each type of platform used by each service, including print, television, radio, internet, and social media;

(2) assess the efficacy of the messaging used by each service; and

(3) include recommendations for each service on ways to better reach individuals who could be interested in military service.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the findings of the review described required under subsection (a).

SA 2102. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. INCREASE IN DOLLAR AMOUNT THRESHOLDS UNDER SECTIONS 3 AND 36 OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT RELATING TO PROPOSED TRANSFERS OR SALES OF DEFENSE ARTICLES OR SERVICES UNDER THAT ACT.

The Arms Export Control Act is amended—

(1) in section 3(d) (22 U.S.C. 2753(d))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$23,000,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$83,000,000''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(i) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$23,000,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$83,000,000'';

(2) in section 36(b) (22 U.S.C. 2776(b))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$83,000,000'';

(ii) by striking ''$200,000,000'' and inserting ''$332,000,000''; and

(iii) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$23,000,000''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(C)—

(i) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$23,000,000'';

(ii) by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$83,000,000''; and

(iii) by striking ''$200,000,000'' and inserting ''$332,000,000''; and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$42,000,000'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$100,000,000'' and inserting ''$166,000,000''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''$300,000,000'' and inserting ''$500,000,000''; and

(3) in section 36(c) (22 U.S.C. 2776(c))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$23,000,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$83,000,000''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$42,000,000''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$100,000,000'' and inserting ''$166,000,000''.

SA 2103. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1027. EXCEPTION TO RESTRICTIONS ON REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF NAVAL VESSELS IN FOREIGN SHIPYARDS FOR SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXERCISES.

Section 8680(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), during each fiscal year, scheduled maintenance or repair may be performed on not more than six naval vessels described in paragraph (1) outside the United States or Guam if—

''(A) the period for the maintenance or repair is less than 90 consecutive days in duration; and

''(B) the maintenance or repair is performed as part of an exercise to develop and improve the ability to perform maintenance or repair during wartime or periods of increased international tension.''.

SA 2104. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Coordinating AUKUS Engagement With Japan

SEC. 1291. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) AUKUS OFFICIAL.—The term ''AUKUS official'' means a government official with responsibilities related to the implementation of the AUKUS partnership.

(3) AUKUS PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''AUKUS partnership'' has the meaning given that term in section 1321 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401).

(4) COMMERCE CONTROL LIST.—The term ''Commerce Control List'' means the list maintained pursuant to part 774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(5) STATE AUKUS COORDINATOR.—The term ''State AUKUS Coordinator'' means the senior advisor at the Department of State designated under section 1331(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10411(a)(1)).

(6) DEFENSE AUKUS COORDINATOR.—The term ''Defense AUKUS Coordinator'' means the senior civilian official of the Department of Defense designated under section 1332(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10412(a)).

(7) PILLAR TWO.—The term ''Pillar Two'' has the meaning given that term in section 1321(2)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401(2)(B)).

(8) UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—The term ''United States Munitions List'' means the list set forth in part 121 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

SEC. 1292. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to strengthen relationships and cooperation with allies in order to effectively counter the People's Republic of China;

(2) the United States should capitalize on the technological advancements allies have made in order to deliver more advanced capabilities at speed and at scale to the United States military and the militaries of partner countries;

(3) the historic announcement of the AUKUS partnership laid out a vision for future defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States;

(4) Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership envisions cooperation on advanced technologies, including hypersonic capabilities, electronic warfare capabilities, cyber capabilities, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, and space capabilities;

(5) trusted partners of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, such as Japan, could benefit from and offer significant contributions to a range of projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership;

(6) Japan is a treaty ally of the United States and a technologically advanced country with the world's third-largest economy;

(7) in 2022, Australia signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Australian Defence Force;

(8) in 2023, the United Kingdom signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(9) in 2014, Japan relaxed its post-war constraints on the export of non-lethal defense equipment, and in March 2024, Japan further refined that policy to allow for the export of weapons to countries with which it has an agreement in place on defense equipment and technology transfers;

(10) in 2013, Japan passed a secrecy law obligating government officials to protect diplomatic and defense information, and in February 2024, the Cabinet approved a bill creating a new security clearance system covering economic secrets; and

(11) in April 2024, the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom announced they would consider cooperating with Japan on advanced capability projects under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SEC. 1293. ENGAGEMENT WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO COOPERATION.

(a) ENGAGEMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall jointly engage directly, at a technical level, with the relevant stakeholders in the Government of Japan—

(A) to better understand the export control system of Japan and the effects of the reforms the Government of Japan has made to that system since 2014;

(B) to determine overlapping areas of interest and the potential for cooperation with Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States on projects related to the AUKUS partnership and other projects;

(C) to identify areas in which the Government of Japan might need to adjust the export control system of Japan in order to guard against export control violations or other related issues in order to be a successful potential partner in Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership; and

(D) to assess the Government of Japan's implementation and enforcement of export controls on sensitive technologies with respect to the People's Republic of China, including the implementation of export controls on semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH AUKUS OFFICIALS.—In carrying out the engagement required by paragraph (1), the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall consult with relevant AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia.

(b) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the engagement required by subsection (a), the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall jointly brief the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(1) The findings of that engagement.

(2) A strategy for follow-on engagement.

SEC. 1294. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the potential for cooperation with Japan on Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership, detailing the following:

(1) Projects the Government of Japan is engaged in related to the development of advanced defense capabilities under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(2) The average and median length of time it takes to approve licenses to export products on the United States Munitions List and the Commerce Control List to Japan.

(3) Areas of potential cooperation with Japan on advanced defense capabilities within and outside the scope of Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(4) The Secretaries' assessment of the current export control system of Japan, including—

(A) the procedures under that system for protecting classified and sensitive defense, diplomatic, and economic information;

(B) the effectiveness of that system in protecting such information; and

(C) such other matters as the Secretaries consider appropriate.

(5) Any reforms by Japan that the Secretary of State considers necessary before considering including Japan in the privileges provided under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(6) Any recommendations regarding the scope and conditions of potential cooperation with Japan under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(7) A strategy and forum for communicating the potential benefits of and requirements for engaging in projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership with the Government of Japan.

(8) Any views provided by AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia on issues relevant to the report, and a plan for cooperation with such officials on future engagement with the Government of Japan related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SA 2105. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1291. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN ADVERSARY MARITIME MILITIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (d) with respect to any foreign adversary entity that the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, determines—

(1) has contributed to, engaged in, or directly or indirectly supports—

(A) the maritime militia of a foreign adversary;

(B) provision of logistical support to such a militia, including provision of at-sea or at-port refueling or any other on-shore services, such as repair and servicing;

(C) the construction of vessels used by such a militia;

(D) the direction or control of such a militia, including directing activities that inhibit or coerce another country from protecting its sovereign rights or access to vessels or territory under its control; or

(E) other activities that may support, sustain, or enable the activities of such a militia; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to, or in support of, any person subject to sanctions pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign adversary entity for renewable periods of not more than 180 days each if the President determines and reports to Congress that such a waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the exercise of the authorities provided to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign adversary entity subject to subsection (a) if such property or interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to the extent necessary to carry out this section.

(2) PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR SANCTIONS.—The President shall establish procedures and guidelines for the implementation and enforcement of sanctions imposed under this section.

(3) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (d) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(4) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of subsection (d).

(f) ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME MILITIA OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the United States to engage with foreign allies and partners with territorial or security interests in the South China Sea, East China Sea, Philippine Sea, and other maritime areas of interest to coordinate efforts to counter malign activities of the maritime militia of the People's Republic of China.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term ''foreign adversary'' means a country specified in section 7.4(a) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) FOREIGN ADVERSARY ENTITY.—The term ''foreign adversary entity'' means an entity organized under the laws of or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary.

(3) MARITIME MILITIA.—The term ''maritime militia'' means an organized civilian force that—

(A) operates primarily in maritime domains, including coastal waters, exclusive economic zones, and international waters, and may use a variety of vessels, including fishing boats, trawlers, and other commercial vessels;

(B) is acting under the authority of, or is funded by, the government of a country; and

(C) is equipped and trained for the purpose of supporting and advancing the geopolitical or strategic objectives of that government, including asserting territorial claims, safeguarding maritime interests of that country, and conducting activities such as surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and logistical support, and may engage in coordinated activities with naval and other military forces of that country.

(4) PERSON.—The term ''person'' means an individual or entity.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SA 2106. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1216. IMPROVEMENTS TO SECURITY COOPERATION INFORMATION PORTAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall take steps—

(1) to review the Security Cooperation Information Portal (in this section referred to as ''SCIP''); and

(2) to improve stakeholder access to, and data completeness and software functionality of, SCIP.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) the functionality and software of SCIP adequately support the purpose of SCIP to reflect, accurately an in real time, the status of individual foreign military sales cases within the foreign military sales process;

(2) SCIP—

(A) includes data that allows users to track the progress of all major milestones of a foreign military sales case;

(B) may be accessed by—

(i) relevant officials of the Department of State, including personnel of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and United States missions in foreign countries; and

(ii) relevant officials of the Department of Defense, including—

(I) Defense Security Cooperation Agency personnel;

(II) acquisitions personnel of the Program Executive Offices;

(III) acquisition program managers;

(IV) relevant contracting officers;

(V) personnel of the combatant commands;

(VI) United States security cooperation organization personnel; and

(VII) defense attachés stationed at United States missions in foreign countries; and

(C) is equipped with a capability by which personnel described in subparagraph (B) may effectively input and access relevant information and data; and

(3) any other improvement the Secretary considers necessary to enhance the overall effectiveness and usefulness of SCIP is timely implemented.

(c) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report and provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the steps taken under subsections (a) and (b) to review and improve SCIP.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 2107. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1266. REPORT ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND RISKS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter for 15 years, the President, acting through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (in this section referred to as the ''Director''), and in consultation with the officials specified in subsection (c), shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the state of economic integration between the United States and the People's Republic of China; and

(2) the risks that integration poses to the national security interests of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the current level of economic integration between the United States and the People's Republic of China in each priority sector.

(2) An assessment of how economic integration between the United States and the People's Republic of China has changed since 2000, and is predicted to change during the 3 years following submission of the report, for each priority sector.

(3) An analysis of the extent to which the degree of current or predicted economic integration between the United States and the People's Republic of China in each priority sector presents significant risks to the national security of the United States. The

analysis with respect to each such sector shall address the following:

(A) The sector's reliance on entities organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the People's Republic of China, including entities owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, for foreign direct investment and other sources of financial capital.

(B) The sector's reliance on supply chains that have a significant dependence on products or processes based in the People's Republic of China.

(C) An assessment of the risks of intellectual property theft or economic espionage by individuals or entities linked to or subject to the control of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party.

(D) An assessment of the risks to the defense industrial base of the United States.

(E) An assessment of the risks posed by the use of subsidies and the dumping of goods into the customs territory of the United States by entities in the People's Republic of China, including entities owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(4) Recommendations for steps the United States Government should take to mitigate the risks identified under paragraph (3).

(5) Any other information the Director considers appropriate.

(c) OFFICIALS SPECIFIED.—The officials specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Secretary of State.
(2) The Secretary of the Treasury.
(3) The Secretary of Defense.
(4) The Attorney General.
(5) The Secretary of the Interior.
(6) The Secretary of Commerce.
(7) The Secretary of Health and Human Services.
(8) The Secretary of Energy.
(9) The Secretary of Homeland Security.
(10) The United States Trade Representative.
(11) The Director of National Intelligence.
(12) The Director of the National Science Foundation.
(13) The head of any other agency the Director considers appropriate.

(d) CONSULTATION AUTHORITY.—In developing a report required by subsection (a), the Director may consult with any nongovernmental entity that the Director considers necessary.

(e) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted to Congress in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Nothing in this section, or in a report required by subsection (a), shall be construed to allow the disclosure of information or a record that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(g) APPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act''), shall not apply to this section.

(h) PRIORITY SECTOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''priority sector'' means one of the following elements of an economy:

(1) Financial services.

(2) Critical minerals (as defined in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a))), including rare-earth elements, that the Secretary of Defense determines to be important to the national security of the United States.

(3) Semiconductors and microelectronics.

(4) Artificial intelligence.

(5) Communications, including telecommunications, social media applications, satellites and other space-based systems, and undersea cables.

(6) Quantum computing.

(7) Cloud-based systems, including computing services and data storage.

(8) Biotechnology.

(9) Pharmaceuticals and medical technology, including medical devices.

(10) Manufacturing processes, particularly casting, machining, joining, and forming.

SA 2108. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IX, add the following:

Subtitle C—Expansion of Authorities of Office of Strategic Capital

SEC. 931. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Investing in Our Defense Act of 2024''.

SEC. 932. AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE EQUITY INVESTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 913, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

''(e) EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office may, as a minority investor, support eligible investments with funds or use other mechanisms for the purpose of purchasing, and may make and fund commitments to purchase, invest in, make pledges in respect of, or otherwise acquire, equity or quasi-equity securities or shares or financial interests of any entity, upon such terms and conditions as the Director may determine.

''(2) LIMITATIONS ON EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—

''(A) PER PROJECT LIMIT.—The aggregate amount of support provided under this subsection with respect to any eligible investment shall not exceed 20 percent of the aggregate amount of all equity investment made to the project at the time that the Office approves support for the eligible investment.

''(B) TOTAL LIMIT.—Support provided under this subsection shall be limited to not more than 35 percent of the aggregate exposure of the Office on the date on which the support is provided.

''(3) SALES AND LIQUIDATION OF SUPPORT.—The Office shall seek to sell and liquidate any support for an eligible investment provided under this subsection as soon as commercially feasible, commensurate with other similar investors in the project and taking into consideration the national security interests of the United States.

''(4) TIMETABLE.—The Office shall create an eligible investment-specific timetable for support provided under paragraph (1).

''(5) BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—Support provided under this subsection shall constitute a credit program under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), and the budgetary cost of equity investments shall accordingly be calculated on a net-present basis.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f)(1) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a), is further amended by inserting '', equity investment'' after ''loan guarantee''.

SEC. 933. AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT FEES FOR PROVIDING CAPITAL INVESTMENTS.

Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 932, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

''(f) FEE AUTHORITY.—The Director may charge and collect fees for providing capital assistance in amounts to be determined by the Director. Such fees, once collected, may be used only for the purposes and to the extent provided in advance by appropriations Acts.''.

SEC. 934. HIRING AUTHORITIES.

Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by sections 932 and 933, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection (g):

''(g) OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, officers, employees, and agents of the Office shall be selected and appointed by the Director, and shall be vested with such powers and duties as the Director may determine.

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVELY DETERMINED EMPLOYEES.—

''(A) APPOINTMENT; COMPENSATION; REMOVAL.—Of officers and employees employed by the Office under paragraph (1), not more than 50 may be appointed, compensated, or removed without regard to title 5.

''(B) REINSTATEMENT.—Under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, officers and employees appointed to a position under subparagraph (A) may be entitled, upon removal from such position (unless the removal was for cause), to reinstatement to the position occupied at the time of appointment or to a position of comparable grade and salary.

''(C) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS.—Positions authorized by subparagraph (A) shall be in addition to those otherwise authorized by law, including positions authorized under section 5108 of title 5.

''(D) RATES OF PAY FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The Director may set and adjust rates of basic pay for officers and employees appointed under subparagraph (A) without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 or subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, respectively.''.

SA 2109. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY ON CYBER, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND DATA ANALYSIS EXPERIENCE OR KNOWLEDGE OF SENIOR OFFICERS IN CERTAIN ROLES.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT SENIOR OFFICER ROLES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that identifies a list of senior officer positions at the

O–7 level or higher that require significant experience in or knowledge of cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall complete a study on the extent of experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis fields of the officers occupying the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a).

(c) ELEMENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study described in subsection (b) shall—

(1) assess what, if any, experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, or data analysis fields are required before being eligible for the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a);

(2) evaluate the relevant training in cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis that each military department provides to prepare officers for such positions;

(3) assess whether each military department is placing adequate value on experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, or data analysis fields when evaluating officers for the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a); and

(4) include recommendations for each Secretary concerned (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) regarding potential additional requirements to increase the value placed on experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, or data analysis fields when individuals are being considered for the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study completed pursuant to subsection (b).

SA 2110. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CYBER, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND DATA ANALYSIS TRAINING FOR CERTAIN SENIOR OFFICER ROLES.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT SENIOR OFFICER ROLES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that identifies a list of senior officer positions at the O–7 level or higher that require significant experience in or knowledge of cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis.

(b) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of each military department shall issue regulations requiring that for a senior officer to be eligible for a position identified in the report required by subsection (a), the officer must have received training on cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis tools and capabilities.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The training requirements issued pursuant to subsection (b) shall include information relating to—

(1) the cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis capabilities and tools for the military departments and the Department of Defense;

(2) the potential value of cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis capabilities and tools for the position for which the officer is eligible for promotion and relevant use cases; and

(3) resources available to better understand cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis capabilities and tools.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements issued pursuant to subsection (b).

SA 2111. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TELEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 65 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 6502—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) provides that, subject to subsection (d), an employee may not telework for more than 40 percent of the work days of the employee per pay period;

''(D) shall be reviewed on an annual basis by, and be subject to the annual approval of, the head of the executive agency; and

''(E) provides that the executive agency, by using remote technical means or other appropriate methods, will monitor and evaluate the applicable employee when the employee is engaged in telework;''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF TELEWORK DAYS.—With respect to the limitation under subsection (b)(2)(C), the head of an executive agency may—

''(1) further limit the number of work days per pay period that an employee of the executive agency may telework based on the specific role of the employee or other circumstances determined appropriate by the head of the executive agency, including—

''(A) the frequency with which the employee needs to access classified information;

''(B) whether the employee is newly appointed; and

''(C) whether the employee occupies a managerial position within the executive agency; or

''(2) waive that limitation with respect to an employee of the executive agency if—

''(A) the employee is a spouse of—

''(i) a member of the Armed Forces; or

''(ii) a Federal law enforcement officer;

''(B) the employee occupies a position—

''(i) the duties of which require—

''(I) highly specialized expertise; or

''(II) frequent travel; or

''(ii) for which finding qualified candidates is challenging; or

''(C) inclement weather or other exigent circumstances prevent the employee from reaching the worksite of the employee during a pay period.''; and

(2) in section 6506, by adding at the end the following:

''(e) EXECUTIVE AGENCY REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the head of each executive agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report that describes, for the period covered by the report, the following:

''(A) What metrics and methods the executive agency uses to determine the productivity of employees who telework.

''(B) What barriers, if any, prevent the executive agency from enforcing the limitation under section 6502(b)(2)(C) and any initiatives of the executive agency to address those barriers.

''(C) Any negative effects of telework, including whether telework results in increased costs, security vulnerabilities, lower employee morale, decreased employee productivity, or waste, fraud, or abuse.

''(D) Any actions taken by the executive agency (or a detailed justification for any lack of action) in response to any findings of, or recommendations made by, the Inspector General of the executive agency with respect to telework.

''(2) GAO REPORT.—With respect to each report submitted by the head of an executive agency under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit an accompanying report that evaluates the accuracy and thoroughness of the report submitted by the head of the executive agency with respect to the matters required to be included in the report of the executive agency under that paragraph.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2112. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—EXPORT ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Export Controls Enforcement Improvement Act of 2024''.

SEC. 1702. ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPORT ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish, within the Department of Homeland Security for administrative purposes, an interagency Federal Export Enforcement Coordination Center (in this title referred to as the ''Center'').

(b) PURPOSES.—The Center shall coordinate on matters relating to export enforcement among the following:

(1) The Department of State.

(2) The Department of the Treasury.

(3) The Department of Defense.

(4) The Department of Justice.

(5) The Department of Commerce.

(6) The Department of Energy.

(7) The Department of Homeland Security.

(8) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(9) Such other executive branch departments, agencies, or offices as the President, from time to time, may designate.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall—

(1) serve as the primary forum within the Federal Government for executive departments and agencies—

(A) to coordinate and enhance the export control enforcement efforts of those departments and agencies; and

(B) to identify and resolve conflicts that have not been otherwise resolved in criminal and administrative investigations and actions involving violations of the export control laws of the United States;

(2) serve as a conduit between Federal law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) for the exchange of information related to potential violations of United States export controls;

(3) serve as a primary point of contact between enforcement authorities and agencies engaged in export licensing;

(4) coordinate law enforcement public outreach activities related to United States export controls; and

(5) establish governmentwide statistical tracking capabilities for United States criminal and administrative export control enforcement activities, to be conducted by the Department of Homeland Security with information provided by and shared with all relevant departments and agencies participating in the Center.

(d) DIRECTOR; OTHER PERSONNEL.—

(1) DIRECTOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall have a Director, who shall be a full-time senior officer or employee of the Department of Homeland Security, designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(B) FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR.—The Director shall—

(i) convene and preside at meetings of the Center;

(ii) determine the agenda for those meetings;

(iii) direct the work of the Center; and

(iv) as appropriate to particular subject matters, organize and coordinate subgroups of the members of the Center.

(2) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—The Center shall have 2 Deputy Directors, who shall be full-time senior officers or employees of the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice, designated by the Secretary of Commerce and the Attorney General, respectively, detailed to the Center and reporting to the Director.

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LIAISON.—The Center shall have an Intelligence Community Liaison, who shall be a full-time senior officer or employee of the Federal Government, designated by the Director of National Intelligence, and detailed or assigned to the Center.

(4) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall have a full-time staff reporting to the Director.

(B) DETAILEES.—Executive departments and agencies specified in subsection (b) shall detail or assign their employees to the Center.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Department of Homeland Security shall operate and provide funding and administrative support for the Center to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(f) WEBSITE.—The Director of the Center may establish a publicly accessible website for the Center with a domain name that is independent of websites of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 1703. UNLAWFUL TRANSSHIPMENT AND DIVERSION OF EXPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall—

(1) serve as a primary forum for the coordination of export control enforcement efforts focused on unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports; and

(2) develop best practices for executive departments and agencies to improve efforts to combat the unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports.

(b) AREAS OF FOCUS.—In carrying out the duties described in subsection (a), the Center shall focus its efforts on, among other matters—

(1) sensitive technologies, including technologies relating to—

(A) semiconductors;

(B) the development of advanced artificial intelligence capabilities; and

(C) the development of quantum technology components and capabilities; and

(2) the unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports to—

(A) the People's Republic of China;

(B) the Russian Federation;

(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

(D) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(c) NOTICE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties described in subsection (a), the Center shall develop best practices for and support the dissemination of specific and actionable information about transshipment and diversion risks to relevant private sector entities on a timely basis, as appropriate.

SEC. 1704. REPORTS ON POSTINGS OF UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

(a) REPORT ON FOREIGN POSTINGS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Center shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the value of increasing the number of law enforcement officials posted in foreign countries to enhance export control enforcement efforts focused on the unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports;

(2) an analysis of specific countries, regions, and shipping routes that pose a heightened risk with respect to such transshipment and diversion; and

(3) an assessment of resources required to increase the number of law enforcement officials posted in foreign countries pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) REPORT ON POSTINGS OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS AT THE CENTER.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Center shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the value of hosting foreign law enforcement or other officials at the Center;

(2) an assessment of which countries would provide the most value for the United States Government in posting officials at the Center; and

(3) an assessment of what, if any, changes to statute, regulation, or policy would be required to host foreign officials at the Center.

SEC. 1705. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2025 $25,000,000 for the costs of establishing the Center.

SA 2113. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. ESTABLISHMENT OF AVIATION SECURITY CHECKPOINT TECHNOLOGY FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44923 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

''(i) AVIATION SECURITY CHECKPOINT TECHNOLOGY FUND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of Homeland Security a fund to be known as the Aviation Security Checkpoint Technology Fund (in this subsection referred to as the 'ASCT Fund'). The second $250,000,000 from fees received under section 44940(a)(1) in each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 shall be available to be deposited in the ASCT Fund. The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall impose the fee authorized by section 44940(a)(1) so as to collect not less than $250,000,000 in each of such fiscal years for deposit into the ASCT Fund. Amounts in the ASCT Fund shall be available until expended to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to fund the procurement, test, deployment, and post-deployment enhancements of aviation security checkpoint technology.

''(2) TSA BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and quarterly thereafter for 5 years, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate regarding planned procurement, test, deployment, and post-deployment enhancement efforts of aviation security checkpoint technology at airport checkpoints through amounts made available from the ASCT Fund.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 44940(i)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 44923(h)'' and inserting ''subsections (h) and (i) of section 44923''.

SA 2114. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. NBACC AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center Authorization Act of 2024'' or the ''NBACC Authorization Act of 2024''.

(b) NATIONAL BIODEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUNTERMEASURES CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 324. NATIONAL BIODEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUNTERMEASURES CENTER.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and

Technology, shall designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under section 308(c)(2), which shall be the lead Federal facility dedicated to defending the United States against biological threats by—

''(1) understanding the risks posed by intentional, accidental, and natural biological events; and

''(2) providing the operational capabilities to support the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of biocrimes and bioterrorism.

''(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory described in this subsection may be a federally funded research and development center—

''(1) known, as of the date of enactment of this section, as the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center;

''(2) that may include—

''(A) the National Bioforensic Analysis Center, which conducts technical analyses in support of Federal law enforcement investigations; and

''(B) the National Biological Threat Characterization Center, which conducts experiments and studies to better understand biological vulnerabilities and hazards; and

''(3) transferred to the Department pursuant to subparagraphs (A), (D), and (F) of section 303(1) and section 303(2).

''(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall—

''(1) conduct studies and experiments to better understand current and future biological threats and hazards and pandemics;

''(2) provide the scientific data required to assess vulnerabilities, conduct risk assessments, and determine potential impacts to guide the development of countermeasures;

''(3) conduct and facilitate the technical forensic analysis and interpretation of materials recovered following a biological attack, or in other law enforcement investigations requiring evaluation of biological materials, in support of the appropriate lead Federal agency;

''(4) coordinate with other national laboratories to enhance research capabilities, share lessons learned, and provide training more efficiently;

''(5) collaborate with the Homeland Security Enterprise, as defined in section 2200, to plan and conduct research to address gaps and needs in biodefense; and

''(6) carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(d) WORK FOR OTHERS.—The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall engage in a continuously operating Work for Others program to make the unique biocontainment and bioforensic capabilities of the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center available to other Federal agencies.

''(e) FACILITY REPAIR AND ROUTINE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT.—The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall—

''(1) perform regularly scheduled and required maintenance of laboratory infrastructure; and

''(2) procure mission-critical equipment and capability upgrades.

''(f) FACILITY MISSION NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To address capacity concerns and accommodate future mission needs and advanced capabilities, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall conduct a mission needs assessment, to include scoping for potential future needs or expansion, of the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center.

''(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall provide the assessment conducted under paragraph (1) to—

''(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to support the activities of the laboratory designated under this section.

''(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting in any manner the authorities or responsibilities of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 323 the following:

''Sec. 324. National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center.''.

SA 2115. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. REPORTS ON CRITICAL MINERAL AND RARE EARTH ELEMENT RESOURCES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Critical Minerals Security Act of 2024''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED NATION.—The term ''covered nation'' has the meaning given that term in section 4872 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term ''critical mineral'' has the meaning given that term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

(3) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term ''foreign entity of concern'' has the meaning given that term in section 40207 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741)

(4) RARE EARTH ELEMENTS.—The term ''rare earth elements'' means cerium, dysprosium, erbium, europium, gadolinium, holmium, lanthanum, lutetium, neodymium, praseodymium, promethium, samarium, scandium, terbium, thulium, ytterbium, and yttrium.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

(c) REPORTS ON CRITICAL MINERAL AND RARE EARTH ELEMENT RESOURCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to Congress a report on all critical mineral and rare earth element resources (including recyclable or recycled materials containing such resources) around the world that includes—

(A) an assessment of—

(i) which of such resources are under the control of a foreign entity of concern, including through ownership, contract, or economic or political influence;

(ii) which of such resources are owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of the United States or a country that is an ally or partner of the United States;

(iii) which of such resources are not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign entity of concern or a country described in clause (ii); and

(iv) in the case of such resources not undergoing commercial mining, the reasons for the lack of commercial mining;

(B) for each mine from which significant quantities of critical minerals or rare earth elements are being extracted, as of the date that is one year before the date of the report—

(i) an estimate of the annual volume of output of the mine as of that date;

(ii) an estimate of the total volume of mineral or elements that remain in the mine as of that date;

(iii)(I) an identification of the country and entity operating the mine; or

(II) if the mine is operated by more than one country or entity, an estimate of the output of each mineral or element from the mine to which each such country or entity has access; and

(iv) an identification of the ultimate beneficial owners of the mine and the percentage of ownership held by each such owner;

(C) for each mine not described in subparagraph (B), to the extent practicable—

(i) an estimate of the aggregate annual volume of output of the mines as of the date that is one year before the date of the report;

(ii) an estimate of the aggregate total volume of mineral or elements that remain in the mines as of that date;

(iii) an estimate of the aggregate total output of each mineral or element from the mine to which a foreign entity of concern has access;

(D)(i) a list of key foreign entities of concern involved in mining critical minerals and rare earth elements;

(ii) a list of key entities in the United States and countries that are allies or partners of the United States involved in mining critical minerals and rare earth elements; and

(iii) an assessment of the technical feasibility of entities listed under clauses (i) and (ii) mining and processing resources identified under subparagraph (A)(iii) using existing advanced technology;

(E) an assessment, prepared in consultation with the Secretary of State, of ways to collaborate with countries in which mines, mineral processing operations, or recycling operations (or any combination thereof) are located that are operated by other countries, or are operated by entities from other countries, to ensure ongoing access by the United States and countries that are allies and partners of the United States to those mines and processing or recycling operations;

(F) a list, prepared in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, identifying, to the maximum extent practicable, all cases in which entities were forced to divest stock in mining, processing, or recycling operations (or any combination thereof) for critical minerals and rare earth elements based on—

(i) regulatory rulings of the government of a covered nation;

(ii) joint regulatory rulings of such a government and the government of another country; or

(iii) rulings of a relevant tribunal or other entity authorized to render binding decisions on divestiture;

(G) a list of all cases in which the government of a covered nation purchased an entity that was forced to divest stock as described in subparagraph (F); and

(H) a list of all cases in which mining, processing, or recycling operations (or any combination thereof) for critical minerals and rare earth elements that were not subject to a ruling described in subparagraph (F) were taken over by—

(i) the government of a covered nation; or

(ii) an entity located in, or influenced or controlled by, such a government.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, if necessary.

(d) PROCESS FOR NOTIFYING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF DIVESTMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a process under which—

(1) a United States person seeking to divest stock in mining, processing, or recycling operations for critical minerals and rare earth elements in a foreign country may notify the Secretary of the intention of the person to divest such stock; and

(2) the Secretary may provide assistance to the person to find a purchaser that is not under the control of the government of a covered nation.

(e) STRATEGY ON DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED MINING, REFINING, SEPARATION, PROCESSING, AND RECYCLING TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall develop—

(A) a strategy to collaborate with the governments of countries that are allies and partners of the United States to develop advanced mining, refining, separation, processing, and recycling technologies; and

(B) a method for sharing the intellectual property resulting from the development of such technologies with those countries to enable those countries to license such technologies and mine, refine, separate, process, and recycle the resources of such countries.

(2) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress made in developing the strategy and method described in paragraph (1).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., to hold a working coffee with His Excellency Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

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, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3448.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3448) to reauthorize the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support Holocaust education programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I further ask 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 3448) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3448

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Never Again Education Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 4(a) of the Never Again Education Act (Public Law 116–141; 134 Stat. 638) is amended by striking ''each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years'' and inserting ''each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2030''.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 755, S. Res. 756, and S. Res. 757.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10; 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 Willoughby nomination, postcloture; that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that if cloture is invoked on the Wagner nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; that upon disposition of the Wagner nomination, notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 420, S. 4554; further, that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed occur at 4:15 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:44 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

TRAVIS P. ABEITA
JORDAN L. ANDERSON
ALEXANDER T. ANNEN
IVANDO ARROYO
JOSEPH K. AUSSERER
ERIC L. BAKER
MARGARET PEARL L. BALLARD
PARKER L. BAUM
ANDREW M. BEAUCHAMP
NICHOLAS P. BECK
MICHAEL L. BENNETT
ANDREW J. BETTING
JARED CHRISTOPHE BINDL
KEVIN W. BISHOP
RAYMOND CRAWFORD BLOUNT
OLIVIA M. BORMAN
THOMAS A. BOWEN
ALAN S. BOYLES
JACOB D. BRADOSKY
DARIUS V. BROWN
LEO J. BURKARDT
VITO A. BUSSMANN
BRENTON M. BYRDFULBRIGHT
TAMAR A. CAIN
JASON ANTHONY CAMMARATA
KASIDIT V. CHALAOPAK
JAMEL D. CHANEY
KYLE WHITNEY CHAPMAN
RYAN K. CHAPMAN
SENOBIO VLADIMIR CHAVEZ
SAVETH CHHY
DEAN A. CHUVA
MARK N. CIZEWSKI
KEVIN W. COLSON, JR.
MATTHEW B. COOK
JOSEPH A. CURRO
EROL N. DIZON
MICHAEL W. DOROSKI
PHILIP R. DUDDLES
LARRY M. FAIRCHILD
SHARON KING FARINASH
SIMON S. FERREL
BRANDON S. FISKE
ALAN B. FRAZIER
BRANDON P. FROBERG
ERIC T. GAZELL
CHRISTOPHER GIACOMO
SARINA S. GOINGS
STEVEN J. GORSS
KEVIN R. GRIFFIS
DANIEL S. HAIGLER
NATHAN D. HALUSKA
JOHN H. HANSEN
TYLER K. HARDIN
CHRISTOPHER D. HARE
MICHELLE A. HARRINGTON
ROBERT J. HAUKE
MITCHELL G. HAVERKAMP
JACOB G. HEITZMAN
FRED D. HERTWIG
ALEX C. HOLLENBECK
ALEXANDER C. HORRELL
CHRISTOPHER J. HULL
MARK DAVID HUMBARGER II
JAZMYN L. HYMAN
MADELEINE J. JENSEN
ADAM SKYLER JOHNSON
MICHAEL DAVID JONES
SAMUEL HARPER JONES
ALEXANDER J. KAMRUD
DUSTIN W. KELLER
YONGMIN KIM
RANDALL J. KINDLE
AARON MICHAEL KIRCHNER
MICHELLE D. KNIGHT
RACHEL KOLESNIKOVLINDSEY
BRIAN W. KUHN
JAMES C. LANCASTER
CADMAN LAU
CODY THOMAS LEWIS
JAMES O. LEWIS
GORDON E. LOTT
MICHELLE L. MANNING
ANTHONY D. MAXIE, JR.
RAYGAN ROSS MCCREARY
CLARK C. MCGEHEE
BRETT W. MCNICHOLS
ERIC D. MEYER
RYAN E. MIKUS
ASHLEY MONIQUE MYERS
JUAN A. NOLASCO
DANIEL OKEEFE
KRUZ B. OLIVER
ERIC S. OLSEN
MICAH C. ORR
JOSE RICARDO PAZ
TYLER R. PEERY
ISAAC B. PELAGIO
MATTHEW W. PIPER
KYLIE MARIE PRACHAR
AARON MICHAEL PRICE
MORGAN T. RAYMOND
JUSTIN T. RAYNOR
PHILIP K. REINERT
BRIAN P. RILEY
NINA C. ROURKE
AMANDA A. ROWTON
NICHOLAS ANTHONY SAHAGUN
WILLIAM C. SHACKELFORD
RUSSELL GRANT SHIREY
DANIEL R. SMITH
SHAWN S. STEPHENS
WILLIAM J. SWINTON
JONATHAN R. TELLEFSEN
AUGUSTINE D. TRAN
MATTHEW L. TRAVIS
JESSICA M. ULLOM
ANTHONY S. VAN VALKENBURG
JONATHAN DAYTON WHITE
MICHELLE A. WILLETT
NATHAN WILLIAMS
ERIN B. WILSON
ERIC T. YERLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ANDREW KYLE BALDWIN
SHAWN RYAN BANION
BRITTANY R. BONDS
JOSEPH O. BOTHWELL
HAROLD E. BROWN IV
JUSTIN T. BUCY
RICHARD L. CHAPMAN
CHRISTIAN B. COLEMAN
RYAN S. COMBEST
JACK P. CRAVEN
DONALD BRADLEY DAVISON
NATASHA A. DRESHER
JOSEPH W. ESTEP
MATTHEW STEVEN EVERETTE
STEPHAN E. GRAFF
NICOLE M. GRAVES
NICHOLAS W. GUMLEY
BRANDT WISE HIGLEY
ILDAR RAMILEVICH IBRAGIMOV
PAMELA R. LAMPERT
LESLIE A. MARTELL
SCOTT R. MCKEITHEN
JOSHUA P. MONROE
KRISTINE M. MORRIS
MATTHEW RYAN ODONNELL
PATRICIA M. PENTEL
TRAVIS ALLAN PETERSEN
CHARLENE JOAN RUEBEN
CHAD D. SCARBRO
STEVEN LEE SCHWERDTFEGER
JOSHUA A. SMART
JENNIFER M. STARK
CHARLIE D. STEVENS
ELIZABETH R. TILLMANN
KEVIN D. UNDERWOOD
RACHEL S. VAN SCIVER
JACOB WAYNE WILLIAMS
DESBAH ROSE YAZZIE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ELENA A. AMSPACHER
AMANDA J. ANDERSON
MARY A. BARNARD
MATHEW E. BEEMAN
SHEILA A. BROWN
TAMMIE A. CANADA
OMAR CARRASCO
BETHANY A. CASPER
ERMITA N. CHARLESBERRETTE
ADRIANNA L. CLARK
KRISTINA M. COUGHLIN
FELECIA G. CRADDIETH
KYLE W. CRISSMAN
KATRINA S. CROWELL
NOELLE P. DERUYTER
TANYA L. DESTIN
DONNA L. DOUGLAS
CHRISTOPHER SEAN DUNCAN
EDITA U. DUNGCA
KATRINA M. DYKE
SHANNON L. EARLYRICE
SUSAN A. FON
JORDAN J. FRIED
BERNADETTE M. GABUCAN
MAVIS J. GEE
LISA E. GONZALES
KARA N. GRANROTH
KOLT T. HARRIS
HAI PHUONG T. HUYNH
STEFANIE J. KNOX
NATALIE A. KORONA
SHAWN C. LAWSON
SARA J. LLOYD
ANDREW C. MEIDLINGER
PAUL J. MERRILL
MARK S. METZLER
MICHAEL J. MILLAR
KELLY E. MILLER
HEATHER S. MULLIN
SAMANTHA J. NELSON
LYNN T. NGUYEN
KAREN S. NORTHEY WARREN
WAYNE A. PERNELL
ANGELA K. PHILLIPS
ELIZABETH R. PHILLIPS
MARK J. POMERLEAU
KIMBERLY ANN POOLE
KRISHA A. PRENTICE
KATHRYN A. RANDALL
MICHELLE M. RENEAU
JENNIFER B. ROCK
KERRIE A. SANDERS
JESSICA M. SCIRICA
TANYA PESHLAKAI SHAW
YESSENIA N. SINCLAIR
CAMILLE N. ST JULIAN
MICHAEL S. STROUD
LORA M. STUDLEY
LEAH S. SWEENEY
DIEGO L. TORRES
MALICK B. TRAORE
CHRISTINA VALLES
JONATHAN PAUL VIRNIG
MICHAEL A. VOLKMER
TIFFANY J. WELSH
DEVON L. WENTZ
JOSHUA V. WILLIAMS
SHAMEKA L. WILLIAMS
ALEXANDER C. WILSON
BART D. WINTERS
KRISTINA M. ZUCCARELLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

EDISON I. ABEYTA
JULIO ARIZMENDI LACLAUSTRA
AMANDA R. BAKER
RYAN A. BATTERMAN
HUGO R. BUSTAMANTE
JOHN A. BUTLER
JAMES R. CARLSON
KEANE A. CARPENTER
KEVIN CHAO
BENJAMIN A. CHASE
THOMAS M. CHIASSON
LUCAS JOHN CONNOLLY
TARASITA DAVIS
BRENDAN J. DEBRUN
ASHLEY M. DEMING
NATHAN D. ELOWE
DAVID GARCIA
BENJAMIN A. GAROUTTE
ROBINA M. GIBSON
ERIC M. GORAL
ADAM K. GORZKOWSKI
EVAN S. GRINSTEAD
GAVIN SEAN HAGENS
ELIZABETH M. HERNANDEZ
RYAN CLARKE KALANI HESS
ALANNA KEITH
DERRICK E. KLINE
PAUL M. MALONE
MARY H. MARINO
ROBERT L. MASHBURN
BRANDI B. MCALISTER
ZACHARY A. MCCARTER
BRENDAN J. MCKENNEY
BRITTANY L. MORREALE
BRIAN P. OCONNOR
MIKAEL B. ORTEGA
JOSIAH P. RAWLINGS
JONATHAN MICHAEL REED
PENNIE M. REISWITZ
HADDER RENDON
OMAIR SAEED
KEVIN J. SKELTON
WILLIAM M. SMITH
TIFFANY A. SWOPE
RICHARD P. UBER
SANDY EUGEEN VAN DEN MOOTER
MIKE B. YOUN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOSEPH J. BUCKINGHAM
SHAWN C. BURNSIDE
GREGORY S. CAMPBELL
GREG EUGENE CARTER
MARK A. CARTER
ERIC T. CONNORS
PATRICK C. CRAWFORD
MELISSA A. CRENSHAW
TRACIE MARIE DAVIS
LEE R. FELDHAUSEN
JOSHUA J. GROVER
BENJAMIN J. KNITTLE
NATHAN M. LARSON
SUNNY LEE
MATTHEW A. MCPHERSON
STEVEN A. ODELL
NATHANIEL T. PLATH
JUSTIN D. RATHBUN

MARC DANIEL SAMS
BRANDON L. SEALE
ADAM N. SHEYKO
JUSTIN ASTIN SIMMONS
ROMONTE R. SULLIVAN
NICHOLAS P. TENSING
JULIE K. TURNER
RESHARD E. WAGSTAFF
ARMAND WONG
JOSEPH A. WYATT
BENJAMIN DONALD ZATORSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

SAMORY AHMIR ABDULRAHEEM
DANIELLE B. ACKERMAN
MEREDITH L. E. ADAMS
MATTHEW A. ALBERS
ANTHONY S. ANDERSON
TYNER M. APT HILL
LINDA M. ARIAS
KRISTEN L. BAKER
JOSEPH AGUSTIN BAZA
TYLER B. BEAL
BRYAN J. BEALS
NATHANIEL D. BEENE
KENDALL P. BENTON
MARIA K. BERARDO
STEPHEN R. BERNERO
ZACHARY S. BIERHAUS
DEXTER R. BINION, JR.
AARON M. BLACKBURN
NATHAN C. BLAIR
ERIK M. BLUM
EMILY C. BOLD
HASMIN M. BOLLING
DORETHAS R. BRACEY BEAN
CHRISTOPHER B. BRICKWEG
JACOB R. BRIGHT
CARTER L. BROWN
DANIEL LOUIS BROWN
ELICIA C. BROWN
JUSTIN M. BRUBAKER
DAVID W. BRUTON
MICHAEL L. BRUTON
MATTHEW J. BUSCEMI
JANETH MARCIA CALAHORRANO
JANRAY A. CALPITO
SHAWN D. CAMERON
RODOLFO N. CAMPANO, JR.
GARRETT L. CANTER
JOSHUA R. CARAGAN
TIFFANY D. CARTER
SARA L. S. CASTANO
KATHLEEN CASTILLO LIMU
JOE C. CASTILLO
JASON A. CASTLEBERRY
JASON D. CHRISTIE
JAMES PATRICK CICCONE
DANIEL ALLEN CLARK
CHRISTOPHER L. CLAWSON
KYLE J. CLEMENS
BRANDON M. CLEMENTS
JOHN EDWARD CLEMENTS III
LISA MARIE COCHRAN
CARRIE J. COMSTOCK
JEREMY D. CONSTANTINEAU
RICHARD DONALD CORDOVA
CASSANDRA L. COWHER
TERESA M. CRAMPTON
RYAN C. CREAN
JORDAN T. CRISS
QUINTON LEE CROFF
CHRISTOPHER J. CROMMIE
JOSHUA D. CROSS
RYAN MARTIN CROSSMAN
RYAN B. CUNANAN
ASHLEY M. CUNNINGHAM
RYAN L. CURRAN
MICAH B. DALCOE
ELIZABETH A. DALE
STEVEN P. DEAL
NICHOLAS ALEXANDER DEFRANCO
JOHN A. DELAURA
NATHAN L. DEMERS
BARTHOLOMEW JAMES DIETRICK
DEREK K. DILLARD
STEVEN M. DRAUGHON
CHRISTOPHER A. EDLUND
DYLAN J. EDWARDS
MATTHEW BRENT EDWARDS
HANNAH J. ENGLISH
SCOTT T. ENGMAN
JONATHAN J. ESQUIVEL
AMANDA M. ESSARY
KATIE M. EVANS
KEVIN L. EVANS
EUGENE H. FAN
RODNEY J. FANGMANN
BRIAN E. FERKALUK
AUTUMNE L. FERRELL
RACHAEL A. FERRIS
DANIEL SEAN FINNEY
TIMOTHY J. FINUCAN
BRIAN J. FITZPATRICK
JACOB S. FLATZ
JOSHUA D. FREDERICK
FENESHA L. FRIAR
KYLE J. GAGNON
TODD J. GAMILES
EDWIN GASTON
JESSICA L. GELSOMINO
ANDREW V. GILL
SARA M. GILLESBY
HARLAN W. GLINSKI
RICHARD A. GLOVER
ZACHARIAH DOUGLAS GONYEA
JARED B. GOSS
NATHAN A. GREINER
BRIAN S. GRESZLER
TATE J. GROGAN
ASHLEY L. GUNN
SETH M. GUNN
NICHOLAS B. GUSTAFSON
ASHLEYANN M. HAJOVSKY
MICHAEL BAILEY HAMPTON
SAMUEL M. HAN
JEFFREY L. HARTMAN
MATTHEW M. HARVEY
JASON L. HATCHER
JOSEPH BOYD HENN
BETHANY M. HERRING
JOSHUA L. HIGHT
NATHAN G. HOCKING
RYAN M. HOFF
TRAVIS E. HOLLIN
JENNIFER L. HOLMSTROM
CARISSA MARIE HOOSLINE
KIRK L. HULL
ZACHARY M. HUNT
BRYAN M. INGRAM
JOSHUA MICHEALS ISOM
JUSTIN D. JACOBS
ALLEN JAMES JAIME
BENJAMIN R. JOHNSON
CHRISTINE NOELLE JOHNSON
GARY LYNN JONES
IVAN JORGE
POONSAK KAJONPONG
GARRETT A. KARNOWSKI
TIFFANIE L. KATZ
DANIEL P. KENNEY
JAE H. KIM
MICHAEL A. KRAVITZ
CARTER L. KUNZ
BONNIE JO R. LANGE
BRIAN P. LARSON
PETER J. LEE
JOANNA S. LEGER
CYNTHIA L. LETE
KEVIN M. LIMANI
JASON A. LOUCKS
RACHEL E. LOVELADY
MICHAEL J. LUNDY
STEVEN L. MACKINDER
KATRINA M. MALONEY
THOMAS G. MALONEY
TIMOTHY JEFFREY MARRINER
JAY R. MARROU
THOMAS P. MATECHIK
JASON SILVA MATOS
JENNIFER M. MATTHEWS
JUSTIN L. MAY
CHAVERY S. MCCLANAHAN
JOHN R. MCCORMICK
ANDREW J. MCFEE
RUDOLPH H. MCINTYRE IV
LANCE A. MCKEEVER
JOSHUA P. MCNELLEY
RYON J. MIGACZ
ASHTON L. MILLER
JEREMY JAMES MILLER
TREVOR P. MILLER
JOHNATHAN JOSEPH MIRANDA
JOSEPH A. MITCHELL
MELINDA C. MONAHAN
BRIGHAM A. MOORE
JUSTIN R. MOORE
ALAN DANIEL WALLACE MORFORD
BRODERICK S. MORRIS
LAWRENCE L. MORRIS
CHRISTOPHER D. MOYANO
KELLY IRENE MYERS
AMANDA C. NERG
AKIRA B. NERVIK
YAIRA ENIT NEVAREZ SAMSHAIR
MATTHEW J. NICHOLS
REBECCA C. NOLASCO
PHILIP D. OLSON
TYLER S. OLSON
REISS D. OLTMAN
SALVADOR A. ORDORICA
STEVEN A. ORTNER
CAITLIN MARIE OVIATT
ALEXANDER F. PAGANO
KEVIN J. PARZUCHOWSKI
ERICA G. PEAT
SANDE C. PENULIAR
CAMILLO C. PERROTTA, JR.
ANGELA L. PETERSEN
CHRISTOPHER ROBERT PIHA
JONATHAN M. PLYLER
DENISE M. POOLE
TALON M. POPE
JOSIAH J. PRATT
SEAN P. PURIO
GORDON JAMALL RANDALL
KAMALJIT SINGH RANDHAWA
DUANE A. REID
ANDREW CLAY RIDDLE
STEVEN E. RIEDL
CATHERINE ROBERTSON
BRADLEY G. ROBINSON
JEFFREY RODRIGUEZ
MARQUS J. ROSS
MARISA ANN JAYNE ROSSI
DAVID E. ROTH
JARED M. RUTKOVITZ
BRYAN J. SAAM
LAUREN K. SAHAGUN
JESSE NATHANIEL SANDSTROM
CLAUDIA L. SANTOS
KURT J. SEIDL
DANIEL C. SHALLCROSS
MICHAEL J. SHANE
BENJAMIN D. SHEARER
SHARON J. SHERLOCK
SPENCER ANDREW SHIBLER
NIGEL J. C. SKEETE
BRIAN S. SLATER
KEVIN R. SLAUGHTER, JR.
JAYE KEITH SMITH
KELSEY N. SMITH
MARK A. SMITH
NATHAN CHARLES SMITH
ROBERT C. SMITH
SHONTA M. SMITH
KEYANNA M. SPEARS
CHRISTOPHER M. STEWART
KAYLEIGH M. STILWELL
ROY J. SURITA
DIANE L. SWEET
GREGORY S. SWENDSEN
JESSICA A. TAGATAC
JED BERNARD TAIT
NICOLE TAIT
CHRISTIE MARIE TAYLOR
MICAH F. TELMO
MICHELE K. TEMPEL
MERCY SESILIA TEO
GREGORY EUGENE THOMAS
JASON PETER THOMAS
TIMOTHY V. TRUONG
JAMES C. TYHURST
THOMAS W. UHL
RONDA E. UNDERWOOD
ANGELINA MARIE URBINA
JACQUE C. VASTA
MICHAEL J. VASTOLA
AARON VELASCO
CHRISTIAN B. VIGO
MATHEW C. WAGGONER
JENNY JENEE WALK
CHRISTOPHER A. WALKER
KELLI M. WALKER
MATTHEW P. WALLAART
EDMUND R. WARD
SAMUEL H. WATERMAN
ANDREW J. WEBB
KATIE A. WEBER
RACHEL E. WEILER
ADAM J. WENKE
NATHANIEL A. WHITE
STEPHEN L. WHITE
THOMAS W. WICKHAM
TIMOTHY G. WILHELM
MARLYSE KELLY WILLIAMS
CHRISTOPHER E. WITTMAN
ALEXANDER P. YEE
BRENT D. YOCUM
JAMES S. YOUNG
DOMINIQUE A. ZHONG
ANDREW K. ZIMMER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

NEILS J. ABDERHALDEN
SAJJAD ABDULLATEEF
BRANDON R. ABRAMES
SAMUEL KWESI AIDOO
CHRISTOPHER K. AKUI
CALEB T. ALLEN
CHRISTOPHER J. ALLEN
BRANDON CHRISTOPHE ALONZO
MARCUS A. ALVIDREZ
CHRISTOPHER L. AMES
BRANDON J. AMICO
JOHN M. ANDREA
PETER J. ARMSTRONG
MICHAEL S. ARNSBERG
RYAN DAVID ARTRIP
STEPHAN KARAM AZAB
JACE E. AZEVEDO
JASON D. BAGWELL
SEUNGMIN T. BAIK
RYAN ANDREW BAILEY
AUSTIN J. BAKER
WILLIAM R. BAKER
BAILEY A. BALL
JOSHUA BANKS
ANDREW D. BARSTOW
JOSEPH A. BARTON
JOSEPH C. BASALA
MICHAEL G. BATES
NICHOLAS R. BATEY
FRANK ANDREW BAUMANN IV
SHAUN L. BEAN
VANESSA C. BEAUDREAULT
JOLENE L. BECK
JACOB H. BELKA
CHRISTOPHER J. BENNER
JONATHAN M. BENSON
KARI A. BENSON
RAYLIND J. BERGMAN
JAMES V. BEROTTI III
BRYAN M. BESSEN
MEGAN E. BILES
STEPHEN W. BINTZ
KEVIN R. BISHOP
TIMOTHY A. BLACK
WAYNE N. BLACK
KYLE S. BLACKMAN
TYLER R. BLASDEL
NATHAN L. BLATT
LAUREN CHRISTINE BOBEE

CHRISTOPHER M. BODTKE
MICHAEL H. BOEHMER
TIMOTHY J. BOLDT
ANDREW S. BOLINT
TOBIN J. BOLTON
JONATHAN P. BONILLA
MICHAEL J. BOOTH
MEGHAN K. BOOZE
WILLIAM ROGER DANIEL BORGES
MICHAEL T. BORING
LEWIS N. BOSS
DANIEL T. BOURGEOIS
PHILLIP K. BOURQUIN
JUSTIN D. BOWER
JOHN D. BOWMAN
MATTHEW E. BRADWICK
BRADLEY J. BREEDLOVE
ALEX C. BREWSTER
RYAN J. BROOKS
CHRISTOPHER S. BROWN
LUKE J. BROWN
MICHAEL P. BROWN
SPENCER D. BROWN
CHRISTOPHER W. BRUCK
JOSEPH M. BRZOZOWSKE
JONATHAN W. BUCEY
RANDY S. BUCKLEY
CHRISTOPHER BUKOWSKI
BRANDON C. BURFEIND
MADISON L. BURGESS
JACOB B. BURNUM
ERIC D. BURTON
ADAM B. CADE
PETER J. CAHILLY
MICHAEL R. CALKINS
PETER W. CALLO II
DUSTIN E. CAREY
NICHOLAUS JOHN CARREA
CHRISTOPHER Y. CARRILLO
BRANDON C. CARTER
NICHOLAS A. CARTER
CHRISTOPHER LANCE CARVER
LEVI B. CASS
LUCAS R. CATALANO
SCOTT A. CERMENARO
MATTHEW BERNET CHAPMAN
ROSEMARIE L. CHAPMAN
KYLE A. CHILDRESS
NICHOLAS R. CHRISTI
HENRY CHI CHUNG
KEVIN A. CLARK
CHARLTON J. COATS
DANIEL R. COHOON
RYAN SHAWN COMBES
BRIAN D. COMBS
TYLER COMTE
KEITH O. CONWAY
DOMINIQUE MARIE RENEE COOPER
DANIEL COPELAND
DANE TYLER COPPINI
JONATHAN R. CORDELL
HEATHER C. CORLESS
MICHAEL R. CORSER
CHARLES E. COURTNEY
JORDAN D. CRAFT
ANDREW R. CRAWFORD
ALISON CRUISE
RICHARD D. CULVER
CATHERINE M. CUMM
JAMES T. CUSHING
ERIC J. DAHLMANN
NICHOLAS R. DANDREA
JONATHAN HOWELL DANIEL
JOSEPH M. DANIELE
KYLE T. DEGUZMAN
MACKIN L. DELGADO
CHRISTOPHER M. DELIMAN
MATTHEW M. DEMING
JARED C. DEWIRE
NATHAN E. DIAL
STEPHEN R. DIFULVIO
JERROD MICHAEL DILLON
BRANDON S. DOBBS
MICHAEL P. DOBRANSKY
STEPHEN G. DONALDSON
JONATHAN M. DORNSEIF
HERBERT W. DOSS
RYAN J. DOUGHERTY
SOLANGE MYCHAL E. DOUGLASS
DANIEL CARLON DREIER
AJAY PREM DUA
GREGORY F. DUBOSE
ALICIA L. DURNIN
ROMANIE J. DURNIN
BRADEN K. EAGAR
DANIEL RICHARD EANNIELLO
DANTE K. EARLE
JOSEPH F. EASTMAN
AUSTIN DOUGLAS EBERHART
CY W. ECKHARDT
GREGORY D. EDMONDS
JEFFREY SCOTT EDSON
KYLE S. ELLINGSEN
LAUREN C. ELLIS
THEODORE M. ELLIS
MICHAEL ANTHONY ELLSWORTH
ALEX J. EMLEY
LANDON G. ENG
MICHAEL J. ERICKSON
GABRIEL ESTRELLA
CHRISTIAN B. EVERSON
MATTHEW RYAN FAIR
MARK A. FAVINGER
JOSEPH A. FEERST
ANDREW P. FERGUSON
JACOB R. FERRIS
NOLAN R. FIELDS
KYLE R. FINNEGAN
JONATHAN M. FISHER
NOAH CASTLE FISHER
WESLEY A. FITE
TRISTAN P. FITZGERALD
WILLIAM LEE FLAVELL
RIDGE R. FLICK
KYLE J. FLUKER
JOSEPH M. FOREMAN
RYAN M. FORTNEY
RYAN M. FORYSTEK
JESSICA E. FOSTER
ALEXANDER J. FRANK
MOLLY E. FRANK
LAUREN M. FRANKS
THOMAS M. FULLER
THEODORE LEE GALBRAITH
DAVID J. GALLUZZO
AMBROSE D. GARCIA
MICHAEL G. GARGANO
MATTHEW J. GARVEY
RYAN D. GAUNTT
CHRISTOPHER L. GERHARDSTEIN
JONATHAN D. GISE
LUIS M. GODOY
COLIN MCDONNELL GOEPFERT
JUSTIN J. GOODIN
MASON R. GORDON
JASON M. GOSSETT
TIMOTHY W. GRACE
JOSEPH M. GRANATELLI
COLLEEN M. GRASKA
BRANDON ANTHONY GREEN
SARAH RACHAEL TODD GREEN
DAVID R. GREER
JEREMY W. GREER
ANDREW R. GRIFFIN
JONATHAN STUART GROEN
PETER HANSELL GROOMS
MATTHEW L. GUERTIN
JOSEPH J. GULLO
ERIK R. GUNDERSEN
MILLIE A. HALE
RALPH D. HALE
WILLIAM T. HALL
MARK A. HAMMOND
THOMAS P. HANEY
ROBERT F. HANNAH
ANDREW H. HANSEN
ROBERT ALAN HANSEN
MICHAEL G. HARENCAK
LAUREN A. HARRISON
SEAN P. HARTE
CHRISTOPHER L. HARTMAN
CHRISTOPHER S. HARTMAN
DUSTIN HAYNES
LONNIE M. HAYNES
RICHARD B. HEIDEN
JAMES M. HEYNE
JAMES C. HICKERSON
DANIEL RICHARD HILL
KAYLA L. HILL
KATHERINE B. HIRSCHLER
AARON E. HOFF
HANK G. HOHMAN
MATTHEW T. HOUGHT
JONATHAN E. HULME
PETER EDWIN HUNT
CHRISTOPHER JON HUNTER
TREVOR K. HUNTER
ZACHARY D. HUPPERT
CRAIG R. INGVALSON
ANDREW Z. JACKSON
SKYLAR J. JACKSON
ZACHARY A. JAEGER
CHRISTOPHER P. JAGLOWICZ
BRIAN K. JARRELL
WINSTON M. JEANPIERRE
JACOB D. JEFFCOAT
JED S. JENKINS
TYLER E. JENNINGS
SCOTT W. JEWELL
CHRISTOPHER B. JOHNSON
JASON T. JOHNSON
NATHAN WILLIAM JOHNSON
ZACHARY MCMILLIN JOHNSON
JOHN J. JOHNSTON
NATHAN R. JOLLS
BRENNAN D. JONES
JOSHUA C. JONES
JACOB ANDREW JORDAN
HOLDEN E. JUBB
RICHARD CHARLES KABANUCK
STEPHEN M. KAISER
CAITLIN J. KAVGAZOFF
GEORGE E. KAVULICH
TYLER L. KEENER
CRISTINA E. KELLENBENCE
IAN T. KEMP
BENJAMIN D. KEMPER
RYAN B. KENNEDY
RYAN O. KERNS
SARAH MARIE KIENHOLZ
ALEX A. KIMBER
CLANCY JOY KIMBER
DONALD R. KINNEE
ALEXANDER SEBASTIAN KIPP
WILLIAM C. KIRK
JONATHAN J. KLENK
BRADLEY M. KOEHLER
ALEK K. KRALLMAN
AUSTIN M. KROHN
BRANDON J. KRUPA
JOHN A. KUCONIS
ANDREW NATHANIEL KUYKENDALL
KILE H. KUZMA
ANDREW K. KWON
CHRISTOPHER J. LADE
CHRISTOPHER L. LADEHOFF
LUKE MORRELL LAGACE
RYAN EDWARD LANE
MICHAEL SCOTT LANGFORD
ERIC T. LAPRADE
MICHAEL J. LARGER
BENJAMIN A. LARSEN
STEPHEN M. LARSON
ANTHONY R. LAVY
JORDAN R. LAWRENCE
DAVID M. LEIBRAND
CHRISTOPHER R. LEONARD
SCOTT P. LEVIN
JONATHAN A. LEWCZYK
ERIC J. LIARD
KRISTOF E. LIEBER
KEITH C. LINDEMANN
MATTHEW R. LIPSCOMB
CHRISTIAN J. LITSCHER
DAMION N. LIU
RICHARD P. LOESCH
COREY D. LOOMIS
CRAIG E. LOWER
MAXINE ERICA TUPAS LUCAS
MATTHEW T. LUDWIG
NEAL A. LUNDBY, JR.
MATTHEW M. LUNDQUIST
DANIEL A. LUSARDI
WILLIAM EMERSON LYNN
GARY R. MACHAMER
PETER LEO MACLELLAN III
ANTHONY J. MAFNAS
ALEX R. MAGNUSON
BOBBY E. MALESRA
NICHOLAS J. MANGUS
MICHAEL T. MANN
RYAN W. MARTELLY
TREVOR I. MARTIN
WILLARD F. MARTIN III
FRANK A. MARTINEZ
ANTHONY D. MASCARO
MICHAEL JOSEPH MASIELLO
NATHAN G. MAXTON
ERIC S. MAY
JACQUES M. MAYER
DUSTIN D. MAYES
TIMOTHY C. MCCAMMON
KOURTNEY DOMINIQUE MCCARY
ZACHARY T. MCCLELLAND
STEVEN H. MCCORD
ANDREW J. MCCOY
WILLIAM E. MCCUDDY
CHASE L. MCDONALD
MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
BRYCE R. MCGARVIE
JOHN P. MCGOWAN
DANIEL J. MCKINLEY
WILLIAM PARKS MCKINNELL
RYAN D. MENDENHALL
TREVOR S. MENDENHALL
MICHAEL A. MENNA
FRANK P. MERCURIO
JENNIFER L. MESSINGER
ANDREW E. MILLER
WILLIAM C. MILLER
MITCHELL DEAN MOEN II
JEFF O. MONSALVE
DARREN R. MONTES
DANIEL M. MONTPLAISIR
MATTHEW J. MOONEY
THOMAS M. MORGAN
MICHAEL A. MOROZ
MICAH P. MORRIS
MILES J. MORSE
ANDREW C. MORTON
JEFFREY M. MOVSESIAN
JONATHAN D. MUSE
JOSEPH D. NAGENGAST
ROHAN J. NALDRETTJAYS
JAMES W. NAUGLE
BENJAMIN D. NAUMANN
RYAN S. NEELY
BRETT TAYLOR NEILSON
ERIK C. NELSON
RICHARD MICHAEL NEZAT
CECILIA T. NGUYEN
JORDAN CHASE NIXON
JENNIFER N. NOLTA
MORGAN T. NORMAN
JUSTIN Y. NORTH
ANDREW C. NOVAK
PATRICK M. OHLHAUT
SEAN M. OKEEFE
ARMAN N. OLGUN
JOHN H. OLIPHINT
KYLE S. OLIVER
EAMONN D. OSHEA
MICHAEL M. PAK
DREW L. PARKS
KELSEY N. PAYTON
ALLEN N. PEARSON
WILLIAM D. PERCOSKI
JULIO E. PEREZ III
ANDREW F. PERRONI
SEAN T. PETERS
NEIL M. PFAU
PETER G. PFAU
CHRISTOPHER T. PIASCIK
MICHAEL R. PIAZZA
WILLIAM R. PIEPENBRING
RYAN J. PINNER
ROBERT K. POE
ALLISON OHLINGER POLINS
STEVEN A. POLLOCK
DAVID M. POOL
ERIC D. POOLE

JUSTIN T. POOLE
CHRISTOPHER E. POPE
RICHARD D. POPE
MARK M. POPPLER
MATTHEW J. POSTUPACK
JOSEPH R. PROHASKA
JONATHAN D. PRYOR
STEPHEN C. QUINN
ANDREW W. RADLOFF
TIMOTHY M. RAK
JOSE RAUL S. RATUNIL II
DANIEL A. RAY
CARY W. REEVES
WILLIAM J. REGAN, JR.
DANIEL P. REINHARDT
STEPHEN W. RENNER
TIMOTHY C. RICHARD
CHRISTOPHER D. RICHARDSON
DANIEL J. RICHARDSON
JOHN WILLARD RICHMOND II
JACOB E. RIETH
CHRISTOPHER C. RIMSNIDER
NATHAN D. RINGS
JENNIFER DENISE ROBERTSON
ETHAN S. RODGERS
STEPHANIE A. ROOSE
GRAEME A. ROSS
EDWARD A. ROYBAL
JONATHAN R. RUIZ
SETH N. RUMBARGER
MATT A. SAVAGE
SPENCER W. SCHARDEIN
JOSHUA B. SCHIFFER
JOSEPH B. SCHMERBER
BENJAMIN M. SCHMIDT
JOHN S. SCHMITT
ERIC J. SCHORTMANN
CHRISTOPHER S. SCHUETTE
WESLEY MARTIN SCHULTZ
DOC R. SCHUMACHER
CARL A. SCOTT
CLINTON CHARLES SCOTT
COURTNEY L. SCOTT
LUKE A. SEAMAN
SCOTT R. SEIBERT
MARCH PHASOOK SEREGON
JOSEPH MICHAEL SEVERIN
JASON M. SEWELL
DAVID W. SHAFFER
IAN H. SHEPARD
JOSHUA L. SHORT
SIMEON KEITH SIGNOR
JOSEPH K. SIMMS
PATRICK LANCE SKAIFE
DAVID M. SKELLY
MICHAEL C. SKIDMORE
SARAH SKOGSBERG KARNOWSKI
JONATHAN R. SLATER
DANIEL S. SMITH
GARY A. SMITH
JOSHUA D. SMITH
JUSTIN J. SMITH
MARK KIRKLAND SMITH, JR.
KYLE ROY SMOLEK
CRAIG LEE SPENCER
MATTHEW J. STANK
STEPHEN R. STEEL
ROBERT A. STEIGERWALD
JUSTIN R. STEPHENSON
BRENT CHARLES STEVENS
CHRISTOPHER M. STEVENS
WARREN J. STIRGUS
DEVIN J. STONE
BRANDON K. STOUT
DANIEL R. SULLIVAN
JARED M. SULLIVAN
MATTHEW L. SUTTON
JESSE P. SWANSON
BENJAMIN L. TALIAFERRO
WILLIAM B. TALLMAN
BRIAN R. TARBOX
JONATHAN C. TAYLOR
ZANE J. TAYLOR
STEPHEN J. TELANO
BRANDON W. TEMPLE
HARALAMBOS B. THEOLOGIS
NICHOLAS L. TIDWELL
KEVAN TJON
BRYANT J. TOMLIN
DANIEL A. TORTUGA
BRETT P. TROUTMAN
LOYD A. TRUESDALE
TYLER W. TUCKER
SHAWN P. TUPTA
SKYLER JOHN TUTTLE
JEREMY A. VAN DRIESSCHE
IAN K. VANBERGEN
NICHOLAS T. VARNUM
MEGAN C. VAUGHT
REX A. VILLA
FRANK BANZET VON HEILAND
DANIEL J. WABINGA
TIMOTHY C. WALBERG
BRADFORD D. WALDIE
CHRISTOPHER D. WALSH
DARREN J. WARD
ISAIAH R. WARNKE
ANDREW W. WASHER
DREW FREDERIK WATERS
MICHAEL R. WATKINS
BRYAN J. WATSON
DANIEL L. WATSON
ANDREW F. WATTERS
CASEY G. WATTS
JOHN H. WEISS
SCOTT K. WELSHINGER
TRENTON J. WEST
LEE EDWARD WHEELER
SCOTT UDELL WHITAKER
JESSE D. WHITE
JOSHUA R. WHITEHEART
HARRISON H. WHITING
AARON R. WIDENER
KARL F. WIEGERT
BLAKE W. WIEGMANN
JACOB A. WILHELM
TRAVIS R. WILKES
ROBERT L. WILLET
BRANDON L. WILLIAMS
CODY G. WILLIAMS
JOSHUA DUANE WILLIAMS
RICHARD STUART WILLIAMS, JR.
SHARI E. WILSON
SARA A. WOFFORD
JUSTIN M. WOHLFORD
CHRISTOPHER B. WOLFORD
MITCHELL RYAN WOOD
DANIEL R. WORKMAN
NICOLAS A. WRIGHT
TERRY R. WU
JOHN J. WYLIE III
BROCK L. YELTON
CODY M. YENTER
WILLIAM THOMAS YETMAN
RYAN H. YOUNG
ZACHARY L. ZIEGLER
MATTHEW A. ZIMMER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHASTINE R. ABUEG
THOMAS W. ADAMS
WILLIAM ADORNO
ASHLEY NICOLE ALEXANDER
JUSTIN A. ALLSTON
STACEY C. ANDERSON
CHARLES DOUGLAS ARDEN
DAVID J. ARLINGTON
ERIK W. ARMBRUST
SARAH D. BABCOCK
SAMUEL P. BACKES
JUSTIN R. BALL
TAYLOR S. BARELA
ADAM JOSEPH BARTCZAK
JAMES L. BEACH, JR.
KAYLA M. BEACH
KEVIN JAMES BEATY
KENNETH W. BELL
CAITLIN S. BENNER
PAUL D. BENNETT
KIMBERLYANN PARAS BERGER
RICHARD C. BIELECKI
IAN M. BLACK
ELIZABETH A. BLAIR
KATELYNN J. BLASDEL
VICTORIA L. BOBO
CHRISTOPHER D. BOLLINGER
WILLIAM J. BOONE
MORGAN LAHELA BORDERS
MATTHEW L. BOTTORFF
CARA A. BOUSIE
JAMEY L. BOYD
LANCE JOSEPH BRAMBLE
JOSHUA M. BRUDER
JOSEPH G. BRUNDIDGE
CAROLYN R. BRYNILDSEN
JUNELENE MONZON BUNGAY
ANDREW L. BURKE
ALBERT J. BURNETT
KEVIN D. BURRIS
HARRIS K. BUTLER
KIRA L. CARPENTER
JACLYN FLEMING CARTER
SARAH G. CASEY
FRANK KELLEY CASTILLO
BRIAN J. CHEEK
WHITNEY B. CLARKE
SUSAN K. COLLINS
MORGAN SAYES CONSOLO
BRETT J. COX
JOHN L. COX
MICHAEL JOSEPH S. CRUZ
BRYANT E. DAVIS
PHILLIP BRYANT DAVIS, JR.
GRETCHEN H. DE BLAEY
JOHN T. DECONINCK
ALICIA T. DELIA
SCOTT Z. DOLAR
CHRISTOPHER D. DOYLE
JOSHUA WILLIAM DRYDEN
MICHAEL H. DUNN
LAURA A. EBERHART
KRISTOFFER ELFANTE
KYLE A. ELLINGSON
LEE EVERETT ELSENHEIMER
SHERA A. ENGSTROM
DARIUS P. ESTAVILLO
CHAD J. EVERETT
ALEXANDRA J. FABROS DAVIS
BRYAN FAGAN
SEAN M. FARRELL
RICHARD FIGUEIREDO
BRANDON D. FOLKS
COURTNEY NICOLE FRANZEN
RONALD FURNIEL
TERESA M. GARCIA
MICHAEL JOSEPH GAREE
HEATHER L. GARVER
JONATHAN C. GARVER
LAURA A. GODOY
STEVEN S. GRAVES
SCOTT G. GRIFFITH
SEAN A. GUERRERO
CHRISTOPHER G. HALVORSON
CHANDLER WILLIAM HARMS
SARA J. HARPER
JESSICA KATHLEEN HARRIS
RYAN D. HASKINS, SR.
MICHAEL DEWAYNE HAWKINS
RYAN A. HEADRICK
KOHL V. HENSLER
VICTORIA L. HIGHT
KAITLYN M. HINES
EMMA M. HOLLOWAY
CASEY S. HONG
DANE T. JANSSON
OLUSEGUN OLAWUMI JEGEDE
GREGG M. JOHNSON
SARA STEVENS JOHNSON
DANIEL DEAN JOHNSTON
BRENTON G. JONES
CLIFFORD D. JONES
RANDY W. JONES
MICHAEL G. JOSEPHSON
WILLIAM PATRICK KATZ
KATHRYN L. KENAN
NATHANIEL DOUGLAS KENDALL
DEUL D. KIM
JOHN M. KINGERY
ADAM M. KLING
TANYA M. KOCH
CHRISTOPHER A. KOPP
PETER R. LACLEDE
CHRISTINE KISTLER LACOSTE
JOSHUA ANTHONY LAPSO
REBECCA M. LARSON
MICHAEL ANTHONY LEGER
DAVID ALAN LIAPIS
JASEN M. LITTLE
JAMES ROBERT LIVSEY
ASHLEY S. LOPEZ CLARK
CHRISTOPHER M. LOVAS
ADAM B. LOVE
CHRISTOPHER W. LOVE
CRYSTAL LUSARDI
ELMER J. LUSTINA
SIMON KENNETH MACE
JAMES P. MANNIX, JR.
ANDREW J. MARSHALLSAY
ANDREW C. MARTEL
CODY TRAVERS MASS
GREGORY P. MASTERS
JENNIFER D. MATA
MICHELLE H. MATERN
BENJAMIN R. MAYO
ROBERT LEE MAYO
KEENAN C. MCCALL
NICOLE MARIE MCCAMMON
BRANDON T. MCCLUNG
WALTER E. MCDANIELBROOKS
MARCELLUS P. MCKINLEY
ETIENNE MENARD, JR.
ROLLIN PAUL MENZ
JON C. MESSER
LAURA COLLEEN MIGLIACCIO
BRITANY A. MILLER
MYLES W. MORALES
DAVID CHRISTOPHE MORENO
ANGELA MORNESE
CARLOS A. MOSCOSO
STEVEN M. MUDRINICH
FRANKLIN J. NESSELHUF
ALEXANDRA A. NICHOLS
WHITNEY E. OCONNELL
CHRISTOPHER W. OFFUTT
CAROLINE M. OJERIO LANNIGAN
ELVIS G. OYOLA, JR.
BRANDON P. PALMER
SARAJO PALUCH
NATHAN R. PARKER
EVGENIA J. PEDUZZI
JEFFREY P. PELKEY
JOHN R. PENDERGRASS
JORGE R. PEREZ
JASON SEOK HYUN PERRY
SARAH C. PETERSON
JONATHAN D. PICARD
COLLIN H. PITTS
CHRISTOPHER A. PRICE
TERRENCE N. RABY
ELIZABETH A. RAINWATER
EDUARDO RAMIREZ, JR.
MATTHEW L. RASK
DEREK S. RAY
RIC Y. REBULANAN
SHON A. RECKARD
WILLIAM F. REED
MELANIE M. REEVES
MARISA A. REGAN
IAN D. RICHARDSON
JASON PAUL RIMMELIN
SELENA S. RODTS
ZECHARIAH L. ROLOFF
ALEXANDER C. ROOSMA
CHARLOTTE R. RUSSELL
JEREMY C. SANTIANO
FRANK WILFORD SANTORO
ANDREA J. SCHAAF
MASHA SCHEGLOV TWIN
LEISHA M. SCHIESS
JENNIFER L. SCHROEDER
LORI M. SEAMAN
DAVID S. SEOK
JACLYN A. SHAIYAH
ALEXANDER J. SHIN
DANIELLE M. SHIPMAN
DANIEL E. SHOCKLEY
BENJAMIN ROBERT SHOPTAUGH

LIZA M. SHORT
MELISSA L. SIDWELL BOWRON
RAYMOND M. SIENKIEWICZ
DONALD ANTHONY SIMS
ERIK D. SINGLETON
BRIAN S. SMITH
TODD A. SMITH
EBONY CUNNINGHAM SNOWDEN
TYRONZA M. SNOWDEN II
KENNETH V. SPIRO III
JAMES WILLIAM STERLING
COLLIN T. STEVENSON
COURTNEY A. SWANEY
TYLER L. SWANSON
BRITTANY M. SWIFT
JESSICA L. TAIT
IAN J. TALBOT
RUBY A. TAMARIZ
JAMES G. THOMAS
DEVAN M. THOMPSON
PHILIP THOMAS TICE
MICHAEL CURTIS TODD
LAURA E. TRAILLE
CARA V. TREADWELL
FRANK Z. TUREK
JUSTIN JAMES VALENTINE
JENNA N. WAITES
DANIEL N. WALKER
DENNIS WADE WALLACE
RYAN B. WALTON
NICOLE R. WHITE
BENJAMIN M. WOOD
MASON T. WORKMAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

THOMAS S. RANDALL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

EDWIN RODRIGUEZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT L. WOOTEN III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JASON P. HAGGARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MARK T. MOORE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOHN A. TEMME

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be colonel

JOHN M. AGUILAR, JR.
WILLIAM C. BAKER
JAMES D. BEALL
ANDY BUISSERETH
RYAN M. CASE
DANIEL W. CLARK
SCOTT J. DOLNY
MOLLIE G. KEDNEY
SAMUEL KIM
THOMAS P. MALEJKO
CALEB G. PHILLIPS
MICHAEL J. PREDNY
STEVEN M. RACHAMIM
TIMOTHY J. SIKORA
ERIC S. SLATER
KYLE M. SPADE
PETER B. WALTHER

To be lieutenant colonel

AARON F. ANDERSON
PAUL D. BROWNHILL
JESSE T. CARTER
HUGO E. FLORES–DIAZ
ROBERT I. FROST
ANTHONY C. FUNKHOUSER
MATTHEW E. HAUCK
ROBERT B. HOWELL
ANDREW H. JAMES
EVERETT A. JOYNER II
DARRYL W. KOTHMANN
MICHAEL B. KROGH
ANDREW LEEMAN
DONALD K. LEW
WILLIAM B. LILES
CURTIS J. LOFTIN
JACK C. MYERS
ANTHONEY D. PAXTON
MARK W. POLLAK
KENNETH M. PORTER
JOSHUA D. RUD
THOMAS M. SCHINDLER
VICTOR SHEN
DEREK E. TAYLOR
IKE M. UKACHI
DAVID G. WEART

To be major

AARON M. HUSTON
JOSHUA T. JOHNSON
KRISTOFER A. KALBFLEISCH
KYLE M. KENNEDY
KYTURAH L. LAURENT
ERIC T. PELOSI

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

RAMON L. DEJESUSMUNOZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

BLAINE C. PITKIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

KALISTA M. MING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

KEVIN S. MCCORMICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JAMES J. CULLEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

STEVEN C. MCGHAN

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be major

BRENDA L. BEEGLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be colonel

CLIFFORD V. SULHAM
ERIC J. ZARYBNISKY

To be major

FIDEL A. AVILES MINYETY
NATHAN D. BECKLER
ROBERT L. BOND, JR.
THOMAS W. DICKINSON
ELI A. GARDUNO
KATHLEEN J. MERRIEX
BENJAMIN J. PEARCE
KYLE T. RYAN
REITH D. WALLS III
IAN M. WELLER
STEPHANIE L. WEXLER

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 9, 2024:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

PATRICIA L. LEE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2027.