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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 2, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

The Senate met at 11:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, holy, powerful, loving, and good, thank You for expressing Your love to us with generous gifts. You have sustained our families and loved ones and nourished us with the blessings of faithful friends. You also have honored us with the privilege of being called Your children. You have showered our land from Your bounty with freedom, justice, and strength. You have delivered those bruised and battered by life.

Thank You for our lawmakers who work to keep America strong. Lord, use them this day for Your glory.

Lord of hosts, we lift to You this day our gratitude and praise.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 31, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4853

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will now read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4853) to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from promulgating or enforcing rules regarding disclosure of artificial intelligence-generated content in political advertisements.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

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

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, 245 days ago, I stood right here on the Senate floor to raise the alarm of rising anti-Semitism in America and the need to condemn anti-Semitism whenever we see it.

This week, Squirrel Hill, the site of the Tree of Life synagogue massacre of 2018, was targeted once again with anti-Semitic vandalism and attacks. These attacks are vile. They are hurtful. They poison our society with division, fear, grief. And for the Squirrel Hill community, which has already suffered unimaginable tragedy, this is particularly horrific.

It pains me to say that anti-Semitism like this is unfortunately not unusual today. In our community and in our politics, anti-Semitism is ascending. This week, none other than Donald Trump, once again, added to the division.

Yesterday, during a radio interview with WABC in New York City, Donald Trump agreed with his interviewer that the Nation's Second Gentleman, a Jewish American, is ''a crappy Jew.''

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

Why? Presumably because he is a Democrat. On air, Donald Trump then repeated the sick idea that if you are a Jew and you happen to support Democrats, you should ''have your head examined'' and that you are a bunch of ''fools.''

Sadly, we have been here before. But it must be said again: Donald Trump's comments were reprehensible, dangerous, and proof that he is disturbingly at ease with anti-Semitic rhetoric.

It might be tempting to listen to what Donald Trump said on the radio and tune it out just as another Trump insult. But that would be a mistake. Calling Jews ''fools'' and suggesting they are bad or disloyal because of their political beliefs is not just some juvenile insult. It is an old anti-Semitic trope that goes back centuries, one of dual loyalty. It has been used for a very long time to drive Jews out of their homes, to paint them as untrustworthy, to deny their basic dignity.

So when Donald Trump goes on air and attacks Jews for the way they vote, he knows precisely what he is doing. He is sowing the seeds of division. He is propagating naked anti-Semitism.

Donald Trump will always try to drag this Nation down with insults, intolerance, fear, and smear. But we are better than that, as the American people will make very clear in the months to come.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Tomorrow, Senators will have a chance to take up a bill that in one fell swoop will deliver significant tax relief for America's families, for America's businesses, and for Americans suffering from natural disasters. All we have to do is come together—both parties, bipartisan—and vote yes to advance the bipartisan tax package.

Democrats are ready to get this package done. It already passed the House under the leadership of a Republican chair of Ways and Means, Congressman SMITH of Missouri, with an incredible margin of 357 to 70. A majority of both parties voted strongly for this bill. Frankly, it is hard to imagine a vote more lopsided than that in this Congress.

If we get this bill done, it will go right to the President's desk. It will become law. That means families and businesses and parents will see more money coming back to them during this tax season. More Americans will have a little more money in their pocket. Half a million kids will be lifted out of poverty by expanding the child tax credit. Sixteen million kids will also see these benefits, and most of those kids are working class, poorer kids. And now that the Senate Democrats and House Democrats and House Republicans are all onboard—Senate Democrats, House Democrats, House Republicans all onboard—we are very close to getting this bill done.

The only ones standing in the way of enacting tax relief right now are Senate Republicans. Everyone else—even House Republicans, hardly known for their moderation—support this tax bill. Respectfully, to my Republican colleagues here in the Senate, it is never a good sign to be more obstructionist than House Republicans on any issue. But that is precisely where our Senate Republican colleagues find themselves in right now. That is where they are.

At yesterday's Republican weekly lunch, one Senator was passing around pamphlets telling his colleagues to oppose this bill, to oppose even having a debate. They are repeating a whole bunch of false talking points about undocumented immigrants and about discouraging work. They are trying very hard to justify voting no.

But let's be honest. There is no great mystery behind Senate Republicans opposing a tax bill many of them helped write. Senate Republicans are looking at the calendar, and they have decided they care more about the results of the election than in passing a law. They hope that, if things go their way, they can get a more conservative package sometime in the future, and they are willing to walk away from expanding programs like the child tax credit along the way.

Don't take it from me. Listen to what my colleague, the senior Senator from Missouri, said yesterday about Republican leadership:

They're not interested in passing anything, clearly.

''They're not interested in passing anything, clearly''—what a shame, what a shame.

Senate Republicans love to say they care about families. Yet it seems like most of them will block a bill that expands the child tax credit, lifts half a million kids out of poverty, expands benefits to 16 million children.

Senate Republicans also say they are champions of business. Yet it seems like most of them will block a bill that rewards businesses that invest in R&D, helps pay for new equipment which will promote new jobs, new job growth, and innovation.

I certainly hope I am wrong, Madam President. I hope Republicans seize this opportunity and send a tax bill package to the President's desk—a bipartisan tax relief bill passed by a majority of House Democrats and House Republicans.

If the American people see that the only reason this tax relief bill fails was because Senate Republicans stood in the way, they are not likely to forget it very soon.

NOMINATION OF MEREDITH A. VACCA

Mr. SCHUMER. On the Vacca nomination, today, the Senate will confirm another exceptional judicial nominee from New York whom I recommended to President Biden, Meredith Vacca, to serve as district judge for the Western District of New York, the Buffalo and Rochester areas of our State.

Judge Vacca's confirmation will be a historic moment for Western New York. A proud Korean American, Judge Vacca will be the first Asian American and first woman of color ever to serve in the Western District of New York.

I am proud to say Judge Vacca is a Western New Yorker through and through, a Buffalo Law School graduate, longtime resident of the Rochester area, raised in the suburban town of Greece.

Judge Vacca will bring great talent, experience, and respect for the law to the Western District of New York.

The Western District, as I mentioned, stretches to Buffalo and Rochester and many other counties in Western New York. These are places that have benefited immensely from New York's great Asian-American community. As the senior Senator from New York and as majority leader, I have always worked to make New York's Federal bench reflect better the communities it serves. And I know the Presiding Officer and I have worked hand in hand on that noble goal.

Judge Vacca's nomination will mark another major step toward that goal. Judge Vacca has every quality you could want in a jurist: compassionate, tough, legally astute, with a genuine love for her community. She spent over 15 years as an attorney, prosecutor, and judge fighting for vulnerable New Yorkers.

She has developed a rare institutional knowledge of our State and our country's laws and will bring tremendous legal expertise and experience to the Western District bench. And notably, once confirmed, Judge Vacca will make the all-male Western District bench 50 percent female, making it one of the few country's 50 percent female benches. One day, I hope this is the norm across the country.

So I am proud to support Judge Vacca's nomination, and I look forward to voting to confirm her later today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it has been less than 2 weeks since

President Biden's name was removed from the Democratic Party's ticket. I have already spoken about how the effort to sideline Democrats' de facto nominee robbed primary voters of their role in the electoral process.

Now, as the dust settles, more and more Americans are realizing this wasn't just a process foul, it was also a massive promotion for someone with a failing record in her current job.

Remember, just 2 months into their term, the President asked the Vice President—gave her the task of getting to the bottom of the surging illegal immigration at the United States-Mexico border. He called her ''the most qualified person'' to lead on this issue.

So why don't we take a look at how she did. In the past 3½ years, the crisis at our southern border has made history. Border Patrol agents have recorded over 9.9 million illegal encounters. We know that nearly 2 million more have literally gotten away, and the administration's catch-and-release policies have let in over 3 million without any credible means of enforcing immigration law.

What rapidly became a humanitarian crisis on Vice President HARRIS's watch is also a national security vulnerability of alarming proportions. Since October 2021, CBP have encountered 539 individuals on the Terror Watchlist along the southern border.

The failure is vast. The facts are shocking. The numbers are staggering. But for too many American families, there is only one number that matters: the one empty chair at the dinner table.

For some families, that chair is empty because an illegal immigrant killed their loved one. For many more, it is empty because Chinese manufacturers and Mexican cartels have exploited the chaos at the border and made fentanyl the leading cause of death for American adults.

And yet—yet—in the face of pain and suffering, the administration's point person on the border has approached this crisis with profound unseriousness. It took the Vice President months to get around to visiting the border. When asked why she hadn't made time to see the effects of the administration's open border policies firsthand, she quipped that she had not been to Europe either.

Sometimes, instead of deflection, she has employed outright denial. For example, she said:

We have a secure border.

Another example:

[E]verything . . . is going rather smoothly.

Of course, years earlier, under an administration that took border security seriously, then-Senator HARRIS found plenty of time to elaborate on her aversion to that commonsense policy.

In 2017, when a Federal judge blocked the previous administration's effort to deny Federal funding to sanctuary cities, she reacted as follows:

It's fantastic, I'm jumping up and down. Put five exclamation points after what I just said.

Democrats are poised to nominate someone with a long record of being dead wrong on securing American borders. So perhaps it is not surprising that their immediate allies are working overtime to absolve the Vice President of responsibility for the undeniable crisis that has unfolded on her watch.

Last week, we read headlines like: ''No, Kamala Harris Is Not The 'Border Czar.'''

And claims that ''the Vice President's role was more limited.''

After the short hiatus of asking tough questions about President Biden's fitness for office, the legacy media are back in the business of papering over Democratic vulnerabilities, even in this case if it means blatantly gaslighting the public.

But at the end of the day, the American people know what neglect looks like. Families missing loved ones know what this sort of catastrophic failure feels like, and in November, I expect they will have plenty to say about it.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now on another matter, the Senate is about to leave Washington for the August State work period.

When we come back, Senate Democrats will face a daunting list of judges that the Biden-Harris administration will want them to confirm.

There is Adeel Mangi and his record of bumping elbows with terrorist apologists and advocates for cop killers.

There is Kevin Ritz and Karla Campbell, both the nepotistic beneficiaries of corrupt bargains between the Biden-Harris administration and the judges they would replace.

There is Julia Lipez, another nepotism hire, who has distinguished herself in her leniency toward a parent who killed their baby with fentanyl.

There is Embry Kidd, who went soft on sex abusers and then misled the Judiciary Committee about it.

There is Ryan Park, the self-described ''tip of the spear'' of progressive activism, who fought hard to let colleges discriminate illegally against Asian applicants.

There is Sparkle Sooknanan, whose nomination Congressman VELÁZQUEZ called ''an insult to the people of Puerto Rico.''

And then there is Mustafa Kasubhai who has advocated incorporating—listen to this—Marxist theory into property law.

So as our Democratic colleagues head out of town, I would suggest that they consider whether the radical goals of the Biden-Harris judicial project are really worth it.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 710, Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
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	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Fetterman	Menendez	Vance
Lee	Romney	Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, the yeas are 51, nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Oregon.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President and colleagues, if I started the workday with the opportunity to help 16 million kids from low-income families, make America more competitive with China, build affordable housing for hundreds of thousands of Americans, and pay for it all by cracking down on fraud, I would call that a hell of a good day at the office.

Tomorrow, we are going to find out if Senate Republicans agree. The vote on the tax bill tomorrow has been more than 6 months in the making. In fact, I have been working on this in a completely bipartisan way for 2 full years. The only reason this didn't get done a long time ago is delay on the part of the Senate Republicans.

So no more delay. It is time to vote. Everybody is going to see where each Senator stands.

Over the next 45 minutes or so, I am going to have a number of my colleagues talk about why this bill is so important. So I am going to start with just a few key points. For starters, the bill was designed with balance in mind. For every dollar in tax cuts for business, the Joint Committee on Taxation, the official scorekeeper of these matters, has told us that an equal amount goes to children and families as goes to business.

Our focus on families is on those that are walking an economic tightrope. And 16 million kids are going to benefit from the bill, half a million lifted out of poverty—a huge accomplishment. And it is especially important for the families with modest incomes; families with two, three, or four kids.

Under the current rules, they get discriminated against because those big families get only a single child tax credit regardless of how many kids they have. Think about that. Federal law tells these struggling families that if you have got a large family, well, try to figure out how to get by splitting a single child tax credit, and figure out how three or four kids can split a pair of shoes. Three or four kids can't do that. They can't split a single meal. This economic discrimination against large families in America ought to end.

There has been a lot of talk about who is really looking out for the families. My view is, that is going to become clear when the Senate votes tomorrow. We will see who is actually on the side of the families that need a boost, families who are facing the kind of economic discrimination that I just outlined.

I know that my colleagues on this side want to make sure that families can get the assistance they need, and we want to end the discrimination against large families.

There is so much in this bill that ought to bring the two sides together. That is certainly what happened in the House, with 357 votes. For example, the bill builds 200,000 new affordable housing units. The lack of affordable housing is a nationwide crisis. It is not just blue States and cities; it is everywhere.

On housing, you can call me a supply-sider. We have to build and build and build 200,000 new units. And in a minute or two we will hear from my colleague in Washington State, who has singlehandedly led the effort to meet housing needs in America.

The bill invests in research and development so we can outcompete China. Changes Republicans made to the Tax Code back in 2017 slashed the value of the tax incentives for research and development. It is worth only 20 percent of what it used to be.

Republicans have said in 2018, in 2019, in 2020, in 2021, in 2022, in 2023, and in 2024 that they would fix the research and development tax credit mess that they singlehandedly created. Tomorrow is going to be their chance.

According to the Treasury Department, 4 million small businesses would benefit from this bill. Picture that, Mr. President: 4 million small businesses, startups, ones that depend so much on research and development to compete with China. Many of them are in fields that compete directly with China and other countries.

They want to know why in the world would Congress put this off until 2025. A lot of them say: RON, we are not going to be around in 2025 if you all don't act.

The bill also provides help to families and businesses hit by mega storms and mega wildfires. This is so important to the people in my State. I have told them at townhall meetings—I have had almost 1,100 of them, Mr. President—that we are going to get this done because, in Oregon and virtually everywhere in our country, so many of our communities have been devastated.

As I touched on, 357 votes in the House doesn't happen by osmosis. By and large, on a normal day, you can't get 357 House Members to agree to order a piece of apple pie, but that is the kind of support this tax bill had. Left-leaning groups like it; right-leaning groups like it; family organizations like it; faith-based organizations like it; pro-life groups, pro-choice groups—across the political spectrum.

And in the next day or so we are going to see if the Republicans, who talk so much about these issues—help for small business, help for families, building housing, preventing fraud—my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about it constantly. Now we are going to find out if anybody wants to actually follow through on the rhetoric. I know we do.

We believe, with the Senate voting now, we have got a chance—as I touched on at the beginning—to have a real day at the office, a day when you help the kids, when you help the families and the small businesses and the people who need housing and people who have been devastated by disasters.

Get all that done tomorrow, Mr. President, and that is one hell of a day at the office.

I yield my time now to my colleague from Washington State, our leader on housing issues and many others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleague, the chair of the Finance Committee, and thank him for his incredible leadership on the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. I can't think of a more critical effort than the leadership role he has played to negotiate legislation that passed the House 357 to 70.

Now, when in this institution do you see such a big and tremendous vote across many different aspects of financial and tax policy that affect Americans? And yet the House has passed it 357 to 70, and somehow our colleagues here don't understand there is that much support behind that legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, on behalf of 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders, their very strong support for the Tax Relief for the American Families and Workers Act.

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2024.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER SCHUMER: On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the National

Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I want to convey our strong support for the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 (H.R. 7024). Because this bill provides much-needed additional resources to increase the supply of affordable rental housing as well as provisions to encourage small businesses to invest in their future, NAHB is designating support for the Cloture Motion on H.R. 7024 as a key vote.

Tax relief and tax certainty are critical for small businesses. Often overlooked is the fact that most home builders are small businesses. The typical home builder is building a median of 6 homes per year with a median of 5 employees on payroll. Restoring and extending 100% bonus depreciation and expanding Section 179 expensing, along with returning the EBITDA standard for interest deductibility, will allow our members to invest more resources in multifamily rental construction, in land development to build more single-family homes, and in new equipment to expand their businesses.

NAHB also strongly supports the inclusion of additional resources for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). LIHTC is the most successful affordable rental housing production program in U.S. history, but the demand for affordable housing is acute and exceeds the availability of financing through the LIHTC program. Without a program like LIHTC, there's no financially feasible way to build additional affordable rental housing for lower-income households, which is why these additional resources are urgently needed.

To solve our country's housing affordability crisis, we must increase production. This bill includes numerous provisions to help us achieve that goal, and we urge the Senate to act without further delay. Again, NAHB strongly supports Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 and has designated support for the Cloture Motion on H.R. 7024 the Cloture Motion on H.R. 7024 as a key vote.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

LAKE A. COULSON.

Ms. CANTWELL. I think that is an important organization that knows and understands how much affordable housing we need in America and how this underlying bill addresses that by building over 200,000 more affordable units in the next 2 years.

It really is a shot in the arm at a time when Americans know that the cost of their housing has gone up because we haven't built enough supply. And as my colleagues know, especially since the downturn of the financial crisis in 2008, that from big cities to actually small towns, the crunch of a lack of a housing supply has meant an increase in costs. That means it hurts the economy overall. Last month, the skyrocketing costs were the largest contributor to the 3 percent rate of inflation.

So that is why we have an opportunity to do something about that tomorrow. We have the opportunity to do something about the rising costs of housing and to pass this legislation that will build more supply and bring down those costs.

Now, I know our colleagues—this is a very bipartisan aspect of the legislation. They know that expanding supply works. A 2019 study by the DC Office of Revenue Analysis found that renters basically saved $177 per month for every 2,100 units built in the city per year. So, literally, you can do the math. When you don't build supply, you are just making everybody else's expenses go up.

So why aren't we building more supply? Well, I can tell you that the low-income housing tax credits are a real achievement in bipartisan efforts to build more supply. It basically is the best tool to build affordable housing. It expands and improves, just as I mentioned from the National Association of Home Builders—''LIHTC is the most successful affordable rental housing production program in U.S. history.''

That is why it is so important that we remember this analysis.

A New York study found that for every 10 percent increase in housing supply, nearby rents decrease by 1 percent. Yet our colleagues don't want to build more supply.

And for LIHTC properties specifically, new data from Moody's Analytics found that, with these low-income housing projects, the renters in the Seattle area saved a remarkable $957 per month compared to the average rents in the region.

Now, I could go on and on with my colleagues about why we got into this position—certainly, the downturn of 2008 and when we stopped building more supply. We did have returning veterans who needed workforce housing. We had workforce housing overall in a community like Seattle, but it doesn't matter. Yakima or Spokane, it is the same dilemma. If you are not building affordable housing, people don't have places to live, and it stymies the economy moving forward. But we have had seniors living longer. We have had other issues that have made the need for housing a national priority.

So we want to hear what our colleagues say about this very important attack on inflation—most of it derived from housing—and study and analysis that says we will lower costs if we just build supply.

Tomorrow, we have a chance to build that supply. I hope my colleagues will join us in passing this legislation and driving down costs for Americans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for her good work.

Senator CASEY and Senator BROWN have been two champions of the child tax credit. Let's start with Senator CASEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I am grateful to be here on the floor today and to join with our colleague from Oregon who has led this fight as the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to bring us to this moment where we have the chance to vote on a bipartisan bill.

I will mention what happened in the House in a couple of minutes. But this bill addresses some of our long-term challenges. One of them is addressing our low-income housing shortage.

The bill also enables our businesses to continue to invest in research, development, and manufacturing. The bill eliminates fraud. The bill eliminates fraud. The bill reduces the deficit. For me, most importantly, it invests in America's children by expanding the child tax credit.

That is why groups from across the spectrum have lined up to endorse the bill. Groups like the National Association of Manufacturers, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Children's Defense Fund, and so many other groups support this bill that will grow our economy, reduce poverty, and reduce the deficit.

The House overwhelmingly passed this bill by a vote of 357 to 70. That happened back in January. So now we are hoping for a similar result in the U.S. Senate. I hope the Senate, in a similar bipartisan fashion, will pass this bill.

We know that, for example, just with regard to one provision in this bill, the child tax credit provision—in 2021, Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan, which had as one of its features an enhanced version of the child tax credit. I have often said we took the child tax credit in 2021 and we turbocharged it to help families in a much more substantial way. By passing that legislation in 2021, for 6 months—and only 6 months, unfortunately, but for 6 months—we cut child poverty in half, according to the Census Bureau.

So after all the years of work, decades of work to reduce child poverty, helping to set the stage for that reduction in child poverty, in 2021, we finally—finally—found the solution to substantially reducing childhood poverty and giving our children freedom from poverty. That solution was the child tax credit, in addition to other investments in children.

I want to thank Senator BROWN, my colleague from Ohio, who is seated next to me here today, for his years of work on this, laboring in the vineyards long before this was popular and long before it had a chance to pass. I want to thank his work and Chairman WYDEN's work to bring us to this moment.

I am one of eight children. My parents had eight children. I am right in the middle. I often think about how difficult it was for Mom and Dad to raise that many children. My mother passed away last August, August of 2023. We will be coming up on August 11, the 1-year anniversary of her passing. I was thinking today, what if my mother was not only the mother of eight children, but what if she didn't have a husband or what if we didn't have a household income that allowed us to be economically secure? We never went without food or went without a meal. We never had to worry about that in my life. But what if that wasn't the case? What would my life have been like if my mother faced the same challenges that so many families face today? We had the full measure of economic security when I was growing up.

So back in October of 2021, after we had passed the American Rescue Plan, which contained that enhanced child tax credit, I met another mother in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, in the southeastern corner of our State. This was a mom also of eight children, just like my mother, but she was a single mom. She gave us a sense of what it meant to have that child tax credit in place.

Her name was Crystal. She said that the extra child tax credit payments gave her the ability to spend more time with her children and to allow her children to do more school activities for the first time. How do you put a price on that? How do you put a price on the opportunity a child has because their mom or their dad or the person taking care of them has a little extra money in a month—first of all, to buy food, which was often the No. 1 utilization of the child tax credit, the enhanced version of it, or to pay for rent or childcare or so many expenses of raising children?

Why did it take us so long to finally say that raising children is really difficult and that we should give families a chance to do that in a more substantial way? Why is it that every time we have a tax debate in Washington, year after year—40 years now, by my recollection—every time we have a tax debate, the most powerful people in the country benefit disproportionately and the most powerful corporations on the planet Earth benefit disproportionately? Why is it that families raising children have always been left behind?

We finally broke that cycle in 2021. The big guys got nothing from that. We finally said: You have had enough. It is time to help children, time to help those families raising children.

But how do you put a price on a parent being able to pay for a school activity that child would benefit from? Maybe they have a chance to join a math club or to join a science club or to play a sport or to be in the band—whatever it is. How do you put a price on that—that lost opportunity because a mom or a dad or someone taking care of that child didn't have an extra $100 or whatever it cost to pay the fee to be in that school activity? How do you put a price on having a couple of hundred dollars more a month to pay for food? It is incalculable.

But we know that because of what we did in 2021, we began—just by way of one step, but we began to change substantially the trajectory of these children's lives, millions of them, tens and tens of millions across the country. We have a chance to do that again in a similar fashion—not exactly how we did it in 2021 but in a similar fashion. This bill doesn't fully revive the version of the child tax credit that we enacted in 2021. We should do that next year when we have a big tax debate in 2025. In my judgment, the most important tax bill of our lifetime is coming up in 2025.

This bipartisan bill we are trying to get passed will make millions of children more economically secure, more secure—closer to what my family had when we were growing up. This year, it will give benefits to 16 million American children whose families are either in poverty or near poverty—half a million just in Pennsylvania, half a million children who are in poverty or near poverty in Pennsylvania. For example, a single parent with two kids who earns $22,000 a year as a childcare worker would gain $675 this year. How do you put a price on that, the benefit to that family just in this year?

Research shows that when the child tax credit was expanded in 2021, families used that money on essentials like food and housing and clothes and so much else. In 2021, those payments lowered the distress that a lot of families felt, that parents felt, especially among single mothers. No mother should have to worry about how she will put food on the table. My mother never had that worry even though she had eight children. She never had that worry because of our circumstances. No mother should be concerned about or burdened by worrying about buying her kids new clothes for school or keeping a roof over their heads.

We have the power in one vote to move this bill forward and enact it into law to help millions of children and millions of families across the country. I encourage all of our colleagues in both parties to stand with those children, stand with those families, and vote yes on this tax bill.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Senator CASEY, one of the things that I most appreciate about the Senator's services, when we bring up a bill, you invariably say: What does it mean for the kids who are hurting? We thank you for it.

Senator BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I particularly appreciate the moral leadership of Senator CASEY. As Senator WYDEN just said, he always posts questions: How does this affect family? How does this affect children?

He knows it from his experience, and he knows it—as he travels the State of Pennsylvania, from Philadelphia to the Ohio border, he talks to a lot of families and children and sees what this means.

Senator CASEY, thank you.

It seems like, listening to my colleagues—Senator CANTWELL, Senator CASEY, and Chairman WYDEN—everybody not in DC is for this bill. It is a bunch of insiders here in this city—it is interest groups that are always looking for a handout. As Senator CASEY said, so many of these interest groups get great tax advantages for themselves and maybe a few crumbs for others.

The interest groups that are always looking for tax cuts for the rich and for their large corporate interests frankly have too much influence in this body. Fortunately, in the House of Representatives, they overcame that, and they passed this bill with 357 votes. This ought to pass close to unanimously here because it really is helpful. It helps business, and it helps families. But it is still a struggle, and it should be easy.

I remember sitting on the floor on March 6, 2021, and I remember voting on this bill. It was on a bigger bill, but it had the child tax credit that Senator WYDEN and others had helped to write. Senator BENNET played a big role and a couple of newcomers. Senator WARNOCK played a role. Senator BOOKER also played a role, but he was not a newcomer. Senator WARNOCK had been sworn in a couple of months earlier. I said to Senator CASEY, who sits next to me, as he just said—I remember saying ''This is the best day in my career'' because we were about to pass the expanded child tax credit. I knew what it meant. Most of us knew what it meant. It passed 51 to 50. Unfortunately, for reasons I still don't entirely understand, it was a partisan vote. The Vice President came in and broke the tie. It passed 51 to 50.

Immediately after this passed—the President signed it soon after—I called Secretary Yellen, the Secretary of the Treasury. I said: We have to get this up and running.

By July, checks went out to the families of 2 million children in Ohio. Checks went out to the families of 60 million children around the country. As Senator CASEY said, the child poverty rate dropped almost in half by September. Think about that. But then that tax break expired for reasons I won't go into here. But it tells you—I hear these numbers. I hear people say that the child poverty tax rate dropped by 50 percent. I hear people say, as Senator CASEY said, that it means people can afford school fees for their kids. It means daycare is more available, good quality daycare.

It is a lot of statistics, and that is really important—these 60 million children and 2 million in my State—but it is the individual stories we hear from families. After we passed this, people saw what it meant. We got letters. I got letters from Ashtabula, to Cincinnati, to Toledo, to Gallipolis, to Athens, to Lyons, OH, about what it meant for their individual families—probably more mothers than fathers but mothers and fathers—what it meant to these families, how they just had a burden lifted. It wasn't just the lowest income families. Families who are solidly middle class or even who are upper middle class could just do a few more things for their children. So the question is, How do you put a price on this, as Senator CASEY said? How do you put a price on doing this when it made such a difference?

Let me talk a little more about the bill, if I could. We had something called the lookback provision, allowing parents to use the previous year's income to make sure they get the maximum possible tax cut. Senator KENNEDY, a Republican from Louisiana, and I worked together on this.

It is the same option—interestingly, it is the same option that corporations have in the Tax Code. They are allowed to look back to reduce their taxes, but we weren't going to do that for families. I mean, that is the illness of this place. That is the sickness of Washington. It is why people, frankly, why they hate Washington. We treat these big corporate interests not even the same as we—maybe we ought to treat kids the same as we treat corporate interests because we treat corporate interests with kid gloves and always give them too much, and kids don't get enough. Families don't get enough.

So it is important that we pass this. It is going to matter. We will come back next year, and we do it in a bigger way than the way we did last year.

It also has some provisions that are major priorities for American companies. I want to encourage companies that will produce in the United States and will do their research and development here, that will keep the intellectual property in the United States.

I had a meeting once at the White House. Senator WYDEN was there. I think probably Senator BENNET was there at this meeting. It happened when President Trump was considering what we were going to do with the major tax bill.

We had a bill called the Patriot Corporation Act that said simply this—I had the bill in my hand. It simply said that if an American company pays good wages and provides good healthcare and provides a retirement, they would get a lower tax rate. But if this company didn't pay good wages, so workers got food stamps and workers got Medicaid and workers got housing tax breaks—housing breaks—if the company wasn't paying good enough wages and the taxpayers had to step up, they paid another rate.

In other words, if companies do the right thing, we ought to give them tax breaks. If companies mistreat their employees and undermine the dignity of work, we shouldn't. It is really pretty simple.

This bill does it right. It is a bill with good bipartisan support in the House, passing with 357 votes, thanks to the very adept negotiating skills of both Chairman WYDEN of the Finance Committee of the Senate, Chairman SMITH of the Ways and Means Committee in the House, one Republican, one Democrat. We have got 169 Republicans, 188 Democrats. It is our work. This shouldn't be about politics; it should be about the people whom we serve.

You fight for people in this country who make this country work. We should come together and cut taxes for working families. We should cut taxes for companies that want to do production in intellectual property in this country.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before he leaves, I just want to say one of the most powerful things Senator BROWN often says on the Finance Committee is: Whose side are you on? And Senator BROWN always is on the side of communities where everybody has a chance to get ahead—not just the people at the top, the small businesses and the kids and the working families. And we so appreciate that leadership.

Next is Senator WHITEHOUSE, and not only is he a valued Member of the Finance Committee, but he uses the Budget Committee to focus on these kind of priorities, and we appreciate that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, first of all, let me congratulate Senator BROWN and Senator CASEY and all the work they put into this effort and Chairman WYDEN for his negotiation to where we are right now.

This is a big deal for Rhode Island. We actually tried the child tax credit during COVID. We know how it works. It helped 174,000 Rhode Island families through COVID, and what we saw is that it lifted many of them out of poverty, and what else we saw is that it enabled parents to get into the workforce.

There is a phony narrative that if you give the child tax credit to families, they will just avoid work. Our experience was the opposite. Once you had child tax credit revenues and you could afford, for instance, childcare for your kid, then you could go to work. And, of course, we needed a workforce through COVID, so people were paying attention to this, and that was our experience. This is a pro-child and pro-work tax credit.

Now, you think it would be an easy slam dunk over here because it came through the House with a big bipartisan vote and the corporate benefits included in this bill far exceed the family benefits included in this bill. So you would think our Republican friends who are all about corporate tax benefits would be saying, hey, 3 to 1, 4 to 1, whatever the ratio is, we won this one big, let's close the deal; I support this even though it is a little bit out of balance. The Budget Committee did the work that showed the imbalance problem. We can always go back and solve the balance problem later. Families can't wait for the child tax credit. This really matters.

I support this deal, and I also support having a memory as we go forward and as we further decorrupt our Tax Code about how to bring that better into balance. It ain't forever. The child tax credit is the key here. I will only add that the low-income housing tax credit that is in here as well is extremely important. It is very important to Rhode Island. We have a housing crisis in Rhode Island. We have exactly zero of our municipalities left in which it is affordable for the average family to be able to own a home. And we have one—one—in which it is affordable to be able to rent a home.

So we have a lot of work to do, and the low-income housing tax credit is a huge lift that allows our very experts and very able housing community to build more and revamp more and produce more housing to meet the needs and quell the crisis.

So I will close by thanking Chairman WYDEN for his leadership and his skilled negotiations that have gotten us to this point. And I hope that common sense, what is good for children, what is good for work, and what is good for the corporate sector can prevail here in the Senate.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

Mr. WYDEN. Senator WHITEHOUSE, thank you very much for your comments, particularly if you are talking about the immediacy of what is in this bill. I have had small businesses come to me—I am sure Senator HASSAN has, too—and they say, look, if this is put off until 2025, you guys might have your debate then, I won't even be around to see it because I won't field any payroll and I won't have that R&D money.

Senator BENNET has been in this fight since day one, has really dedicated his public service to kids.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. I want to thank the Presiding Officer who has been such a champion on all these texts, the Senator from Nevada, and the Senator from New Hampshire as well, for bringing together people from both sides of the aisle to work on this. And you, Mr. Chairman, for your steadfast leadership over many, many years.

And I am not going to give everybody a long history lesson here, but you want to know why our politics are so messed up, what feels like we are having these incredible, disagreeable disagreements and divisions and all of this in our politics, I believe there is one fundamental reason for it, and I think that fundamental reason is that people in America have lost a sense of having economic mobility for themselves and their families.

You know, the whole idea of the American dream was that, if you work hard enough, that your kids were going to do better than you did and that your grandkids were going to do better than they did. And that has been lost. It is not irrecoverable, but there are so many families in Colorado, in Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, that are going through the same stuff that people all over America are going through, which is they are working harder than ever before and they are bringing less home.

And more of the benefit has been going, for years and years and years, to the people at the very top. That is the result of a real philosophical approach to how to run an economy, which is called trickle-down economics or supply side economics; it was something that Ronald Reagan led here. But I have to say this: There are Democrats and Republicans who supported those tendencies for a long time, and the result of that is that, today, the bottom

half of Americans in our economy have less wealth than they did in 1980 when Ronald Reagan was President.

We are the first generation of Americans, the people in this Senate, that are actually leaving less opportunity, not more, to our kids and our grandkids. That has never happened before in American history. Half the people that are in their 30s today are earning less than their parents did.

And I heard my colleague from Rhode Island talking about housing in Rhode Island. You can say exactly the same thing in Colorado. There is not a single place in Colorado where people think they can afford housing—because they can't.

There is no workforce housing left, as you and I have discussed in the State of Colorado or the State of Oregon. And all of that is a preface to saying finally—finally—we have a bill in front of us that doesn't just cut taxes for the biggest corporations and the wealthiest people in the country, but actually cuts taxes for working people. And amazingly, as has been said, amazingly, it got 357 votes in the House. I know the chairman is fond of saying you couldn't get that kind of a majority vote for—what?

Mr. WYDEN. Apple pie.

Mr. BENNET. Apple pie. Or who is your favorite, you know, celebrity. And yet they were able to come together over there in the House of Representatives and pass a bill with 357 freaking votes.

So we are going to put this on the floor. There is a lot of debate going on right now about was this party for kids or that party—I assume everybody is for kids. I assume that everybody, given the opportunity to vote for a piece of legislation that has that number of votes, that does not just the important work this does for the child tax credit, but also does important work on the research and development tax credit that my colleague from New Hampshire has been such a leader on, that when we get it here, we will actually all vote for it.

And then I hope we come back next year and do the work we really need to do with the child tax credit, which is to once again show that we do not have to accept, as a permanent feature of our economy or a permanent feature of democracy, the disgraceful and immoral levels of childhood poverty we have in this country, that we know—because President Biden put it in place several years ago—that we have a tool, the child tax credit, that will actually lift half the American children out of poverty and give them a fighting chance to contribute to our democracy and to our economy.

This is one important step in that process. I urge everybody in this Chamber to vote yes this week on this bill because this will be your opportunity, before we go home, to demonstrate where we stand on behalf of the American people and their families.

Mr. WYDEN. Senator BENNET, you have been leading on these issues for a long time, and I want to take special note of a message for tomorrow. We have all been reading the press and the discussion about what is going on, sometimes thousands of miles from here, and there is a debate about who is for kids. I want everybody to remember what Senator BENNET said: Tomorrow, every single Senator can be for the kids. That is going to be our message for tomorrow.

And by the way, our next speaker, our colleague from New Hampshire really shows her support for that proposition because she has been a champ on small business issues, and as we went into these debates, she pointed out, folks, we better be for the kids because kids who have an opportunity can be better workers down the road, and at every step of the way, she championed both kids and small businesses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Thank you very much, Chairman WYDEN.

Madam President, I rise to join my colleagues in urging Members from both parties to come together and pass the bipartisan Wyden-Smith package to lower taxes for working families and for small businesses.

And I want to add my thanks to my colleague from Colorado for his remarks because this really is about making sure that our families and small businesses can get ahead and stay ahead.

As you know, earlier this year, Members from both parties in the House overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan package to cut taxes. Like any legislative compromise, it may not have included everything that people wanted, but it included commonsense provisions that a majority of Americans agree on. And as my colleague from Colorado and the chairman have just said, it has provisions that not only the majority of Americans agree on, but a significant, really large, outsized majority of the U.S. House of Representatives agreed on.

This bipartisan package to cut taxes includes provisions that would help keep our economy on the cutting edge by fully restoring critical research and development—R&D—deductions. This provision would give American creators and entrepreneurs the resources that they need to outcompete countries like China and help ensure that our country and our economy is second to none. I have been working on a bipartisan basis to pass this provision and have heard from small businesses in New Hampshire about the really tough financial decisions that they are making now that the full R&D deduction has expired.

Not only would this tax cut package help us build a more innovative economy, it also helps make our economy work better for everyone through a bipartisan expansion of the child tax credit. We know that families are still struggling with the burdens of high costs. Expanding the child tax credit is a commonsense, practical way to put more money back into the pockets of hard-working families.

And this child tax credit provision would have helped families who have the most children, the families who, because of their higher number of children, have the most costs. There is a reason that a majority of Americans support these proposals. It is because they are good ideas that will make a difference in people's lives.

But despite what our constituents are telling us in support of this legislation, despite the good-faith bipartisan discussions that we have had, and despite the fact that the House was able to come together to overwhelmingly pass this bill, we still don't have an agreement on how to advance the bipartisan tax cut package this week. Unfortunately, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have seemingly allowed partisan politics to interfere with good-faith efforts to find a path forward.

Despite this setback, I am going to continue to work across party lines to pass the provisions of this bipartisan tax cut package. And I urge my colleagues to reconsider and come together to pass this legislation when it comes to a vote tomorrow.

I understand that for some of my colleagues, this bipartisan tax cut package doesn't have everything that they might want, but we would be ill-advised to miss this window.

We have the opportunity to lower taxes for the American people now. Hard-working families struggling to keep up with high costs, they aren't asking to expand the child tax credit a couple of years down the line. They want tax cuts so that they can keep more money in their pockets now.

If we are serious about outcompeting China, we can't afford to simply hope that we pass legislation restoring the R&D tax credit in the future. No, we need to give American innovators, creators, and entrepreneurs the support that they need now. For many small businesses, even waiting another year will be too late, because, ultimately, the American people aren't asking for perfect legislation, nor do they care if an idea is red or blue. They care about results, and they don't want politics to get in the way of a good idea.

So I urge my colleagues to come together and support this bipartisan tax cut package that will strengthen our economy, support our entrepreneurs, deliver for American families, and demonstrate that we can accomplish great things when we work together.

Thank you, Madam President.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, what we have heard from our friend from New Hampshire is: It is time for results, not just rhetoric.

Our last speaker will be Senator PADILLA, our friend from the West.

Senator PADILLA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I, too, rise today in support of every parent across the country working multiple jobs to help put food on the table, parents who are now buying school supplies and clothes as their kids are preparing to go back to school, parents who are working hard just to afford basic childcare. I rise in support of every American, including many in my home State of California, who are struggling to find housing that they can afford. And I rise today for every constituent of mine wondering why Senate Republicans continue to block a bill that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House of Representatives, because we know that the policies included in this measure are, indeed, bipartisan.

In the bipartisan Wyden-Smith tax proposal, these measures are not controversial. We know that they are actually effective because we have seen them work. In 2021, we saw an expanded child tax credit cut the rate of child poverty in our Nation in half to historic lows.

We also saw a 12½-percent increase in the low-income housing tax credit allocation help finance the construction of affordable housing—affordable housing that in communities across California and across the country are so desperately needed.

So let's just kind of simplify this conversation here. We know these policies can work. We know these policies have worked. We know that letting them expire has been detrimental to so many parents, so many children, and so many communities across the country. And we have, today, an opportunity to do right by them once again.

This past week, the Park fire and other wildfires continuing to burn in California have burned hundreds of thousands of acres. But in addition to that, they have reawakened painful memories of some of the worst wildfires in California history, many just in the last decade. So I also want to spend a moment to highlight what the disaster assistance provisions of this bill would mean for many, many families in my State.

Now, earlier this month, the Los Angeles Times told a story of Ria Abernathy, a 55-year-old woman living in Butte County in Northern California. Six years ago, Ria experienced devastation that most Americans couldn't even dream of but to which many Californians have grown all too familiar.

On one morning in November of 2018, Ria woke up to see black smoke engulfing the land around her, flames moving so fast that, within hours, the entire town of Paradise, CA, would be nothing but embers.

Fortunately, Ria acted quickly, and she was able to flee safely. But in order to save her life, she had to sacrifice all of her possessions. In what would become the deadliest wildfire in California history, the Camp fire went on to burn everything that Ria owned, and it leveled the town around her, and it claimed 85 lives—all because of a failed piece of equipment from a transmission tower that ignited the fire.

So for 8 months, Ria was forced to find shelter in a trailer, alongside others, along with a lot of her neighbors displaced by this same fire, living in the parking lot of a local church as they began the long, emotional path to rebuilding.

And while she was eventually awarded an $80,000 legal settlement, her troubles were far from over. It turned out that Ria would owe taxes on the settlement that she recovered. And that year, Ria says—she shares in the Times:

> I lost my whole history . . . and it's not coming back.

But as devastating as Ria's story is, she is not alone. Over 70,000 Californians have been impacted by the destruction of the Butte fire, the North Bay fire, and the Camp fire.

Now, when a fire victim is wading through the ashes of their former home and thinking about how to rebuild—not just their homes but their lives—the last thing that wildfire victims should have to worry about is how they are going to pay taxes on any settlement they receive.

Disaster settlement funds are not income. Disaster settlement funds are not assets. It is compensation for what they have lost—and insufficient most of the time at that. But disaster settlement funds are also meant to be an opportunity to begin to rebuild your life, an opportunity that should not be diminished because our government tax codes are outdated.

So I was proud to see that the Wyden-Smith tax package includes my bill, the Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation After Fire Act. It would make sure that people who have suffered from a heartbreaking wildfire can receive full compensation for their losses, without the fear that their settlements will be subject to taxes.

And it is not just for my constituents in California looking to rebuild. This bill would make sure that all recent and future wildfire victims throughout the country have access to their full settlements.

It is a commonsense, bipartisan solution to protect Americans at, arguably, the most difficult point in their lives. And for that reason, along with the historic provisions included in the package to make life more affordable for working families, I urge my Republican colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I thank my colleague. And Senator CORNYN said I could take a second to add on.

I think my colleague from California has made a central point. In the West, in particular, we want to make sure that those who have been clobbered by these fires don't get clobbered again by an outdated tax code. So I am strongly in support of Senator PADILLA's work.

We have an opportunity to get it on the books tomorrow, if it passes. Tomorrow, it goes to the President and gets signed into law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

REMEMBERING SHEILA JACKSON LEE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, this week my fellow Texans and people across the country will be celebrating the life and legacy of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Like some of the best known Texans, from George Bush to Simone Biles, Sheila wasn't born in Texas. But as we like to say, she got there as soon as she could.

She was born in New York, but she and her husband, Elwyn, chose to plant roots in Texas, and it didn't take long for her to become a leader in the Houston region.

She was a lawyer, then a judge, then a city council member and, finally, a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

When I came to the Senate, I quickly learned a few important qualities about Sheila. No. 1, she was passionate—very passionate. Sheila was honored to represent the 18th Congressional District, and she cared deeply about her role as a voice for those constituents, here in Congress.

Two, she was persistent. Some might even say relentless. She was never afraid to pick up the phone or track you down and try to convince you to see things her way on an issue.

And, third, she was willing to cross party lines to get things done. Despite our opposing political parties, Sheila and I partnered on a number of bills to notch bipartisan wins for our State. Along with the rest of the Texas delegation, she helped secure critical resources and disaster assistance after numerous storms and hurricanes, which always seem to find their way to the southeast region of Texas. We worked on bills to support survivors of sexual assault and violence, including the Debbie Smith Act, which was just signed into law this week. We passed a law that serves as a first step toward establishing the Emancipation National Historic Trail, which will stretch from Galveston to Houston. And, 3 years ago, we led legislation to establish Juneteenth as a Federal holiday, something that existed in Texas for the last 40 years because Juneteenth celebrates something very important that happened in Galveston, TX, when, 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, the African-American slaves in that region learned for the first time that they were indeed free.

Sheila was a true stateswoman. She was a Texan through and through, and she devoted her life to serving the people of Houston. We will miss Sheila, both in Texas and in the Halls of Congress.

And Sandy and I send our prayers for comfort to Elwyn, Jason, Erica, Ellison, Roy, and the entire Lee family.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

Madam President, on another matter, yesterday, the Senate notched a major bipartisan victory by processing a package of bills to keep kids safe online. Members of both sides of the aisle celebrated the return to good, old-fashioned legislating. But, unfortunately, that was short lived. We know the majority leader has teed up another yet-designed-to-fail vote tomorrow before gaveling out for the month of August. In other words, we have maybe 2 days or maybe 1 day, at the most, that we will actually be in session, until September some time. And, then, we are only scheduled to be in session about 3 weeks out of that month and out all of October.

So even though we have almost 100 days until the election, we have just a handful of days which the majority leader has scheduled us to be in session.

Why he would decide, after 6 months, to put a tax bill on the floor, knowing we would be leaving the next day, is beyond me. It does not strike me as a serious effort to legislate.

In addition, as the Presiding Officer knows, the House Ways and Means Committee had a chance to weigh in on this. The Senate Finance Committee, on which we both serve, has not had an opportunity to even shape this piece of legislation at all.

The chairman of the Finance Committee declined to have a markup of the bill in the Finance Committee, which I think would have enhanced the chances that we ultimately would get a bill approved by both Chambers and on the President's desk.

But these designed-to-fail votes—or show votes, as you might call them—have become a familiar exercise in the Chamber. Over the last few months, the majority leader has scheduled show votes on bills that were guaranteed to fail but maybe provided a talking point or two on the campaign trail.

The Senate has held show votes—and by that, I mean votes that are not designed to pass, legislation that has not been processed through the committees—to try to build consensus to see if we can get a major or supermajority of the Senate behind them. The majority leader has scheduled these show votes on bills relating to the border, to contraception, to abortion, to in vitro fertilization, and, now, tax policy—all designed-to-fail show votes, not serious legislating.

At the beginning of this year, the House passed the bill I referred to a moment ago that made significant changes to America's tax system. It was negotiated by the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, our Democratic colleague, RON WYDEN, and the head of the House Ways and Means Committee JASON SMITH, a Republican.

They released the framework of this agreement in mid-January. The Ways and Means Committee immediately scheduled hearings and a markup. And by the end of January, this bill was passed—and passed with broad, bipartisan support, admittedly.

Given the partisanship that often grips Congress advancing a bipartisan tax bill is no small feat, but they only got it half of the way there. They have cleared the House; but we are the Senate, and we have our ability and, frankly, the need, if you are going to build bipartisan consensus, to be able to shape that legislation here in this body, starting on the Finance Committee.

The Senate is not a rubberstamp. It was never intended to be, and it isn't today.

Members of both Chambers have a responsibility to evaluate and shape legislation before it goes to the President's desk. But you don't put a major tax bill on the floor—after waiting 6 months—the day before we are supposed to break for August and with very little time left between now and the election.

Republicans and Democrats alike would like to see some changes to this bill; but, of course, if we were to get on the bill, I am confident the majority leader, because there isn't much time, would simply prohibit any real debate and amendment process and then try to jam this bill through the Senate.

There are a number of things I would like to see addressed in the bill. I voiced my concerns about the watered-down work requirement for the child tax credit which would allow parents with zero earnings for the year to be eligible for a refundable tax credit. In other words, able-bodied individuals should be working and contributing to the welfare of their family and should not receive means-tested benefits when, in fact, the reason why they have no income is because they chose not to work. We cannot provide monetary incentives for able-bodied workers to stay out of the job market.

Some of our Democratic colleagues have announced their opposition to this bill because of the pro-jobs tax reforms. But the bottom line is this: Members of both sides of the aisle oppose this bill for various reasons. And there is one easy way to address those concerns: move the bill through the committee process, where we can shape the bill in both Chambers, and then bring it to the floor and allow for debate and an open-amendment process.

We know how to do this. That is the way the Senate should operate. And it is the way it used to operate.

The Wyden-Smith tax bill passed the House in late January. So why did the majority leader wait until August 1 to bring the bill to the floor, knowing we would be breaking for the rest of the summer the next day?

Right after the House passed this legislation, I asked Senator WYDEN—the chairman of the Finance Committee—to schedule a markup, but he refused. He showed no interest in giving Senators a voice in this legislation.

Well, I don't know about anybody else, but I didn't come to the Senate to be a spectator while this legislation moved across the Senate floor. I expect to represent the 30 million people that I have the honor of representing on each and every piece of legislation that comes across the floor of the Senate—or through the committees of jurisdiction.

At any time in the last 6 months, the chairman of the Finance Committee could have scheduled a Finance Committee markup to allow Members to try to improve the bill, but he simply refused. And the majority leader could have made this a priority for floor consideration by scheduling a vote in February or March or maybe April or maybe May or June, but he didn't. When did he schedule the vote? For tomorrow, August 1.

He knows that is not adequate time for us to do what we would need to do in order to represent our constituents in the way that they have come to expect and the way they deserve. He could have carved out a little bit of floor time that otherwise has been used to vote on some of the nominations, but he didn't.

Over and over again, he has refused to move this legislation through the regular order of the Senate and then sat on the bill intentionally for 6 months and waited until the final hour before a 5-week recess to bring it to the floor.

That is why we call this a show vote: It is not for real. But in light of the runup to the election, this will be, I assume, a campaign talking point that Democrats will try to use to bludgeon their Republican opponents.

In case there is any confusion, the rushed vote on the Wyden-Smith tax bill is not an honest attempt to pass legislation. Well, all this boils down to the fact that Democrats are offering two options on a bill that has not even been the subject of a hearing or a markup here in the Senate. Take it or leave it—those are the options that we are presented. I will vote to leave it—leave it to next year when we know—as President Biden has said, he wants all of these tax provisions that expire next year to expire, which will be a $3-trillion tax increase on the American people; and 62 percent of taxpayers will see a tax increase.

So we will revisit all of these matters next year. And we believe we can come up with a better product, one which will better serve American families and better help jump-start our economy once again.

Given the fact that the Senate needs to complete things like paying the bills, appropriations, the Defense authorization bill, the farm bill—all of which need to be done before the end of this year—I don't see any window for wide-ranging debate on this topic. And it doesn't deserve a short shrift.

So I hope we will, next year, revisit this topic. And I can guarantee that we will have the kind of debate I am talking about if Senator CRAPO becomes

the chairman of the Finance Committee and we have a new majority come January.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

NDAA

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to address something that is not getting done on time, as it deserves to be done on this Senate floor; and that is the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act.

I am very pleased to see my fellow Senator from the Great State of Mississippi, who is the ranking member on this committee, who has spent numerous hours—and days and weeks—working this bill but also educating Members and Senators as to how important this is.

The National Defense Authorization Act—or the NDAA, as we call it—is an annual display of support for the national security of our country here in the U.S. Congress. In fact, we have passed the NDAA for 63 consecutive years.

This bipartisan legislation supports our troops, supports our national security, and strengthens the capabilities of the U.S. military.

In a time when we face some of the most dangerous security environments since World War II, the NDAA should be one of our top legislative priorities. But, unfortunately, Leader SCHUMER just doesn't seem to agree.

And with the support of my Democratic colleagues, Leader SCHUMER has spent much of the summer on messaging votes that are crafted with no true intention of making a law, nominations for Federal entities, which we are going to be doing all day today, and the confirmation of judges that have—some of them—no business serving on the bench. This is not what the American people sent us to do for our country.

The urgent need to pass the NDAA becomes obvious when you take into account what is currently happening in the world around us. First, our ally and friend Israel is under attack by Iran and its terrorist clients.

Last week, we welcomed President Binyamin Netanyahu for a joint address to Congress, and he detailed the stark reality that his country is facing. Just a few days ago—just a few days ago—we learned the devastating news that 12 children and teenagers were killed by a Hezbollah strike while innocently playing on a soccer field.

We know that Iran is the aggressor behind these attacks, and we know that they are doing all they can to grow their nuclear capabilities as well. Imagine the dangers of a nuclear-armed Iran and what that means for the stability in the Middle East.

The last 24 hours alone have shown the rapid pace at which the Middle East security environment is changing. Israel is showing that it has the will and the capability to fight back against their aggressors—and I stand strongly in support with this ally.

Second, there is a large-scale ground war going on in Europe for the first time since World War II. And we know Putin's territorial ambitions and aggressions extend far beyond Ukraine.

Third, we are witnessing an unprecedented military buildup by China, accompanied by aggressions against Taiwan, the Philippines, Japan, and other partners in the region.

This summer alone, China aggression in the South China Sea has threatened to spark a dangerous conflict with the Philippines—a country that has a mutual defense treaty with the United States.

And just 5 days ago—I feel like everything is week to week—5 days ago, two Chinese and two Russian nuclear-capable bombers were detected near the coast of Alaska, prompting U.S. fighter jets to intercept these aircraft.

This is the first time we have seen this type of joint strategic bombing training between China and Russia in their ''no limits'' partnership.

Throughout all of this, we are watching China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea reinforce one another in their aggression. They are supporting one another and sharing resources to achieve objectives directly opposed to the United States, our way of life, and our values. If that doesn't raise alarm bells, I just don't know what will.

On top of this, the National Defense Commission—charged with assessing our Nation's preparedness for future conflict—gave us a pretty stark warning this week, which was: The U.S. is facing the most challenging threats we've seen since 1945—and we aren't ready for it.

According to this report, the Biden National Defense Strategy simply doesn't prepare us to deter or prevail in a future conflict.

According to one headline, the Pentagon has insufficient forces inadequate to face China—and Russia. Here again, we cannot wait; we have to get serious about our national security.

As I mentioned, Senator WICKER understands this. That is why he has released a proposal to help us repair our anemic military so that we are not at our lowest number of aircraft, ships, and munitions when China is building to their highest.

It is clear that now is the time to invest in our military, our personnel, and our capabilities. We can do that and send a clear message to both our allies and our adversaries by passing a strong and robust NDAA.

American leadership on the world stage has long been defined by ''peace through strength,'' but in order to do that, we must invest in strength first. The NDAA authorizes programs that the Department of Defense needs to replenish and grow our military stockpiles and to invest in the innovation and modernization programs we might need for a future fight.

The NDAA will make critical upgrades to our nuclear, hypersonic, missile defense, and our space programs, and restore the arsenal of democracy by ensuring our country's ammo plants have the tools they need to modernize amid increasing demands for munitions. These are the facilities like the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory, which proudly operates in my home State of West Virginia.

It also invests directly in the men and women of our military by providing a 4.5-percent pay raise for servicemembers and increasing the monthly pay for our junior enlisted troops as well.

I have also worked to ensure provisions for my own State of West Virginia and how we can contribute to building our military and strengthening our national defense. It supports upgrades and operations at the Air National Guard facilities like the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, WV. It directs the U.S. Army to move forward on testing and fielding active protection systems on Army ground combat vehicles—to implement lessons learned from watching the failure of Russian tanks in Ukraine—and some of that testing is being done in West Virginia.

The bill supports the resilience of undersea cables used by the Department of Defense—to make certain that critical missions are not disrupted—and provisions that move our country away from the reliance on foreign sources for critical precursor chemicals used for the manufacture of U.S. weapons.

These are just a handful of the provisions included in the NDAA, but they speak to the importance of the legislation and the steps we need to take now to make sure that our military remains ready for any conflict that we may face in the future.

The crux of the issue is this: The House of Representatives passed their version of the NDAA on June 14. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved our version of the NDAA the day before that—that would be June 13—and we have heard absolutely nothing from the Democrat leader about when he will bring this vital leadership to the floor for debate and consideration.

So we are wasting the time of the American people on show votes and inconsequential nominees. Republicans are demanding action. We want to continue to point out the danger of sidelining our national security priorities. There is a desperate need for American leadership on the world stage, and a strong bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act helps us to get there. So I encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to please recognize that.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I want to congratulate and thank my colleague from West Virginia for her remarks and for her leadership to make America strong again so that we can have peace through strength.

The distinguished Senator mentioned a hearing that the Committee on

Armed Services had yesterday. Our witnesses were two distinguished experts in the field of national security. The Democrat who testified before us was none other than former Representative Jane Harman of California—a high-ranking committee chair when she was in the House of Representatives and a loyal Democrat, but she is someone who understands that we are not where we need to be under this administration when it comes to national defense. The other witness was Eric Edelman, a very distinguished diplomat and Ambassador.

Their message was absolutely as the Senator said: The United States is not ready to face and to face down and to deter this axis of aggression that threatens the United States as we have not been threatened since 1945. Those are not my words. Those are the words of this bipartisan Commission on a unanimous basis. We are more threatened as a nation than we have been since 1945, and we know what was happening during that decade.

Just over a year ago, in a late-night vote after a long, long day, 86 Senators stood together and passed the National Defense Authorization Act and advanced American security. As I say, we had spent a full day with debate. We had 24 rollcalls. We passed 121 amendments—the most ever adopted on the floor for such a bill—and we overwhelmingly passed the Senate's version of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. We did it in the light of day so that every American could see how their Senators stood on important issues. That was last year.

Over the past several days, we could have done the same thing with this year's National Defense Authorization Act. We could have followed the same procedure, but for whatever reason—and I will speculate on those reasons—the Senate majority leader has allowed politics to stand in the way of such progress of our national security obligations, preventing Americans from seeing in the light of day how their elected Senators feel on some very controversial issues of taking up this important legislation that we do every year in an open process.

The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee has worked hard this year to develop our 2025 NDAA. It is a bill that reflects the overwhelming bipartisan consensus of the committee, and I am pleased to report—and Americans now know—that, in a bipartisan vote, the committee added a $25 billion budget top-line increase specifically designed to address the rising threats of this axis of aggressors: China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and their proxies.

We are entering a long Presidential leadership transition period, and we need to present a strong front to that axis of aggressors that present, as the Commission unanimously said, the most dangerous threat we have had since 1945. The tyrants of these adversaries are watching our every move. They know we haven't taken up this bill in an open process. They are looking for every vulnerability. By passing the NDAA under regular order, we could have shown them that the U.S. Senate backs our servicemembers to the hilt and that we intend to repair the damage that has occurred to our national defense.

Instead, Majority Leader SCHUMER has allowed the bill to collect dust. The $25 billion top-line increase was a bipartisan choice, and I am grateful to Members on both sides of the aisle for supporting that in the committee, but the majority leader has somehow been afraid that the vote, although passed in a bipartisan measure, would reflect badly on the Biden-Harris administration. The political partisanship has caused him to prevent a full debate on the NDAA. Basically, there are a number of sensitive, leftist issues that the leader wants to prevent some of his vulnerable Members from having to vote on, pure and simple.

We shouldn't let political calculations dictate our national security decisions. Our enemies are working together, and we are not prepared to defend against them. Don't ask the Senator from Mississippi; ask the bipartisan Commission.

Our enemies are helping each other sow chaos around the world in Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, Venezuela, where an election was stolen just a few days ago. A snapshot of events from the past week gives us a glimpse of this trend.

On Wednesday of last week, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke before Congress. In my opinion, his remarks were among the most stirring and profound speeches ever delivered to a joint session of Congress. In clear and factual language, Prime Minister Netanyahu testified to the threat from Iran and its proxies. Iran is backing Hamas and Hezbollah—two terrorist organizations who seek nothing short of the elimination of the Jewish State and Israel. Iran has armed the Houthis—another terrorist group who barrage our Navy sailors in the Red Sea.

On the same day as the Prime Minister's address, Russia and China performed their first-ever joint military flight exercise—the first ever in history with Russia and China together—and they did it directly approaching Alaskan airspace, American airspace.

The following day, U.S. prosecutors brought charges against a North Korean operative with cyber attacks on American hospitals and military assets. This is dangerous.

Over the weekend, Hezbollah continued assaulting Israel from the north. The terrorist group launched a horrific rocket attack, killing 12 Israeli children on a soccer field—on a soccer field.

These incidents are not isolated. Each aggressor receives growing support and encouragement from the others, and they follow up on the atrocious October 7 terrorist attack that killed so many Israeli and American civilians—babies, women, children, husbands, and wives—last year.

Yesterday, the Senate Armed Services Committee heard testimony from the National Defense Strategy, as the distinguished Senator from West Virginia said, and I would again emphasize that they didn't mince words. They agree with the recommendation of my white paper—that the United States needs to get back to Ronald Reagan's peace through strength and spend up to 5 percent of our gross domestic product on our security. We need to develop the kind of strength that keeps the axis of aggressors from growing stronger. We need to develop the kind of strength that keeps the axis aggressors from doing anything foolish that would plunge the world into a war.

Leader SCHUMER should appreciate the stakes and urgency of this moment, and they need to act now to send a strong message now and to do it with the Sun shining on it in the light of day. He should have brought the bipartisan NDAA to the floor instead of covering up for the Biden-Harris administration, instead of shielding vulnerable Democrats from issues like the left-wing social policy that is being forced on our military, and instead of preventing the Department of Defense's resources to be used to secure the border and take on the cartels.

There is no time to waste. While the Democratic leader avoids tough votes, our adversaries launch more missiles. When our leaders place politics above strong defense policy, when America shows weakness, more towns elsewhere fall into the hands of evil regimes.

In this moment of heightened global instability, we have missed a chance to project the kind of American strength that promotes peace, and because of the leader's actions, we will not be able to take this bill up in the light of day. It will be written in secret by a handful of people in a closed room, and that will be the final version.

I regret this. I am sorry that the leader has missed a great opportunity to send a strong signal to our enemies in the light of day and to let the American people know how their elected Senators stand on these important issues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I thank my colleague and the ranking member for his comments and his leadership on Armed Services.

We meet at a time of increasing peril for our country. The threats we face are demanding attention in a way that we haven't seen in decades. From the Middle East to Europe, to the Indo-Pacific, weakness and moral bankruptcy from the Biden-Harris administration have allowed chaos to spread around the globe.

In the Middle East, Israel is in a fight for survival against genocidal Hamas

terrorists and other terrorist proxies from Iran. These forces of evil are bent not only on the complete annihilation of the Jewish State but on the destruction of the United States as well.

In Ukraine, Russia continues its vicious war of aggression by continuing to commit war crimes against innocent civilians and threatening the very stability of Europe.

In the Indo-Pacific, China is saber-rattling and taking provocative action toward Taiwan and the Philippines.

The aim of the Chinese Communist Party is clear: They are determined to displace the United States as the dominant world superpower. If this were to occur, the consequences would be staggering for America and, I say, yes, the world's security and economic well-being.

We know that the answer to all these crises is the one thing that has been missing for the last 3½ years, and that is American strength, particularly America's military superiority.

This year's National Defense Strategy Commission report has made clear that the dire threats we face can only be confronted if America's military might is strengthened. Our enemies won't relent if America takes a step backward. Our diplomatic efforts will never be successful if they are not backed up by the real threat of overwhelming military force. Simply put, in order to be a strong nation, our military must also be strong.

I am proud to say that my home State of North Carolina plays a leading role in our national defense. The Old North State is blessed to be home to eight active military bases, and it has thousands of Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families as well.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I see it as my responsibility to do everything that I can to support our military and to keep it strong. I am particularly proud of the work the committee did this year on the National Defense Authorization Act to combat the growing threats posed by China, Russia, Iran, and the dangerous individuals coming across our own southern border.

In this dangerous world, the U.S. Senate should prioritize the passage of the NDAA. We shouldn't procrastinate, and we shouldn't play politics with it. We should put it on the floor, have a full amendment process, and let everyone debate the issues. It is pretty simple.

But don't be fooled by the political calendar. The Democrat majority—they can make the time if they really wanted to do it, but instead they are prioritizing politics. They are holding show votes on messaging bills designed to fundraise for their political base. This does a massive disservice not only to the men and women serving overseas who depend on us, but it also sends yet another message of weakness and division to the world at a time when our enemies see the United States as weaker than we have ever been.

So my message to the majority is this: If you care about keeping America a strong nation, if you care about American leadership in the world, if you care about U.S. troops stationed here and abroad, put the NDAA on the floor so that we can do our job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I want to join my colleagues here on the Senate floor and talk about the importance of national security right here in the Congress of the United States. It is certainly one of our top priorities—protecting our Nation.

You know, President Ronald Reagan, who very much focused on the issue of peace through strength—and I am going to talk about that here in a minute—he once said:

> We know only too well that war comes not when the forces of freedom are strong, but when they are weak. It is then that the tyrants are tempted.

''It is then that the tyrants are tempted.''

Tyrants like this guy—that is Xi Jinping sporting some cammies there with his military—tyrants like this guy and the tyrants around the world, they are tempted. They are tempted. They are on the march.

Look at this poster. That is Xi Jinping again in his military uniform. He kind of looks ridiculous, from my perspective, but, hey, they are on the march.

Putin, the terrorists in Iran, Kim Jong Un in North Korea, Venezuela, for goodness' sake—all the tyrants are working together, and they are on the march because the forces of freedom, as President Reagan said, have become weak.

You have heard it from my colleagues from North Carolina and Mississippi. We are on Armed Services together. By the way, they are both doing a great job. Let me make sure everyone can see that. Thank you. Yet this body has not taken up what we need to take up.

Just a couple of examples. Senator BUDD was talking about the chaos in the Middle East, the appeasement of Iran by the Biden-Harris administration.

By the way, in my great State, just this past week, we had a joint Russian-Chinese strategic bomber patrol come into our ADIZ, into the kind of territorial airspace right near Alaska. It never happened before in the history of the country—Chinese and Russian joint bomber patrols, with fighters, coming into American airspace. The tyrants—this guy—they are tempted. They have never done that before.

We heard about this. We all know this started due to the botched, chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan that has sent the message of weakness.

Our wonderful military up in Alaska scrambled 10 fighter jets, fully armed, went and greeted the Chinese and the Russians, and said: Not today, guys. Turn around. Get out of our airspace.

But that was an escalation. It never happened before.

In the United States, we need to be stronger—much stronger than the Biden-Harris administration has enabled us to be.

So what can we do here on the Senate floor? Well, what we can do—and you have heard my colleagues talk about it—is that we can bring up the National Defense Authorization Act.

Like a lot of my colleagues who have been talking on the floor right now, I serve on the Armed Services Committee and was glad to work on this bill in a bipartisan way. I saw Chairman REED here a minute ago on the floor. He did a great job, the chairman of the committee. We dramatically increased the top-line number that we need in terms of our military, the men and women who did the mission like they did last week in Alaska.

By the way, that is not an easy mission, flying 1,000 miles from their base to go intercept the Russians and Chinese with fighters. That was not an easy mission. Our military members did it really well.

But here is the issue: For so many of my Democratic colleagues, especially the majority leader, the military and bringing the NDAA on the floor is just not a priority. I mean, no offense to some of the people we are confirming right now, but these are not priorities. The time on the Senate floor reflects priorities, and the majority leader has kind of indicated: Hey, even though we have a good NDAA; even though our country is in peril right now, with the dictators on the march; even though the House already passed a version, the Senate—ah, forget it. We will do a tax judge. We won't bring the NDAA to the floor.

I know a lot of Democrats who worked hard—the Presiding Officer is one—who worked hard on this bill. A lot of my Democrat colleagues want the bill on the floor. For whatever reason, the Senate majority leader, during this dangerous time, will not bring a bipartisan bill strengthening our military to the floor.

Why won't he do that? Why won't he do that? Well, I will say there is a major, major difference between our parties—a major difference. What is that difference? Well, I like to proudly proclaim that the Republicans have been, are, and I hope will always be the party of peace through strength—peace through strength.

By the way, if you take a look at the Republican Party platform that we issued in Milwaukee at our convention a couple of weeks ago, it is all about returning to peace through strength. That is what the platform is about.

By the way, I took a look at the Republican Party platform in 2024 and the Reagan-Bush platform in 1984 on peace through strength. They are almost identical. That is what we believe in. That is what President Eisenhower believed in, Roosevelt, Reagan, and President Trump certainly did in his first term.

Here is the difference—you know, I know some of my colleagues don't like it when I say this, but, hey, the truth hurts—the Democrats are the opposite of this. When the Democrats have gotten into power in the White House, what do they do? They always come and cut defense spending, and they always undermine readiness. That is why the Senate majority leader is saying: I don't want to bring the NDAA to the floor. That is not our priority. We don't do that.

Let me just give a couple of examples.

Jimmy Carter cut defense spending in his first 3 years in office, and the Russians and Iranians took advantage of America's weakened posture.

Bill Clinton cut the size of our military by one-third, upending a decade of progress under the Reagan and George H. W. Bush administrations.

Barack Obama slashed the Pentagon's budget by 25 percent during his second term. Our military readiness plummeted. I remember coming to the Senate in 2015. I was the ranking member on the Readiness Subcommittee and was shocked to see that 3 out of 58 brigade combat teams in the U.S. Army were at their highest levels of readiness—3 out of 58. Obama slashed readiness.

Of course, now we have the Biden administration. Every year Biden-Harris have been in office, they have cut defense spending. Every single year. This year's Biden-Harris budget shrinks the Army, shrinks the Navy, and shrinks the Marine Corps. That is a fact.

Next year's budget, in the next 2 years, if the Biden-Harris team is reelected, we will go below 3 percent of GDP.

Take a look at this chart. It shows it. These are the numbers on GDP. That is 15 percent during the Korean war; 8, 9, percent during Vietnam; the Cold War, Reagan era, 5, 5½ percent; Bush, about 4½ percent; right here, 3 percent.

We have been below 3 percent of GDP four times since World War II. That is the wrong message to be sending to dictators in the world. That is what the Biden-Harris budget for the Department of Defense does right now.

Now, we can fix this. We can work on the NDAA, which, as I mentioned, in a bipartisan way, we significantly increase the top-line budget.

I want to commend ROGER WICKER, the Senator from Mississippi, the ranking member on the Armed Services Committee, for his great leadership on that.

By the way, the White House is against that. They love going below 3 percent. And during the Biden-Harris administration, they will crank up spending for other Federal Agencies by double digits—some up 20 percent—but Homeland Security, securing the border, and our military men and women, they get a cut. Again, that is what national Democrats do.

Our tradition is what the American people want, particularly during these dangerous times: peace through strength. And one way we can do that right now on the Senate floor is to bring the NDAA to the floor—to bring the NDAA to the floor. And yet the Senate majority leader doesn't want to do that. It is not surprising. That is the tradition of national Democrats: weakening our military, not taking it seriously, not a priority.

But that is not what the American people want, Madam President. We need the NDAA to the floor now, during these dangerous times.

And my colleagues and I—I am glad to be with all of them on the floor. By the way, I am pretty sure there are going to be some Democratic Senators calling for this, too. They are not doing it right now, but we need it on the floor today, and I am honored to be here with so many Republican Senators making the same call.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, we shouldn't be here giving speeches about the National Defense Authorization Act. We should be here on the Senate floor voting on the National Defense Authorization Act.

Once again, as he has done year after year since I have been here, Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER is refusing to advance this critical bill to set the policy and funding levels for America's Armed Forces.

Washington's failure to move legislation forward is always frustrating, but the majority leader's refusal to act on the NDAA, a bill which passed with strong bipartisan support out of the Armed Services Committee more than a month ago, is more than frustrating; it is actually dangerous.

Every single day, our enemies—communist China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea—are actively working with one single goal in mind: to dominate the world stage by destroying the American way of life.

And without some of the good policy in the NDAA we passed out of committee a month ago becoming law, communist China has tools at its disposal to do great harm to our country.

Our country has fallen into a trap of dependence on our enemies—like communist China—for everything from drugs to food, and we have got to stop that today.

When the Senate fails to quickly advance the NDAA, as Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER has done year after year, it sends a strong message to our enemies that military strength and cutting dependence on our enemies is not a priority for the U.S. Congress. It is dangerous and unacceptable to allow that message to go out to the world, especially as we watch war after war erupt around the globe thanks to the weakness and appeasement of the Biden-Harris administration.

I hope we can all come together and recognize that we cannot be depending on communist China for our medicine, technology, or food, especially if we are at war. The time is now to get serious about securing U.S. interests and decoupling our supply chains from communist China. As a body, we must demand action today.

I am a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, along with my colleague who is presiding, and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Personnel. So I know firsthand how much hard work has gone into crafting a good bill that is essential to maintaining America's military as the most lethal fighting force on the planet.

But this bill does so much more than that. The NDAA isn't simply a reauthorization of our military and support programs. This bill sets the policy that ensures America's Armed Forces are on the cutting edge of innovation to not just win wars but to deter threats from our enemies because they know they stand no chance of victory in a conflict with the United States.

Try as they might to project weakness, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, thankfully, do not have a hand in crafting this legislation. Thank God that is the case.

Through the NDAA, we can ensure that the woke vision for the U.S. military that Biden and HARRIS wish for does not become reality. Nothing could be more important to protecting our Nation and our men and women in uniform than that. Unfortunately, I fear that is the exact reason why the majority leader continues to stall and refuses to bring this legislation to a vote on the Senate floor.

The NDAA also ensures our military families are taken care of as they make sacrifices each and every day to support our warfighters and keep America safe.

Much of that work is reflected in the big wins we have in this NDAA for my home State of Florida. The U.S. military is incredibly important to Florida. We are home to 21 military bases and 3 unified combatant commands, over 64,000 Active-Duty military, 38,000 reservists, and more than 1.5 million veterans.

For our servicemembers and their families, I fought aggressively in this NDAA to secure a 4.5 percent pay raise, along with many of my colleagues. We have continued our work to support military families and expand access to affordable, on-base childcare by securing $3 million for child development center construction in the Florida Panhandle.

We have also included language in the bill to eliminate disgusting Chinese garlic from our on-base grocery stores, so no family feeding their family through our on-base commissaries is forced to buy Chinese sewer garlic. Remember, Chinese-grown garlic is widely reported to be grown in human sewage, then bleached and harvested in abhorrent conditions, often with slave labor.

And with Russian warships recently 90 miles off our shores, communist

China building a spy base in Cuba, and growing partnership between communist China, Russia, and Iran with Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, we made sure that Homestead Air Reserve Base in South Florida will continue to serve a critical mission for years to come and protect our Nation from the growing threats posed by our enemies in Latin America.

I am also proud to have personally fought for and secured big wins for the United States against communist China, including making sure the Department of Defense buys generic drugs made in the United States of America to cut dependence on our enemies for these essential medicines. We cannot continue to rely on enemies like communist China for essential medicines.

Through this NDAA, I am also fighting to stop the Department of Defense purchase of Chinese computers and printers, which pose a threat to our national security when connected to secure networks.

Passing this bill will prevent the DOD from procuring LiDAR technology for manned or unmanned systems from companies based in communist China unless granted explicit congressional approval.

It also supports research and development efforts to enhance the U.S. commercial, space-based LiDAR capabilities.

We will authorize a report on the operational value of the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, given the concerning relationship the Government of Qatar has with Hamas and other terrorist organizations, as well as its continuing hostility to the State of Israel and other U.S. interests.

And, thank God, one of the leaders of Hamas is not alive today.

And we will provide support for Israel, America's great ally and the only democracy in the Middle East, with U.S.-Israel counter-tunneling cooperation and an increase of $47.5 million for U.S.-Israel cooperation on emerging technology.

Madam President, the United States is at a critical moment where military strength is essential to preserving our national security and fending off the threats of tyranny and terrorism that are rising around the globe. This NDAA reflects what must be done to combat the threats posed by our enemies in communist China, Iran, and Russia; protect our allies and partners in Israel, the Philippines, and across Europe; and protect and grow our military strength in Florida, where we have massive defense assets that are critical to our national security.

A strong defense is key to protecting the freedoms that make America great. I will never lose sight of one of the most important roles I have as a U.S. Senator: to protect and serve the families of our great Nation. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues to make sure we are protecting our national security and investing in America's greatest asset: the men and women of our Armed Forces.

I want to thank Chairman REED, Ranking Member WICKER, and all of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for their leadership on these important issues. I am proud of the work we have done and again call for Majority Leader SCHUMER to stop stalling now and put this bill on the floor today.

We cannot afford to send any signal of weakness at this time of growing threats and instability around the globe.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that myself and Senator TUBERVILLE be permitted to speak for up to 7 minutes, Senator CARDIN for up to 10 minutes, and Senator TILLIS for up to 2 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, as election season approaches, our political discourse has been heated, to say the least. From an assassination attempt a couple of weeks ago to destructive protests across Washington last week, the friction within America is undeniable.

My colleagues and I are here today to discuss one of the things Americans do agree on: defending our Nation.

We all see the tension simmering around Taiwan and South Korea and the tension exploding in Israel and Ukraine. And we see the threats China and Russia pose to our Nation. These threats are decades in the making. And while they sound far away—they are, after all, around the other side of the world—the close connections between the security of the world's democracies and the economies of the world mean that these developments impact our everyday lives.

America should have woken up and gotten ahead years ago, but, at the very least, we must wake up now.

The most critical job we have in the U.S. Senate is providing for our national security, and we do that through our National Defense Authorization Act. We passed the NDAA out of the Senate Armed Services Committee last month with bipartisan approval. It includes provisions that will benefit our servicemembers and that will bolster our national defense.

I supported a pay raise for members of our military and secured funding for several Nebraska military construction projects.

This year's NDAA also included important provisions to address issues within the munitions industrial base, contributing to thousands of good-paying jobs throughout the country while providing for our national security.

The bill incorporated elements of my Restoring American Deterrence Act to foster a skilled nuclear manufacturing and vocational trade workforce. We heard about the importance of that need at our SASC hearing yesterday, when members received the report from the Commission on the National Defense Strategy.

I am hopeful that the full Senate will recognize the bipartisan importance of passing the NDAA, just as we did on the Armed Services Committee. But before we can do that, Majority Leader SCHUMER must prioritize bringing the NDAA up for a vote.

Just as these threats impact our everyday lives, so also does our response or lack thereof. This is a matter of urgency. Our defense is not something we can deal with in 5 years, in 10 years. It is something that we must address now, and we had better get started.

If we fail to ensure that we can produce munitions at scale, we will run out of missiles within weeks of a conflict. If we fail to field and equip a modernized Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, or Space Force, one day Xi will think: Maybe we can win.

Preventing that day will prevent a conflict that would touch the life of every American citizen in ways this country hasn't seen since the Second World War. The majority leader should have reflected that by bringing the NDAA to the floor before the August State work period, and now he needs to bring it to the floor as soon as possible. But instead of doing our most important constitutional job, we have been seeing political show votes on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

America's safety—America's safety—is a bipartisan responsibility, a bipartisan duty that requires bipartisan commitment.

Let's show Americans that despite all the fights and disagreements, we can unite in the Senate around the most important issues; we can prioritize our security; and we can and we must pass this year's NDAA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, on October 23, 1983, terrorists killed 241 Americans, including 220 marines in Beirut, Lebanon.

Last night, Israeli Defense Forces reportedly killed a top Hamas leader responsible for those American lives lost. The events of last night highlight why the Senate now needs to move on the NDAA to strengthen our military and our allies abroad. Instead, Senator SCHUMER has done nothing this week but bring low-level nominations to the floor while the bipartisan NDAA gathers dust on his desk.

It is par for the course for Senator SCHUMER. Democrats ride the fence on this because Hamas is a key constituency of the Democratic Party. That is why KAMALA HARRIS couldn't bring herself to show up to the Prime Minister's congressional address this past week. It is why the Biden administration has flushed Iran with cash and now Iran is bankrolling terrorism all over the Middle East. But they act surprised when the Middle East is destabilized. They are more concerned about appeasing our enemies and supporting our friends and our allies.

Now Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have brought us to possibly World War III. It is the weakest administration in the history of the United States of America.

We have become a complete joke in the eyes of the world, which is why I rise today to call on Senator SCHUMER to immediately bring the NDAA to the floor for a vote. Senator SCHUMER has refused to act on this legislation since it passed out of committee on June 13 with bipartisan support. After the events last night, it is imperative now more than ever that we move this bill.

Senator SCHUMER, let's be serious here, if you really care about our military, you will bring the NDAA up for a vote immediately. Stop wasting our time on messaging bills that are a ploy to bail out vulnerable Democratic colleagues in an election. We need a military that is 100 percent focused on protecting our country and enhancing our national security, not implementing the Biden-Harris woke agenda, which is why I have taken steps to return our military to greatness in this year's NDAA.

Among these victories, I count my amendments which will help refocus the Pentagon on its stated mission to deter war and ensure our Nation's security. One of these amendments includes eliminating all funding for the woke diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at the DOD.

Another amendment prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars from being spent on transgender surgeries or any other costs associated with these services.

I appreciate my colleagues on the committee supporting these commonsense amendments that were included in this year's Senate NDAA. I, along with millions of Americans, am scratching my head as to why the DOD has implemented these policies to begin with.

Sadly, no institutions, not even our great military, are safe from infiltration by the Biden-Harris regime's radical woke policies. Immediately after taking the White House, Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS weaponized the DOD, using it as yet another tool in their arsenal to further their progressive agenda. One of the Biden-Harris administration's first moves was mandating diversity, equity, and inclusion training in all the DOD. On day one, the Biden-Harris administration announced the military would be conducting training to ''have knowledge of systemic and institutional racism and bias against underserved communities.''

This hateful ideology has no place in the United States, let alone our military. The military is not a social experiment. It should be a lethal fighting force feared by our enemies and comprised of our best and brightest. The military should be built on merit, not diversity.

It is dangerous and insulting to waste our troops' valuable time on political indoctrination such as this.

And that is not all. In 2021, the Biden administration announced it would begin directing taxpayer dollars to pay for hormone therapy and transgender surgeries for servicemembers who want to transition to a different gender. It is not the job of the taxpayers to pay for someone to get a controversial elective procedure. American taxpayers' resources should ensure troops who are injured or sick get quality healthcare, timely, as they need it. And taxpayers should not be forced to bankroll these dangerous experimental procedures that often backfire.

Of course, the Biden-Harris administration would rather spend valuable taxpayer dollars on programs that affirm its progressive world view. The DEI and transgender surgery policies at the DOD are just two examples of the woke policies being implemented. We can't forget that the Biden-Harris DOD illegally mandated taxpayer dollars to fund elective abortions in the military. I have spent the better part of 2 years fighting the Biden-Harris administration on this front.

And we cannot forget the Biden-Harris DOD fired more than 8,000 able-bodied troops for refusing to take the COVID–19 vaccine.

None of these policies should be DOD priorities. It is a distraction from keeping America safe and secure and the consequences are dangerous.

For decades, support for the U.S. military was one of the few topics that brought Republicans and Democrats together. In the past year, the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committee would draft the NDAA, which authorized funding for the military and establish policy priorities for the DOD. These bills were largely bipartisan and not usually controversial. Both parties were united in the belief that the U.S. military should be the most lethal fighting force in the world. There were some policy differences here and there, and there should be. But both parties largely left politics out of the military; that is, until the Biden-Harris administration came to town. It is disappointing we reached a point where we need to legislatively intervene to refocus the Pentagon on its mission to protect and defend our great country, but here we are.

Predictably, the Biden-Harris regime injecting politics in our military has come at a price. The departure from bipartisan, commonsense policies at the DOD has resulted in detrimental impacts to military readiness and lethality.

Take recruitment, for example. In 2023, the Pentagon announced that it fell way short of recruitment goals in what it referred to as ''the toughest recruitment year for the military services since the inception of the all-volunteer [Army].''

I would ask: Why would young men and women volunteer to serve in a country and in our military if it has become a place of the far-left indoctrination? Why would they do that? Why would young men and women join a military that teaches them to hate our country? Why would any patriotic citizen join an organization that is more committed to social justice than defeating our enemies?

I must say, I share their concerns. The military, under today's regime, is not the same military that my dad served in over 60 years ago. It is the sad truth. The recruiting failure has resulted in a national security emergency. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have asked our top military leaders about the decision to focus on woke policies instead of addressing the recruiting crisis. Unsurprisingly, they didn't have an answer for me.

The impact of implementing those leftwing social priorities extends far beyond the recruiting problems here at home.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. These dangerous policies at the DOD have consequences for our military readiness and the world stage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO LAVERNE ALLEN

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I will be brief. Back in the early eighties, disco was popular. I was young, and LaVerne Allen was just coming into the Senate, first as an intern and now as what everybody refers to as the ''enforcer'' on the floor.

I had to come over here. I am even doing this on a bipartisan basis. I came to the Democratic side of the aisle to trace LaVerne down to force her to get into the picture, probably the first time in her career.

But ladies and gentlemen, a lot of times we take for granted what happens in this Chamber. We don't think about all the hard work the staff does. They get here before us, they leave after us. We don't think about how difficult it is to come to a U.S. Senator and tell them to be quiet. I will tell you, she trains her proteges well because she just had SHERROD BROWN be asked to be quiet by an intern over there, somebody who just started. I saw it happen. LaVerne was about to, but you trained somebody to take your place really well.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have to recognize this place only runs because we have a strong Sergeant at Arms staff and great staff in both cloakrooms and up on the dais.

I did not want this week to pass, when LaVerne is about to take retirement and hopefully spend a little time with her beloved son Marcus, who is in the Navy stationed in Japan right now. I feel like, if it weren't against the rules and it wouldn't make the Parliamentarian mad for me to ask unanimous consent to take a selfie on the floor—I am not going to do that, but I am going to thank LaVerne for 43 years of service to this great institution.

I know we are not supposed to applaud, but I will anyway.

Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

NOMINATION OF MEREDITH A. VACCA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Meredith Vacca to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York.

Judge Vacca earned her B.A. from Colgate University and her J.D. from the University at Buffalo School of Law. After completing law school, she began her legal career in private practice as an associate attorney at Hamberger & Weiss LLP, where she focused primarily on workers' compensation insurance defense cases. In 2007, Judge Vacca joined the Monroe County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney, where she tried approximately 60 cases to verdict in her 13-year tenure. Since 2021, Judge Vacca has served as a judge on the Monroe County Court, where she has presided over 21 felony trials that have gone to verdict.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Vacca ''qualified'' to serve on the district court, and she has the strong support of Senators SCHUMER and GILLIBRAND.

Judge Vacca's deep ties to the Rochester, NY, legal community, combined with her courtroom experience both on and off the bench, will ensure that she is ready to meet the demands of the Western District of New York from day one.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

VOTE ON THE VACCA NOMINATION

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

Mr. RISCH. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 225 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—9

Fetterman	Lee	Scott (SC)
Hoeven	Menendez	Vance
Kelly	Romney	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

The senior Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute on the next nomination.

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

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH FRANCIS SAPORITO, JR.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise just for 1 minute to talk about Judge Saporito.

Joe Saporito is someone I have known for decades. He is someone who serves currently and has for the last 9 years as a magistrate judge in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Prior to his service as a Federal magistrate judge, he served as an assistant public defender over the course of several decades, at the same time doing private practice. So he has broad experience as a magistrate judge, as someone who has been in the courtroom, providing a defense for people, and also serving in private practice.

I have great confidence and I think everyone who has dealt with him has confidence in his integrity, in his judicial temperament, and in his ability to serve with distinction in the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

I would urge a ''yes'' vote on the cloture vote as well as on his nomination vote.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 709, Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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 Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''nay''.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 226 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—9

Fetterman	Lee	Scott (SC)
Hoeven	Menendez	Vance
Kelly	Romney	Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 39, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in a few minutes, Senator KLOBUCHAR, chair of the Rules Committee, will ask for a unanimous consent request on two bills: the Protect Elections from Deceptive AI Act and the AI Transparency in Elections Act.

I want to thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for her leadership on these bills and for her committee's bipartisan work to protect our elections from the potential harms of AI. Both of these bills, the Protect Elections from Deceptive AI Act and the AI Transparency in Elections Act, have bipartisan support, so the Senate should support them and pass them without delay.

Madam President, we are less than 100 days out from the first national elections ever held in the age of AI. We all know AI has many incredible benefits, but alongside those benefits come great risks; and the risks of AI for our elections could be severe. If we are not careful, if we fail to install proper guardrails, AI could jaundice and even totally discredit our entire election system as we know it.

Misinformation is already a serious problem in our elections, but AI makes it easier than ever to generate and spread it. It is easier than ever to create deepfakes of candidates. AI already has been used in robocalls to impersonate President Biden for the purposes of misleading voters during the primary. Once that information is out, it is hard—often impossible—to put the genie back in the bottle. Well, we have a chance today to pass precisely the kind of guardrails that would protect our elections from the risks of AI.

We have a chance today to make sure that our democracy is not atrophied or harmed, discredited, because of these kinds of misleading ads. These bipartisan bills would ban the use of materially misleading AI-generated deepfakes that depict Federal candidates and require disclaimers any time political ads use AI in a substantial way.

Most Americans, I think, would overwhelmingly agree that these are reasonable guardrails and they give voters peace of mind that AI isn't being used against them during election season without their knowledge. These bills have broad support. Democrats support these bills. Republicans support these bills. Over 40 current and former election officials and national security experts support these bills. Everyone recognizes the need to get something done. We are in a new world with AI. It can do a lot of good things, but it can cause some harms; and our job is to maximize the benefits but decrease the harms. One of the harms could be these deepfakes in elections, and we must do something about it.

A few months ago, I worked with the Senate's bipartisan AI working group, which I created a year ago with Senators HEINRICH and YOUNG and ROUNDS to publish the first ever roadmap for AI policy. Our roadmap detailed a swath of proposals the Senate should consider to fortify our democracy in the age of AI. I am very glad to see that some of the good ideas we called for in our AI policy roadmap are reflected in these two bills.

So I, again, greatly thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for championing these bills, for coming to our AI forums and hearing what had to be said and then beginning to take action to make sure the abuses don't occur.

I look forward to working further with Senator KLOBUCHAR, the Rules Committee, other chairs in committees to regulate AI before it is too late.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2770

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I thank the leader for his support for these bills, but also for his bipartisan work on artificial intelligence, including the group that he put together with Senator HEINRICH and Senator ROUNDS and Senator YOUNG to really lead a bipartisan effort. One of the major focuses of that effort has been doing something on the democracy front.

While some of these bills actually passed through the Commerce Committee today on a bipartisan basis to start the initial work of some sensible guardrails on AI, the democracy work actually can't wait because, as the leader pointed out, we are less than 100 days from this election; and we are seeing States act across the country—red States, blue States, purple States—putting some simple rules in place for this new sophisticated technology.

I always believed that our laws have to be as sophisticated as those that are trying to mess with them, and we cannot simply stand by on the Federal basis for the Federal elections—we are not talking about messing around with their State rules. They are doing their own rules. We are talking about Federal elections when it comes to involvement with AI.

AI, as we know, is set to become one of the most significant technological advances of our time. Like with any emerging technology, it brings tremendous opportunities, but it also brings tremendous risks and uncertainties. I think David Brooks, the columnist, put it well when he wrote:

> The people in A.I. seem to be experiencing radically different brain states all at once. I've found it incredibly hard to write about A.I. because it is literally unknowable whether this technology is leading us to heaven or hell.

Well, it is on us right now as the elected representatives of the people of this country to make the decision of what fork are we going to go on. If we put no guardrails in place when it comes to scams, when it comes to messing around with people's intellectual property rights, when it comes to national security, when it comes to democracy—which is our topic today—then we are not going to unleash the potential and the great opportunities of AI because we will not have put the guardrails in place to make it safe.

This means protecting ourselves from the significant risks AI poses without stifling innovation and working to preserve trust in business, government, and our elections, as we all adapt to this rapidly advancing technology.

With this year's election so soon in front of us, we must put in place these commonsense rules. We have heard repeatedly about the potential of AI to upend our election. All of our witnesses from both parties agreed that this was a threat when we had our hearing. And at the bipartisan AI forum that I just mentioned, there was consensus that Federal legislation is necessary; that disclaimers are not enough in some cases; and that it is critical to our national security.

By the way, these AI videos or fake robocalls or videos of people that aren't really the candidates that you don't like or you do like—if you don't know who you are watching, how are you going to be able to make your decision as a citizen in this great democracy?

And, by the way, these could be promoted by foreign governments, by foreign countries. We have seen this in Canada where they just completed an investigation and found that China had meddled in their elections, in their elections for parliament seats.

This is happening right now, and we need the ability to take these things off or at least label them so people know what they are viewing and what they are listening to. This is a hair-on-fire moment.

AI has the potential to turbocharge the spread of disinformation and deceive voters. This is happening to candidates on both sides. In the New

Hampshire primary on the Republican side, a video was released with fake AI-generated images of former President Trump hugging Dr. Fauci. That wasn't true. We have seen AI being used to generate viral misleading content about our colleagues in this Chamber, including a fake video with ELIZABETH WARREN—that wasn't really ELIZABETH WARREN—telling people that she didn't think that Republicans should be allowed to vote. Complete lie. It wasn't her. But it looked like her and talked like her.

We have seen this all over the country, and that is why States have been acting; 18 States across the country have already passed laws in this area, including my home State of Minnesota, which banned deepfakes of candidates 90 days before an election. Texas has a ban on deepfake videos of candidates. And that passed unanimously; the Minnesota bill, I think, one person voted against it. Democrats and Republicans joined together to say: We are not going to have these deepfakes because they could happen on either side, and our citizens aren't going to know who they are looking at and if it is the real Donald Trump or if it is the real KAMALA HARRIS or if it is the real AMY KLOBUCHAR or the real Senator FISCHER.

Other States who have done something on this: Alabama—these have been mostly disclaimers—Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. If you listen to those States, you are not like, Oh, those are all blue states. Oh, those are all red states. Those are Governors and legislatures that decided we cannot just take this as it is not going to be a problem, and it is all fun and games. They have decided that: We have got to make sure our citizens know, for State political advertising, what is going on here.

Some tech companies are also taking action because they know that this technology has a potential to sow chaos in elections, but we cannot rely on a patchwork of State laws for just about half the States—probably what it will end up being—and voluntary commitments, as important as those are.

That is why as chair of the Rules Committee, we held a markup in May where we passed three bipartisan bills to take this head on.

I am calling on the Senate today to pass, first of all, the bipartisan bill with Senator HAWLEY, the lead Republican with me on this bill; with Senator COONS, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, Senator BENNET, and many others to ban AI-generated deepfakes of Federal candidates, within the framework of the Constitution.

So what does that mean? Well, that means an exception for parody and satire as well as reporting by news organizations. So we drafted this bill with Democratic and Republican lawyers in a way that it could be upheld in court under the Constitution.

Our bill is supported by a bipartisan group of more than 40 national security experts and current former government officials, including former Secretaries of Defense Chuck Hagel, a Republican, and Leon Panetta, a Democrat, and Secretaries of State from both parties. It was also endorsed by the former Republican Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, Trevor Potter, as well as tech companies like OpenAI, Microsoft, IBM, and Salesforce.

These companies actually want to be able to say: This is a deepfake. It is not the actual candidate, and there is a law that says we have to take it down.

That is what this is about, as well as allowing the defamed candidate—the person who it is not really the person in the video or the ad or the robocall—to sue whoever has done this to them. That is the way in other areas in our law we are able to stop bad conduct.

In the House, a bipartisan companion bill is led by Representative DEREK KILMER of Washington and TONY GONZALES of Texas.

With election day approaching, we have the opportunity to come together on a bipartisan basis to counter the threats that AI poses to our elections and protect public trust and faith in our democracy.

Now, there is a second bill that I will call for in a moment that deals with things that are maybe parody or things that don't rise to the level of the deepfakes or are in a different category that could complement this bill as well. But this is for the worst of the worst. And that is why we have had strong support from a conservative like Senator HAWLEY, who certainly is aware of what the Constitution says and what our rights are; moderate Republican like Senator SUSAN COLLINS; and many others to support this bill. So now I will call for this bill.

As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 388, S. 2770; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, could I have the Senator please clarify which bill she called up.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Yes. This was the bill—

Mrs. FISCHER. 2770?

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 2770, which is the deepfake bill. The other bill is 3875, the Klobuchar-Murkowski bill, which is the disclaimer bill.

Mrs. FISCHER. Thank you.

Madam President, like many of my colleagues, I am concerned about artificial intelligence-generated deepfakes in the context of political speech and election administration. But the Protect Elections From Deceptive AI Act is not a solution to this problem. The bill recycles provisions from the partisan For the People Act. It is overly broad, and it would prohibit the distribution of political ads that include AI-generated audio or visuals, including commonly used image and video editing programs. It greatly expands the regulation of protected speech and uses vague terms that will inevitably chill that speech.

This bill does not balance First Amendment rights with the evolving challenges that we have with the digital age; and, therefore, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The objection is heard.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I will note again that Senator HAWLEY is the lead Republican on this bill, and I don't think for a minute that he would allow for a bill that is something that he disagrees with when it comes to being radical or broad or anything like that. He simply agrees with me, as does Senator COLLINS, that we have a major, major issue here with these deepfakes that are going to extend to, say, what happened in New Hampshire, which involved a fake robocall ad from President Biden that people believed was him calling on people not to vote. That case is, of course, being investigated by a Republican Attorney General, and a case is being brought in New Hampshire.

But the point is this is just the beginning. We haven't even entered the general election yet. That will start at the end of August. And so that is why time is of the essence here, and that is also why we drafted this bill with Democratic and Republican lawyers in a method that was narrowly tailored so that it would abide by the Constitution.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3875

Madam President, there is a second bill which is S. 3875, that Senator MURKOWSKI and I have. And, again, these two bills can mesh together. This is a bill that requires disclaimers on political ads substantially generated by AI. And I note ''substantially generated by AI.'' This is not about changing a hair color or doing a minor thing.

While we must ban the most deceptive deepfakes, as I have just described, in our elections, it is also critical that voters know if ads they are seeing are made with this technology. This would especially help in cases of parody; in cases where, for instance, the video that was recently posted this last weekend by Elon Musk—which is a lengthy video—which takes the voice of candidate KAMALA HARRIS, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, and puts her exact voice into words and sentences that she did not say. And while it is a parody and it wouldn't fall under the deepfake ban, it should require—even by X's own rules—a disclaimer

placed on this video; yet there was no disclaimer. And I am very afraid that if we are going to allow this stuff—believe me, some people see that and they need to be told it is generated by AI because when they only watch a few sentences of it and they actually think it is her saying these things—which, of course, it wasn't—because they piece together and scrape together her voice to say things that she didn't say, they are not going to know what it is.

And I talked to colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have seen these kind of things that are done with some humor so they don't make the cut for the deepfakes, but they believe that they should say that it is prepared by AI so that people at least realize it is not the real voice of the candidate they like or the candidate they don't like.

This bill, the bill with Senator MURKOWSKI, is about making sure that voters can make their own decisions about what they are seeing and hearing and how it is being used to influence their vote.

It is on solid Constitutional ground with the Supreme Court having repeatedly upheld disclosure laws. I just don't think, in the world, you are going to be able to say that this isn't Constitutional when the Supreme Court has held up these disclosure laws, and it simply gives our citizenry a way to evaluate whether or not that is a candidate's real voice or not.

There are days where—I cannot even believe I am saying this—when all of these conservative States like Mississippi have actually put these laws into place for their own State political advertising. But in this Chamber, when it comes to Federal candidates for the congressional seats and the Senate and the Presidency, we have just decided: Nope, we are just going to let this go. Let's see what happens. Let's not know if our citizens are going to understand if it is us or not. We are not even going to give them the courtesy of letting them know with a disclaimer that it is done with AI.

This bill incorporates feedback that we heard at a Rules Committee hearing by making clear that it does not apply when AI is used in minor ways, like for cosmetic adjustments, color editing, cropping.

Of the 18 States that have passed the laws to regulate AI in election, 8 States—across the political spectrum, as I noted, including Utah which passed this law unanimously—have enacted laws to require disclaimers for AI-generated political ads.

That would include the State of Florida. The State of Florida has put this in place. I never thought I would say that the State of Florida was more ahead of the Federal Government when it came to making sure that at least their citizens understood what they were seeing when they watched an ad.

Indiana, Idaho, New York, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Washington have all passed similar laws to this one.

So unless we are going to claim those laws, that DeSantis signed a law that was unconstitutional—my colleagues, if they want to claim that, I don't believe for a minute it is unconstitutional.

And while some tech companies now have policies to require disclaimers on ads like this, with this year's election approaching, we need a consistent standard. That is why this bill was endorsed by the same group of over 40 national security experts and current and former senior government officials on both sides of the aisle.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan measure to increase transparency in our elections and ensure voters are informed as they cast their ballot later this year.

Senator FISCHER and I have worked together very well, chair and ranking member of this committee; and I am still hopeful that, at least for this bill, when we come back in the fall, that we will be able to work something out so at least disclaimers are required.

Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 389, S. 3875; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the AI Transparency in Elections Act echoes the Honest Ads Act and the DISCLOSE Act.

Those bills failed to become law because they created new Federal burdens on the foundational right of Americans to free speech. Adding a new definition of AI to these partisan bills does not resolve these concerns.

I would welcome a thoughtful policy proposal to address the actual concerns posed by AI-generated deepfakes. Instead, my colleagues are attempting to recycle an already failed proposal, and, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, with this year's election now in less than 100 days, we must put in place commonsense rules of the road to address the risk that AI poses for our democracy.

The risks are clear: We have heard repeatedly about the potential for AI to upend our elections. All of our witnesses, from both parties, agreed that this was a threat when we had our Rules Committee hearing.

And at the bipartisan AI forum, led by Leader SCHUMER, with Senators ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG, we heard consensus that Federal legislation is necessary; that disclaimers are necessary for certain ads. And for others, we simply must take them down when they are pretending to be a candidate and deliberately and intentionally misleading voters. I don't care what party does it. I don't care what super PAC does it. There is absolutely no way—and these State legislatures have agreed with me, nearly unanimously, that we shouldn't at least have a disclaimer on them, much less to ban them, which is what Senators HAWLEY and COLLINS and COONS and I are suggesting in the deepfake bill.

This is a hair-on-fire moment. AI has the potential to turbocharge the spread of disinformation and deceive voters. This is why we must take action. And I hope that when people see what is going on through August, when sometimes early voting has started, we will give at least the tools to the platforms to be able to point to a Federal law—most of these other State laws have just been adopted in the last few months—and say this is not OK; that they have a right to at least require a disclaimer on these ads, just like they do on TV for various things—and we have all seen it—so that we know what is going on.

Democracy dies in the darkness, as one newspaper has said. And we are literally putting a veil over people's faces if we are not allowing them to assess whether or not the person is really the person that they are looking at on their phone or hearing in a robocall.

I just think it is outrageous if we let this continue. And I appreciate that there are Republican Governors in States and Republican legislatures who have actually seen this as I see it and that there is bipartisan support for this in the U.S. Senate. And I hope that in the fall we will revisit this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, America has always been a place where, if you work hard, you can get ahead. But it is a lot more challenging in the Biden economy.

Inflation has dealt working families a series of setbacks that have made it harder to get ahead, and it is, in large part, due this administration's reckless spending.

Madam President, 3½ years ago, Vice President HARRIS cast her first tiebreaking votes in the Senate to advance a $1.9 trillion spending bill under the guise of pandemic relief.

She and our Democratic colleagues had been warned that that level of spending risked setting off inflation unlike any we had seen in a generation, but they passed it anyway.

And inflation began to take off almost immediately. And 3 years later, prices have gone up more than 20 percent; groceries are up 21 percent; the cost of car repairs are up 31 percent; energy costs have gone up 40 percent.

Nearly every aspect of daily life is more expensive in the Biden-Harris economy, and Americans are struggling to make ends meet. More than

one-third of Americans are worried about paying their bills. They are pulling back on their spending and putting more on their credit cards. Some people are even taking on extra work just to get by, but sometimes it is still not enough.

As one new mom in Missouri put it:

It's just hard. I work full time. My husband works full time. I feel like at this point, we're moving more towards survival mode, rather than thriving.

Another mom in Virginia says of her sons and their wives:

[E]verybody is working as absolutely hard as they can. They are not farther ahead than my husband and I were 30 years ago.

Another woman, in Pennsylvania, who is working two jobs, says:

Prior to inflation, I didn't have any debt, I didn't have any credit cards, never applied for like a payday loan or any of those things. But since inflation I needed to do all those things. . . . I've had to downgrade my life completely.

They are not alone. For many Americans, life in the Biden-Harris economy feels like a downgrade. It now costs a typical family $13,000 more per year just to maintain the same standard of living it enjoyed when President Biden took office—$13,000 more per year just to tread water.

That is an incredible strain on families' budgets. And it is not just higher prices. Measures to tame inflation have also added to Americans' financial pain.

To fight inflation, the Federal Reserve has been forced to keep interest rates high, which affects Americans' finances in a variety of ways.

As I said, many Americans have turned to credit cards to cope with inflation. And higher interest rates, in part, the result of the Feds' actions, are making credit card bills harder to pay down. The same is true for car payments.

And Americans looking to own their own home are facing what one housing expert called ''the most challenging home buying market we have ever seen.''

The average monthly mortgage payment is a staggering $2,6000—the result of a combination of higher mortgage rates and higher home prices.

The White House has spent a lot of time trying to spin the economy as strong, but the American people aren't buying it. An economy where people are working harder and still struggling to get by isn't what most Americans consider a strong economy. And it can't be America's future.

I said inflation began accelerating as a result of Democrats' reckless spending. That is not a Republican talking point. It is a fact with which Democrat economists agree.

Yet the Biden-Harris administration and congressional Democrats show no signs of backing off their reckless tax-and-spending agenda. In fact, it is clear they envision a lot more of the same.

The administration's latest budget request is filled with burdensome new taxes and trillions in new spending. They want to see the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expire, which would mean more tax increases. And Democrats still have plenty of tax-and-spending ideas they would like to implement.

The American people have suffered enough. I don't want to think about what kind of economic pain we could see from another 4 years of Democrats' reckless spending. And I hope—I sincerely hope—that the American people will not have to experience it.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 785, S. Res. 786, S. Res. 787, and S. Res. 788.

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

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 20 minutes prior to the scheduled votes and that Senator CARDIN be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled votes.

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

TRIBUTE TO RON FORMAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I want to speak for a few minutes about a favorite son in Louisiana, but to do that, I have to give my remarks a little context.

I think, like most Americans and, I know, like the Presiding Officer, I love animals. I grew up in a rural area in Louisiana. And let's see. We had dogs—not all at the same time, but we had dogs. We had cats. We had hamsters. We had chipmunks. We had squirrels. We had alligators, baby alligators.

Now, the danger of a baby alligator is that they become a big alligator, and we used to keep our little, baby alligators—their names were Tim and Tubo—in a big washbasin in our backyard, and we put wire on the top. The alligators—they were about this long—were in the tub. Why would we keep wire on the top? Because the neighborhood cats would try to get in there and eat them.

Well, Tim and Tubo grew, and they grew, and they grew, and, one day, we forgot to put the screen wire on the top of the washbasin with the water in which Tim and Tubo were residing. By this time, they were about this long. And one of our neighbor's favorite cats, all of a sudden, just had three legs. And we had to release Tim and Tubo at that point.

Dad said: No, Tim and Tubo are too big. We have got to release them back to the swamp.

Well, I remember we had a baby possum, and I am probably leaving some varmints out. But I love animals. I especially love dogs. I have two at home. I wouldn't ask Becky to choose between me and our pups. And I love when people bring their dogs to work.

I am not going to wade into this fierce debate about what kind of pet and what kind of animal is best, but I think we can all agree that there is a special bond between our species and our animal friends. Animals can teach us a lot. Animals teach us love. Animals teach us patience. Animals teach us compassion. Animals, especially dogs, teach us responsibility. Animals teach us to appreciate God's creation. Through our connection with animals, including but not limited to dogs, we all gain a deeper respect for the world around us.

Now, in Louisiana, we are blessed to have many animal havens. Some of our animals, of course, are wild. I can remember in my State when alligators were almost extinct. Now we have more alligators than people. By the way, the alligators are surprisingly well organized. So be careful.

But we also have a lot of zoos. We have aquariums, none better than those in New Orleans, and those of you who have been to New Orleans may know this. New Orleans is home to what we call the Audubon Nature Institute. That is a nonprofit that we set up in Louisiana. It operates the Audubon Zoo in Uptown New Orleans; the Audubon Aquarium on the riverfront, down near the French Quarter—the Audubon Aquarium and Insectarium we call it; the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center; the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species; and the Audubon Coastal Wildlife Network. It is sort of our group of institutions all under the umbrella of the Audubon Nature Institute, and they also do world-class research and work in conservation.

Every year, the Audubon Nature Institute and all of its institutions that make it up bring thousands of Louisianians and hundreds of thousands of visitors in our State closer to nature. It fuels our love for wildlife, and it fuels our love for the outdoors.

Audubon Park, where our zoo is located—our first institution before we added the aquarium and the other animal havens—wasn't always a prized institution. It wasn't. One man—one person—had a lot of help, but one person

led the effort to turn what most of us once referred to as an animal ghetto—our zoo in Audubon Park. It was. It was an animal ghetto but what today we call both an animal haven and an animal heaven. That man's name is Ron Forman—Ron Forman.

Ron joined the Audubon Park and Zoo in 1972. That seems like yesterday to me, but to our pages here in the front row, it is a long time ago. Ron started when he was young. He started as a liaison to city hall in New Orleans.

At the time, the zoo in Audubon Park was a disaster. It was just a disaster. The enclosures for the animals were small. They were dirty. They were really filthy. They were prison-like. Ron was asked to describe them one time.

He said:

They are prison-like.

This is unacceptable. The condition in which we placed our animals was an embarrassment to the city. It was an embarrassment to the people of Louisiana, and the people knew it. Ron Forman sensed that. He had the vision to be able to say: You know, I can lead an effort. I am not just going to go to government and ask for a bunch of money. I can lead an effort, Ron said, in the community to build support for the zoo, and he did.

He not only improved the zoo—we have an aquarium. We have an insectarium. We have an R&D—a research and development—park. We have a conservation park. Ron Forman delivered. He delivered for the human species, and he delivered for our animal friends.

By 1977, Ron had climbed the ranks, and he became director of the Audubon Zoo. Then he took off and so did our zoo and our animal havens. He led the effort to transform Audubon Park, which you know is right across from Tulane University, into the Audubon Nature Institute, which, as I said, is the nonprofit conservation and zoological system we know today.

Ron helped—and he had a lot of help. I mean, there are thousands of people who contributed, but Ron led the charge. He helped transform a cramped and dirty zoo into a state-of-the-art conservation network, including a zoo, an aquarium, an insectarium, gardens, research institutions, and conservation efforts. And the Audubon Nature Institute has thrived. It hasn't been easy, but it has thrived in large part, in substantial part because of Ron Forman.

Now, we got hit by Hurricane Katrina, and it was bad. When we did, the Audubon Zoo and the insectarium and the aquarium and Audubon Park were terribly damaged. Ron didn't get discouraged. He saw the zoo, for example, as a beacon of hope—not as an object of depression but as a beacon of hope.

First of all, because of the precautions that he and his team took, we only lost three animals in the storm at the zoo. And if you have been to the zoo, there are trees everywhere. It is just a small miracle. God smiled on us in that respect. The aquarium, unfortunately, down on the river, suffered substantial, substantial losses.

It wasn't easy to rebuild all of those facilities. It was very, very hard, but Ron Forman understood. He understood instinctively that we needed to get these institutions back up on their feet because families needed a place to go to forget their hardships.

Hurricane Katrina hit in late August. Ron Forman stood up. I thought he had lost his mind. He stood up, and he said: I am going to have Audubon Zoo reopened by Thanksgiving weekend.

We were hitting August. Forman stands up in front of God, country, and Louisiana and says: I am going to have the zoo open by November.

I thought Ron had been day drinking. I said: It can't be done.

I didn't say that publicly. I thought, if anybody can do it, Ron Forman can. He did.

This is what he said. He said: We are a city without kids and families, and a city without kids and families right now—because so many of our families and kids have left—is a city without soul. It is a city without heart. So we just thought it was critical to get the thing open for Thanksgiving weekend.

And he did. The zoo opened on Thanksgiving weekend. We were able to give thousands of parents and children a sense of normalcy and optimism during the holiday season at a very difficult time for my State and for my city.

Now, Ron also led us through the COVID–19 pandemic. Like many businesses and many institutions, the Audubon Zoo and Aquarium and Gardens had to close or restrict attendance to try to help stop the spread of the virus. Attendance at the zoo dropped 50 percent—50 percent. We had almost no cashflow. Under different leadership, we wouldn't have made it. We wouldn't have made it, but we had a secret weapon. We had Ron Forman, because Ron had the passion, and he had the business sense, and he had the support of the community and the support of government to guide the nonprofit through the pandemic.

Now, for the first time in 50 years, Louisiana is looking for a new leader for the Audubon Nature Institute because Ron is stepping down.

I am sad to see him go. I am happy for him. He is still going to stay on as president emeritus, and we are still going to be able to access his big heart and tap his big brain, but we are going to have a new leader. But thank God Ron is going to stick around for a while to continue his advocacy while we look for a new CEO.

Ron Forman made the Audubon Zoo—he made New Orleans home to one of the country's—one of the world's best zoos. He made New Orleans home to one of the world's best aquariums and best insectariums and best research and development centers and best conservation efforts. He didn't do it alone, but he led us, and that is why I wanted to rise today. I just wanted to thank Ron. I wanted to thank Ron Forman for his vision. I wanted to thank Ron Forman for his guts. Some of the things Ron did were not always popular. They were right. But it took courage. I want to thank Ron Forman for his dedication. I want to thank Ron Forman for his love of animals, and I want to thank Ron Forman for his love of people. He brought us all together in New Orleans. I just will never forget him for what he did for us.

So, Ron, if you are listening, thank you, my friend, for giving so much to our animal friends. Thank you, Ron Forman, for giving so much to the people of Louisiana and the people of America. Thank you, Ron Forman, for your leadership.

I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

COMMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE MINNESOTA FOR WINNING THE INAUGURAL PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE TITLE ON MAY 29, 2024

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology be discharged of S. Res. 750 and the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 750, S. Res. 789, and S. Res. 790.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant resolution, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 750) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 20, 2024, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The resolutions (S. Res. 789 and S. Res. 790) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

NOMINATION OF DOROTHY CAMILLE SHEA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, shortly we are going to be voting on the cloture motion for the confirmation of Dorothy Shea, the nominee for Deputy U.S. Representative to the United Nations.

I come to the floor today as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We have recommended to the Senate in a very strong bipartisan vote the support of Dorothy Shea to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

We need a full team in place to fight for the interests of the United States and our allies at the United Nations; to counter adversaries like China and Russia; to work with our allies to respond to conflicts, from Ukraine to Sudan; to ensure that the United States is at the table for conversations on the role of technology and AI; and to stand up against anti-Semitism on the global stage. Yet our mission to the United Nations has been without a Senate-confirmed Deputy for nearly 2 years.

This post is not only crucial to managing the safety and security of U.S. and foreign personnel during U.N. meetings of heads of State in New York in September, the Deputy plays a key role in the policy planning process.

At a time when strong U.S. leadership at the U.N. is so important, we need someone in this post who has experience tackling the complexities of the United Nations General Assembly; someone who will make sure the U.N. is positioned to take on the challenges of the future, including reforms; someone who will multiply our engagement in the Security Council and General Assembly, working alongside Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield; someone who is not afraid to stand up for American values. That is why, as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I fully support Dorothy Shea's confirmation to this post.

Ambassador Shea has decades of experience working in the Foreign Service, at the State Department, and with the National Security Council. She is a career senior Foreign Service officer who has proudly served both Democratic and Republican administrations for 32 years, including working for colleagues across the aisle on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

While she was our chief diplomat in Lebanon, Ambassador Shea was awarded the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award for sustained extraordinary accomplishment. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her deep commitment and ability to advance U.S. interests.

At a time of war and escalating humanitarian crises worldwide, we can count on Ambassador Shea to represent U.S. interests at the United Nations. From advancing the peace process in the Middle East and Sudan, to revitalizing the global humanitarian system, to implementing institutional reforms at the United Nations, she will work to find solutions to our global challenges.

I strongly urge support for her nomination. I urge my colleagues to support the cloture on her nomination so that we can get a confirmed Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH F. SAPORITO, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Joseph Saporito to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Born in Pittston, PA, Judge Saporito received his B.A. from Villanova University and his J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law. He then entered private practice in Pittston, where he represented clients in a wide variety of matters, including criminal defense, civil litigation, and commercial transactions. He tried more than 60 cases to verdict in which he was either sole counsel or chief counsel. In addition, he served as a part-time assistant public defender in the Luzerne County Office of the Public Defender and as a part-time law clerk in the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Since 2015, Judge Saporito has served as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Wilkes-Barre. He has served as the chief magistrate judge since February 2024. During his time on the bench, he has handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters at various stages of litigation, and he has presided over 16 civil trials, including 14 jury trials.

Judge Saporito has deep ties to the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He enjoys the strong support of both of his home State Senators, Mr. CASEY and Mr. FETTERMAN, and the American Bar Association unanimously rated him as ''well qualified'' to serve on the district court.

Judge Saporito's extensive litigation background and his courtroom experience as both an advocate and magistrate judge ensure that he will continue to be an asset to the district court. I am proud to support his nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON SAPORITO NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears be to a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''nay.''

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 227 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kennedy	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	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—8

Fetterman	Menendez	Vance
Hoeven	Romney	Warner
Kelly	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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. 582, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Laphonza R. Butler, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Mazie K. Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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 Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-

Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, 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. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 228 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—36

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

NOT VOTING—10

Booker	Menendez	Vance
Fetterman	Romney	Warner
Hoeven	Scott (SC)	
Manchin	Stabenow	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

SUPPLEMENTAL DISASTER FUNDING

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, Vermonters are experiencing a lot of anguish now. This photograph depicts flooding that we had in Barre a year ago and is here with us again. A year to the day, we had a return of flooding. We had devastating flooding in 2023.

Parts of the Northeast Kingdom, 2 weeks later, would flood again. They were hit with 8 inches of rain—heavy rain—which caused more flash floods in the Northeast Kingdom. And today—today—6 more inches of rain is in the forecast.

I come to the Senate floor tonight, when Vermont is in crisis, and I am asking for my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, for us to come together and approve the President's supplemental disaster funding request. It will help Vermonters rebuild from heavy rains, flash flooding, and mudslides that have brutally devastated our State. It will help other communities around the Nation that have had their own weather events that have done so much harm to their communities.

One year ago this month, the heavy rainfall required 214 swift boat water rescues—literally, some of our first responder folks showing up in boats to help people get out of their homes. Infrastructure was really hit hard, with 409 miles of rail, 64 State bridges, and 46 State roads closed. Madam President, 139 of our municipalities experienced flood-related damage. There was $553 million in public assistance need reported and $118 million for businesses on their damages. We also saw 18 drinking water and 33 wastewater systems damaged. Three wastewater systems were totally destroyed.

President Biden has revised his disaster supplemental request to account for Vermont's disaster last year. That will help us immensely, but Vermont absolutely needs the increased funding. The Department of Transportation Emergency Relief Program and the Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund all need supplemental funding, as well as more funding for the Department of Transportation CDBG disaster recovery grants. Those are flexible and really help the communities. That is needed very, very much.

And today I joined with my colleagues from Vermont, Senator SANDERS and Representative BALINT, in urging congressional leadership and bipartisan Appropriations Committee leadership to advance a supplemental package quickly.

We need Federal dollars to help support our farms. Our businesses need help. Families need help. So many families, hard-working Vermonters, were hit by these floods; 18 shelters opened, and over 3,000 households were approved for FEMA housing assistance.

And this is really, really tough, Madam President. Vermont is on a long road to recovery. We are resilient, and we believe that brighter days are ahead. But for many families, this is the second time in 2 years. And how much can they really endure, especially when getting answers down the road from FEMA gets very complicated, very bureaucratic, and inflicts a lot of emotional pain that could be avoided if we could be quicker and faster.

I have promised Vermonters that I would bring their voices to the Senate with me and share their stories. In the past month, I have been to Montpelier, Hardwick, Barnet, St. Johnsbury, Peacham, and Lyndonville to visit with homeowners, businesses, farms, and communities impacted by the flooding.

Hardwick lost four bridges in flooding this month. Three of those bridges were wiped out last year—the second time in 2 years. And these are small communities where folks on the select board are also the emergency responders; they are also the health officer. And they are incredible, what they do. The Presiding Officer knows this from her own service as Senator and as Governor. It is amazing how resilient they are. But they can't do it alone. They need our help.

I met with a Vermont farmer in Hardwick, somebody who started years ago what has become a very successful enterprise but also a farm-to-table, farm-to-farmstand business model in Vermont. He lost topsoil, and many of his crops were destroyed. A restaurant owner in Lyndonville had to make the tough decision to close instead of reopening. And Lyndonville was hit again in the middle of the night just 2 days ago.

Healthcare leaders in the area are also very worried about mental health and the stress on families. Every time they see a homeowner—parents—where their homes have been wiped out, the overriding concern they have is for the well-being of their kids and the stability that they need to restore to their kids. And when that happens 2 years in a row, that is asking a lot.

In Peacham, I talked with two families whose homes were so damaged that there is no reasonable prospect that they will be repaired. They can only hope for the home to be bought out. But, again, that takes response that we are not getting, oftentimes, down the road with the bureaucracy, unfortunately, that we have to, I think, fix.

In Barnet, I met farmers who were trying to salvage what they could and

make the best of the remainder of the season.

And again, I am speaking to the Presiding Officer, who just knows this from our shared border. The folks on the Presiding Officer's side of the river and my side of the river have a lot in common, and we admire them; but we have got to do our part here in Congress to help them help themselves.

I have sat down with small business owners in Montpelier and across the State, and they are struggling with the high cost of recovery from last year's flooding. Many have been hit twice or three times over. Those spared by the flooding are feeling, nevertheless, the impacts of the lost revenue because business has declined in the area.

Madam President, the Federal funding is really, really critical for Vermont. It is not just Vermont. I know my colleague Senator SCHATZ from Hawaii, who is chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee, is working very hard because it is his community, it is Vermont, it is Houston, it is communities throughout the country that are being affected by these once-in-100-year weather events that are coming every year or every 2 years. It is really happening.

We can't recover without that Federal help. I just can't stress this enough. We need Congress to step up, and we need the help of all of us here because, while it is Vermont this time, it may be New Hampshire next time; it may be Texas next month. And I believe all of us have to help one another when an event occurs causing such harm to people we represent and it is through no fault of their own.

Now, it is disappointing to me, to say the least, that Congress is getting ready to go on a recess without having gotten this done. It is my hope that getting disaster funding will be a top priority when we come back in September—not just for Vermont but for all of the communities around the country that need Congress to act.

Vermont's communities and communities across the country are counting on us. I implore my colleagues, all of us: Let's do this, first order of business, when we return in September.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 719 through 740, 742 through 763, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and the Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

The following named officer for appointment as Surgeon General of the Air Force and for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9036:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John J. DeGoes

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Brian S. Eifler

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Army Reserve and appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7038:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Robert D. Harter

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Mark H. Landes

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Paul T. Stanton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Matthew W. McFarlane

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Steven G. Behmer
Brig. Gen. William D. Betts
Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Campo
Brig. Gen. Michael E. Conley
Brig. Gen. Colin J. Connor
Brig. Gen. Luke C.G. Cropsey
Brig. Gen. Robert D. Davis
Brig. Gen. Gerald A. Donohue
Brig. Gen. Lyle K. Drew
Brig. Gen. Russell D. Driggers
Brig. Gen. Michael R. Drowley
Brig. Gen. David S. Eaglin
Brig. Gen. Gregory Kreuder
Brig. Gen. Joseph D. Kunkel
Brig. Gen. Jefferson J. O'Donnell
Brig. Gen. Derek J. O'Malley
Brig. Gen. Neil R. Richardson
Brig. Gen. Frank R. Verdugo

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. John M. Schutte

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Lucas J. Teel

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David Wilson

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Justin W. Osberg

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Ryan

The following named officer for appointment as Director, Army National Guard and appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10506:

To be lieutenant general

Brig. Gen. Jonathan M. Stubbs

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Engineers and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7036:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. William H. Graham, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Andree G. Carter
Brig. Gen. Kelly M. Dickerson
Brig. Gen. Michael J. Dougherty
Brig. Gen. Jake S. Kwon
Brig. Gen. Robert S. Powell, Jr.
Brig. Gen. David M. Samuelsen
Brig. Gen. Matthew S. Warne
Brig. Gen. Michael L. Yost

To be brigadier general

Col. Clint A. Barnes
Col. Manu L. Davis
Col. Dawn M. Johnson
Col. Kyson M. Johnson
Col. Craig C. McFarland
Col. Shaun P. Miller
Col. Christopher R. Piland
Col. Mitchell J. Wisniewski, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment

in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Brian R. Abraham
Col. Brion J. Aderman
Col. Diane M. Armbruster
Col. Andrew W. Ballenger
Col. Gloria A. Berlanga
Col. Donald C. Brewer, III
Col. Matthew M. Brown
Col. Mac B. Carter
Col. Catherine L. Cherry
Col. Brett D. Compston
Col. Matthew W. Cooper
Col. Kevin P. Crawford
Col. Steven M. Davenport
Col. Robert B. Deaton
Col. Philip R. DeMontigny
Col. Matthew O. DiNenna
Col. William L. Dionne
Col. William M. DiProfio
Col. Michael G. Dykes
Col. Cathleen A. Eaken
Col. Paul D. Gapinski
Col. William B. Gentle
Col. Ronald C. Guernsey, II
Col. Matthew R. Handy
Col. James H. Hankins, Jr.
Col. David R. Hatcher, II
Col. Jeffrey A. Heaton
Col. Vance R. Holland
Col. Paul W. Hollenack
Col. Matthew R. James
Col. Christopher M. Johnson
Col. Franklin L. Jones
Col. Matthew J. Jonkey
Col. Mark G. Kappelmann
Col. Charles H. Lampe
Col. Jason C. Lefton
Col. Natalie L. Lewellen
Col. Danial Lister
Col. Joel F. Lynch
Col. Chris M. Mabis
Col. John S. MacDonald
Col. Michael P. Marciniak
Col. Kris J. Marshall
Col. Christopher J. Martindale
Col. Bradley O. Martsching
Col. Tanya S. McGonegal
Col. Frank J. McGovern, IV
Col. Francis R. Montgomery
Col. David A. Moore
Col. Joe E. Murdock
Col. Derald R. Neugebauer
Col. Timothy J. Newman
Col. Kevin P. O'Brien
Col. Richard F. Oberman
Col. Jason D. Oberton
Col. James K. Perrin, Jr.
Col. Mark D. Phillips
Col. John P. Plunkett
Col. Leonard J. Poirier
Col. Matthew N. Porter
Col. Ryan S. Price
Col. Cregg M. Puckett
Col. James B. Richmond
Col. Steven T. Rivera
Col. Dennis M. Rohler
Col. Scott J. Rohweder
Col. Arthur C. Roscoe, Jr.
Col. Chad M. Roudebush
Col. David P. Santos, Jr.
Col. Steven J. Siemonsma
Col. Barry B. Simmons
Col. Michael J. Sipples
Col. Benjamin J. Sprouse
Col. Barbara P. Tucker
Col. Mark C. Turner
Col. Ansel M. Tyndall, II
Col. Gabriel V. Vargas
Col. Robert H. Walter, Jr.
Col. Eric C. Wieland
Col. Carlin G. Williams
Col. Leonard A. Williams
Col. Roger B. Zeigler

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 156:

To be brigadier general

Col. Eric W. Widmar

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Troy E. Armstrong
Brig. Gen. John B. Bowlin
Brig. Gen. Sean T. Boyette
Brig. Gen. Felicia Brokaw
Brig. Gen. Martin M. Clay, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Hopkins, III
Brig. Gen. Kipling V. Kahler
Brig. Gen. Haldane B. Lamberton
Brig. Gen. Derek N. Lipson
Brig. Gen. Laura A. McHugh
Brig. Gen. Jason P. Nelson
Brig. Gen. John R. Pippy
Brig. Gen. David K. Pritchett
Brig. Gen. Daniel L. Pulvermacher
Brig. Gen. Bren D. Rogers
Brig. Gen. James P. Schreffler
Brig. Gen. Leland T. Shepherd
Brig. Gen. Robin B. Stilwell
Brig. Gen. Jonathan M. Stubbs
Brig. Gen. John M. Wallace
Brig. Gen. Richard A. Wholey
Brig. Gen. Teri D. Williams

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Daniel W. Dwyer

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Michael E. Boyle

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Stephanie R. Ahern
Brig. Gen. Guillaume N. Beaurpere
Brig. Gen. Frederick L. Crist
Brig. Gen. Sean P. Davis
Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Ellis
Brig. Gen. Jasper Jeffers, III
Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell
Brig. Gen. Michael B. Lalor
Brig. Gen. Francisco J. Lozano
Brig. Gen. Constantin E. Nicolet
Brig. Gen. Kimberly A. Peeples
Brig. Gen. Philip J. Ryan
Brig. Gen. Christopher D. Schneider
Brig. Gen. Jason C. Slider
Brig. Gen. James D. Turinetti, IV
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. VanAntwerp

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh, Jr.

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Daniel R. McDonough

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Nathan P. Aysta
Col. Jerry B. Bancroft, Jr.
Col. Diana M. Brown
Col. Jason K. Brugman
Col. Marcia L. Cole
Col. Joe A. Dessenberger
Col. Michael S. Dunkin
Col. Amanda B. Evans
Col. Robert C. Gellner
Col. Ashley E. Groves
Col. Matthew M. Groves
Col. Darren E. Hamilton
Col. Todd A. Hofford
Col. Anthony A. Lujan
Col. Matthew R. McDonough
Col. Byron B. Newell
Col. Nelson E. Perron
Col. Jon M. Taylor
Col. Jamielyn G. Thompson
Col. Kurt D. Tongren
Col. Joshua C. Waggoner
Col. David R. Wright

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. David R. Chauvin

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. John D. Blackburn
Col. Yvonne L. Mays
Col. Michael B. Meason

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Matthew F. Blue
Col. Scott A. Blum
Col. Laura P. Caputo
Col. Michael A. Ferrario
Col. Cory J. Kestel
Col. Jason O. Klumb
Col. Adam E. Rogge
Col. Sky W. Smith
Col. Stuart M. Solomon

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Patrick D. Chard
Col. Daniel P. Finnegan
Col. Brian R. Jusseaume
Col. Thomas G. Olander, Jr.
Col. Steven B. Rice
Col. Martin E. Timko
Col. Trenton N. Twedt
Col. Adam G. Wiggins
Col. Adria P. Zuccaro

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael W. Bank

Brig. Gen. Matthew A. Barker
Brig. Gen. Kimberly A. Baumann
Brig. Gen. Bradford R. Everman
Brig. Gen. Christopher K. Faurot
Brig. Gen. Mark A. Goodwill
Brig. Gen. Henry U. Harder, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Erik A. Peterson
Brig. Gen. Frank W. Roy
Brig. Gen. Kimbra L. Sterr

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael T. Venerdi

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Akshai M. Gandhi
Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen
Brig. Gen. Jori A. Robinson
Brig. Gen. Michael D. Stohler

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Peter G. Bailey
Brig. Gen. Donald R. Bevis, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Michele L. Kigore
Brig. Gen. Victor R. Macias
Brig. Gen. Bryony A. Terrell

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Kevin V. Doyle
Brig. Gen. Cassandra D. Howard
Brig. Gen. Robert I. Kinney
Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Schuerman
Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Sheppard

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. John D. Lamontagne

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael L. Ahmann

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael L. Downs

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Evan L. Pettus

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Joel B. Vowell

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Curtis A. Buzzard

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Edmond M. Brown

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Peter A. Garvin

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1669 AIR FORCE nomination of Matthew J. Vargas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 30, 2024.

PN1842 AIR FORCE nomination of Scott D. Hopkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1844 AIR FORCE nomination of Elizabeth B. Mathias, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1845 AIR FORCE nomination of Matthew I. Horner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1859 AIR FORCE nomination of Colton T. Cash, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1860 AIR FORCE nomination of Bradley J. Marron, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1923 AIR FORCE nominations (123) beginning TRAVIS P. ABEITA, and ending ERIC T. YERLY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1924 AIR FORCE nominations (38) beginning ANDREW KYLE BALDWIN, and ending DESBAH ROSE YAZZIE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1925 AIR FORCE nominations (71) beginning ELENA A. AMSPACHER, and ending KRISTINA M. ZUCCARELLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1926 AIR FORCE nominations (47) beginning EDISON I. ABEYTA, and ending MIKE B. YOUN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1928 AIR FORCE nominations (279) beginning SAMORY AHMIR ABDULRAHEEM, and ending ANDREW K. ZIMMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1929 AIR FORCE nominations (547) beginning NEILS J. ABDERHALDEN, and ending MATTHEW A. ZIMMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1930 AIR FORCE nominations (231) beginning CHASTINE R. ABUEG, and ending MASON T. WORKMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

PN1846 ARMY nomination of Joshua A. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1847 ARMY nomination of Matthew F. Fouquier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1848 ARMY nominations (2) beginning VEGAS V. COLEMAN, and ending MATTHEW A. DUGARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1849 ARMY nomination of Hannah E. Choi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1850 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEVEN P. PERRY, JR., and ending REBECCA D. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1851 ARMY nominations (9) beginning ROY A. GEORGE, and ending ANTHONY J. SMITHHART, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1852 ARMY nomination of Gary Levy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1853 ARMY nomination of 0003824486, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1854 ARMY nominations (61) beginning JESSE J. ADAMSON, and ending HEUNG S. YOO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1855 ARMY nominations (17) beginning MATTHEW D. ATKINS, and ending CHRISTOPHER W. WALLACE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1856 ARMY nominations (4) beginning JOSEPH T. CONLEY, III, and ending RODNEY P. KELLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1857 ARMY nomination of Richard T. Hill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1858 ARMY nomination of Timothy J. Leone, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1861 ARMY nomination of Ramon R. Gonzalez Figueroa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1862 ARMY nomination of Ivan J. Serpaperez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1863 ARMY nomination of Adam R. Mann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1864 ARMY nomination of Cody S. Foister, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1865 ARMY nominations (291) beginning MICHAEL L. ABLE, and ending RYAN J.

ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1931 ARMY nomination of Thomas S. Randall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1932 ARMY nomination of Edwin Rodriguez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1933 ARMY nomination of Robert L. Wooten, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1934 ARMY nomination of Jason P. Haggard, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1935 ARMY nomination of Mark T. Moore, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1936 ARMY nomination of John A. Temme, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1937 ARMY nominations (49) beginning JOHN M. AGUILAR, JR., and ending ERIC T. PELOSI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1999 ARMY nomination of Dewee S. Debusk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2024.

PN2000 ARMY nomination of Kyle Y. Tobara, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2024.

PN2001 ARMY nominations (4) beginning DANIEL E. BALL, and ending CHRISTOPHER E. POWERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2024.

PN2002 ARMY nominations (4) beginning SHANNON D. HUNTLEY, and ending WILLIAM D. VANPOOL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2024.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1524 MARINE CORPS nomination of Julie N. Marek, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2024.

IN THE NAVY

PN1866 NAVY nomination of Juan J. Barba-Jaume, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1867 NAVY nomination of Riccardo S. Hicks, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1868 NAVY nomination of Nathan K. Magare, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1869 NAVY nominations (14) beginning JAMES E. BARCLAY, and ending JUSTUS E. STECKMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1870 NAVY nominations (12) beginning ADAM M. BARONI, and ending LOUDON A. WESTGARD, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1871 NAVY nominations (5) beginning DENNIS J. CRUMP, and ending MATTHEW S. MAUPIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1872 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JOSEPH M. FEDERICO, and ending BRYAN J. KAUFFMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1873 NAVY nominations (52) beginning CHRISTOPHER M. ANDREWS, and ending ANDREW C. WYMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1874 NAVY nominations (12) beginning RAFAL B. BANEK, and ending JAMEY R. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1875 NAVY nominations (10) beginning THOMAS P. BYRNES, and ending RAY L. WOLCOTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1876 NAVY nominations (5) beginning FRANCIS A. GOIRAN, and ending SARAH D. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1877 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JOHN F. LANDIS, and ending RYAN MURPHY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1878 NAVY nominations (16) beginning JOSEPH E. ALLEN, and ending ELLIOT M. ROSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1879 NAVY nominations (13) beginning DAVID F. BELL, and ending JOSEPH R. TULLIS, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1880 NAVY nominations (17) beginning FREDERICK J. AUTH, and ending BRETT M. WOODARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1881 NAVY nominations (39) beginning KWADWO S. AGYEPONG, and ending RYAN D. ZACHAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1882 NAVY nominations (25) beginning KELLY W. AGHA, and ending AMY L. YOUNGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1883 NAVY nominations (591) beginning NICHOLAS H. ABELEIN, and ending TIMOTHY J. ZAKRISKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1884 NAVY nominations (26) beginning GARRETT L. ADAMS, and ending IRIS P. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1885 NAVY nominations (29) beginning BRANDON M. BECKLER, and ending JAMES M. ZWEIFEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1886 NAVY nominations (13) beginning MICHAEL C. BECKER, II, and ending WILLIAM N. ZINICOLALAPIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1887 NAVY nominations (18) beginning JAMES K. BROWN, and ending DAVID K. ZIVNUSKA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1888 NAVY nominations (8) beginning DAVID M. GARDNER, and ending LAUREN M. SPAZIANO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1889 NAVY nominations (9) beginning TYLER L. BRANHAM, and ending LEE R. THACKSTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1890 NAVY nominations (3) beginning ERIC A. GARDNER, and ending JEREMY S. TALMADGE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1891 NAVY nominations (5) beginning JOHAN BAIK, and ending DANIEL A. SORENSEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1892 NAVY nominations (5) beginning RICHARD A. BARKLEY, and ending RICHARD B. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1893 NAVY nominations (12) beginning CHRISTOPHER C. CADY, and ending ROEL ROSALEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1894 NAVY nominations (21) beginning MILTON G. CASASOLA, and ending PAUL S. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1895 NAVY nomination of James F. Sullivan, IV, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1896 NAVY nomination of Christopher R. Napoli, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record ofJune 20, 2024.

PN1897 NAVY nomination of Ross C. Hudleston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1938 NAVY nomination of Ramon L. DeJesusmunoz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1939 NAVY nomination of Blaine C. Pitkin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1940 NAVY nomination of Kalista M. Ming, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1941 NAVY nomination of Kevin S. McCormick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1942 NAVY nomination of James J. Cullen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1943 NAVY nomination of Steven C. McGhan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN2003 NAVY nominations (81) beginning ALLEN M. AGOR, and ending JONATHAN A. YUEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2024.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1898 SPACE FORCE nomination of Lucas M. Malabad, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1899 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning Davin Mao, and ending Daniel S. Teel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1944 SPACE FORCE nomination of Brenda L. Beegle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN1945 SPACE FORCE nominations (13) beginning CLIFFORD V. SULHAM, and ending STEPHANIE L. WEXLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

GOOD SAMARITAN REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED HARDROCK MINES ACT OF 2024

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 312, S. 2781.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2781) to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(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 Act.

(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 4(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 4(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. 3. SCOPE.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) except as provided in section 4(n), reduces any existing liability under Federal, State, or local law;

(2) except as provided in section 4(n), releases any person from liability under Federal, State, or local law, except in compliance with this Act;

(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 Act.

SEC. 4. 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 Act.

(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 Act 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 Act.

(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 Act; or

(ii) covered by any waiver of liability provided by this Act 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 Act;

(iv) any remaining proceeds are deposited into the appropriate Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund established by section 5(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 Act;

(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 Act, nothing in this Act, 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 Act.

(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 Energy, 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. 5. 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 4(f)(4)(B)(iv);

(3) any financial assurance funds collected from an agreement described in section 4(m)(1)(A)(vi)(V)(bb);

(4) any funds collected for long-term operations and maintenance under an agreement under section 4(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 Act 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 Act.

SEC. 6. 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 Act.

(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 Act; 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 Act; 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 Act; and

(5) recommendations on whether the Good Samaritan pilot program under this Act should be continued, including a description of any modifications (including amendments to existing law) required to continue administering this Act.

Mr. WELCH. I further ask unanimous consent that the Heinrich-Risch amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3215) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

In section 4(s)(2)(A), strike ''Energy'' and insert ''Agriculture''.

In section 5(b)(4), insert ''and'' after the semicolon.

In section 5(b), strike paragraphs (5) and (6).

In section 5(b), redesignate paragraph (7) as paragraph (5).

In section 5, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

(c) UNUSED FUNDS.—Amounts in each Fund not currently needed to carry out this Act shall be maintained as readily available or on deposit.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2781), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2781

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 ''Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(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 Act.

(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 4(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 4(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. 3. SCOPE.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) except as provided in section 4(n), reduces any existing liability under Federal, State, or local law;

(2) except as provided in section 4(n), releases any person from liability under Federal, State, or local law, except in compliance with this Act;

(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 Act.

SEC. 4. 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 Act.

(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 Act 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 Act.

(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 Act; or

(ii) covered by any waiver of liability provided by this Act 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 Act;

(iv) any remaining proceeds are deposited into the appropriate Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund established by section 5(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 Act;

(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 Act, nothing in this Act, 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 Act.

(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. 5. 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 4(f)(4)(B)(iv);

(3) any financial assurance funds collected from an agreement described in section 4(m)(1)(A)(vi)(V)(bb);

(4) any funds collected for long-term operations and maintenance under an agreement under section 4(r)(5); and

(5) any amounts donated to the Fund by any person.

(c) UNUSED FUNDS.—Amounts in each Fund not currently needed to carry out this Act shall be maintained as readily available or on deposit.

(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 Act.

SEC. 6. 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 Act.

(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 Act; 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 Act; 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 Act; and

(5) recommendations on whether the Good Samaritan pilot program under this Act should be continued, including a description of any modifications (including amendments to existing law) required to continue administering this Act.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 120, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 120) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the unveiling of the statue of Johnny Cash, provided by the State of Arkansas.

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

Mr. WELCH. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 120) was agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 791, S. Res. 792, and S. Res. 793.

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

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

Mr. WELCH. 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 en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MORNING BUSINESS

REMEMBERING CARVER MCGRIFF

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today to in honor of Hoosier Hero Carver McGriff.

A great Hoosier is gone, and with him, another link to our Greatest Generation is lost. Carver McGriff of Indianapolis, who died on July 20 at the age of 99, never considered himself a hero or sought the many honors he received.

After all, thousands of other boys stormed the beaches of Normandy. As Carver would remind us, he was just among the fortunate who came home. But a few of those honors bear mentioning: the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the French Legion of Honor medal. Characteristically, on his induction into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame, Carver said, ''I have no idea what I did to deserve it, not very much.''

Let the record show, here is what he did to deserve it and why he was a hero:

As part of the 90th Infantry Division, he manned a machine-gun on Utah Beach, surrounded by the enemy during Operation Overlord. He took artillery fire in both legs and one arm, was captured by the Germans, and spent a month as a prisoner of war. Injuries prevented further Active Duty, but after his rescue, he remained with the Army until the war was won and the Axis defeated.

Like so many other Americans, he then came home, started a career, raised a family, and contributed to his community. He tried his hand at business, but Carver's calling was the ministry. He served for 26 years as the senior pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, growing its congregation dramatically during his tenure.

Carver rarely celebrated his part in winning the war and spoke of his service humbly. What he took from this difficult period of his life was a sense of grace, inspired by the humanity he saw in the worst moments of combat: the French priest who offered him and other hungry Americans food and the common citizenship among soldiers that mattered more than color or creed.

What he thought of most often, though, were those boys who did not come home. In later years, when he would guide tours across Normandy, Carver would point to the crosses standing in the American Cemetery. Then he would ask his companions to pick one out, say the name engraved on it, and offer a prayer for the soldier resting under it. ''It has been a long time since someone has said a prayer for that boy, but you can,'' he would remind them.

And we can do the same. I ask my fellow Americans to join in saying a prayer for Carver McGriff and extending condolences to his beloved wife Marianne, their three daughters, and nine grandchildren. But as we mourn his loss, we also celebrate an incredible life, full of years and purpose, led with humility and courage.

If, in the decades ahead, future Americans ever wonder why we referred to this generation as the Greatest, they need only look to the example of Carver McGriff, not simply because of his valor in a war, but because of how he lived his life and served his country long after it was over. Great, indeed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DALE DANNEWITZ

● Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, it is an honor to recognize the nearly half century of distinguished service of a remarkable North Dakotan who retired this year.

Dale Dannewitz began his locomotive railroad engineering career on July 24, 1978, with what is now Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad. This came after earning a degree in diesel mechanics at what is now Williston State College, working at Cummins, Inc., and completing an apprenticeship with Burlington Northern. In these 50 years, Dale performed his duties with great skill and dedication.

He began working on trains in the Minot area, then ran routes between Minot and Glasgow, MT. He was a distributive power mentor in Minot for a year before spending 4 years as a foreman of engines in Mandan. He completed the rest of his career as an engineer in Minot.

For a few years, he was a team member for the Trauma Response Action Involvement Network, a group of engineers and their spouses who provided counsel and support to people impacted by a train crossing accident or event. He was also a volunteer for Operation Lifesaver, Inc., a rail safety education nonprofit which helps students and young drivers understand the safety precautions around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings.

Over these years, Dale has had a front row seat watching technology and design advancements in railroad transportation. As he was quoted in Railway Age magazine in an article at the time of his retirement, he said, ''I've enjoyed everything and learned to take the safe route, always—it's what it's all about. It was a good ride.''

It is people like Dale Dannewitz who have ensured the safe movement of products and commodities across the continent by rail. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank him for his service and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. May you enjoy many years of health and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHARINE BERKOFF

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Montanan who today took home the bronze Olympic medal in women's 100m backstroke.

Katharine Berkoff, a Missoula native and Hellgate High School graduate, has been setting records since high school. She made her name on the national stage at just 17 years old and has already led an impressive career in and out of the pool. Today, she rose to the top among the best of the best when she finished the 100m backstroke in just 57.98 seconds, earning her spot on the Olympic podium.

Katharine, you have made Montana proud. Team USA is lucky to have you.

I join today with my fellow Senators to congratulate you on this remarkable achievement. I have got a feeling you will continue to do great things.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 4853. A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from promulgating or enforcing rules regarding disclosure of artificial intelligence-generated content in political advertisements.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5482. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5483. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the text of an amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes of July 3, 1958, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM–164. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to grant Louisiana a waiver to allow the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services to remove unhealthy foods from the list of approved foods that may be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

Whereas, the USDA allows unhealthy, high fat foods to be purchased with SNAP benefits contributing to the unhealthy lifestyle of our most vulnerable population; and

Whereas, in Louisiana, approximately forty percent of adults and twenty percent of students in grades nine through twelve are considered obese; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that obesity is associated with at least thirteen different types of cancer which make up forty percent of all cancers diagnosed; and

Whereas, children with obesity are more likely to have obesity as adults due to patterns of behavior learned at a young age; and

Whereas, adults with obesity have a higher risk of developing life-threatening illnesses such as heart disease, type-II diabetes, and cancer; and

Whereas, in 2019, annual obesity-related medical care costs in the United States were estimated to be nearly one hundred seventy-three billion dollars; and

Whereas, forty percent of all United States households do not live within one mile of healthy food retailers; and

Whereas, Louisiana has implemented Greaux the Good, a program that allows SNAP benefit recipients to receive a dollar-for-dollar match on their SNAP benefits, to encourage families to buy more fruits and vegetables while supporting small and local food producers; and

Whereas, in 2023, an average of nearly forty-three thousand individuals participated in the SNAP program nationwide at a cost of nearly one hundred thirteen billion dollars; and

Whereas, SNAP was established by federal law to be a cooperative endeavor between a state and the federal government where the program is administered by the state and financed by the federal government; and

Whereas, in Louisiana, SNAP is administered by the Department of Children and Family Services; and

Whereas, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 defines ''food'' for the purposes of SNAP as any food or food product for home consumption except alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or hot foods ready for immediate consumption; and

Whereas, the USDA interprets the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow SNAP benefit recipients to purchase candy, cakes, potato chips, and other unhealthy foods; and

Whereas, due to the presence of federal law, the Department of Children and Family Services must seek approval from the federal government in the form of a waiver in order to alter the types of food that may be purchased with SNAP benefits. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to grant Louisiana a waiver to allow the Department of Children and Family Services to remove unhealthy foods from the foods allowed to be purchased with SNAP benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Children and Family Services shall present the rule waiver to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare prior to submitting the rule waiver the United States Department of Agriculture; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Children and Family Services shall work with medical professional and nutrition experts to determine which foods to remove from the list of approved foods to promote the health of children and families receiving SNAP benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–165. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to protect consumers from government interference by opposing congressional efforts to prevent surcharges or an extra fee when a customer chooses to pay with a credit card; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

Whereas, Americans have developed an exceptionally advanced and innovative payments system through a steadfast focus on private sector leadership that respects the rights of individuals and companies to make their own informed choices about how they pay and are paid; and

Whereas, the market-based payments approach in this nation responds to the dynamic and diverse needs of American entrepreneurs and consumers rather than operating under static government mandates; and

Whereas, while other nations import payments technology to run their economy, American companies set the standard of the global payments ecosystem; and

Whereas, the importance of prioritizing the protection of consumers from government interference that would shift financial transactions to less secure, less innovative, and potentially risky providers who could place consumers and their financial data in a more vulnerable position; and

Whereas, states should oppose any governmental economic favoritism that would negatively impact consumers, provide less choice and access to popular consumer benefits such as cashback and rewards programs, threaten airline services, or undermine critical payment fraud protections while increasing national security risks; and

Whereas, the commandeering of the payments system by the government or the central bank threatens personal privacy, innovation, and American economic leadership; and

Whereas, the United States has the most robust and secure financial system in the world, and a strong network supporting small businesses and protecting consumers; and

Whereas, more than four hundred eighty-six million credit cards are in use in the United States, with more than one hundred ninety-one million Americans holding at least one credit card; and

Whereas, states should protect consumers' right to choose their payment methods and pay transparent prices by preventing the addition of a surcharge or an extra fee when a customer chooses to pay with a credit card; and

Whereas, the credit card payments industry is a healthy and competitive space, and further legislation to impose government-mandated price controls in this area is both unnecessary and harmful to innovation and security; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge the United States Congress to protect consumers from government interference in the free market and any actions that would weaken our national security by opposing congressional efforts to overreach into the wallets of American consumers and small businesses; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–166. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to provide a long-term solution for the housing crisis suffered by Louisiana residents displaced due to the devastation of Hurricane Ida; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

Whereas, Hurricane Ida devastated Louisiana on August 29, 2021, destroying property throughout the state, causing many Louisianians to be displaced from their homes; and

Whereas, after Hurricane Ida, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established a program to reimburse the state for costs incurred by providing temporary shelters in the form of campers; and

Whereas, the federal aid expired in January of 2023; and

Whereas, the state absorbed the costs of over two million dollars per month after the FEMA benefits expired; and

Whereas, the state-sponsored Ida Shelters program ended on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, with five hundred fifty-two residents still participating in the program; and

Whereas, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) has delayed eviction, while considering whether to donate the camper-residences to the respective parishes or offering the residents an opportunity to purchase the campers at their appraised value; and

Whereas, while GOHSEP's plan may resolve the immediate needs of the displaced residents, a long-term solution rests with the federal government; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to provide a long-term solution for the housing crisis suffered by Louisiana residents displaced due to the devastation of Hurricane Ida; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the

United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–167. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to require congressional, state, and county approval to alter Arizona federal land and to protect Arizona natural resource rights; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2006

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

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

Whereas, Arizona currently has 18 monument designations, the most of any state, and there are more than 285 million acres of land and marine areas in monument status; and

Whereas, these monument designations have negatively impacted the state's ability to promote access to public recreation and to develop and maintain critical water resources, manage wildlife, restore habitat and perform wildlife translocations; and

Whereas, the federal government is unable to financially support and maintain the existing national parks and monuments and often ends up closing or restricting the use of these lands; and

Whereas, the designation of national monuments and subsequent closure or restricted use of public lands significantly interferes with Arizona's economic well-being; and

Whereas, the designation of monuments and conservation areas interferes with Arizona's ability to mitigate the risk of wildfire by thinning overly dense forests and adversely affects grazing practices, water conservation and proper soil erosion controls and practices; and

Whereas, designating an area as a national monument or other special use designation adds additional use restrictions, prevents the multiple use of this land and curbs the use of the land's abundant natural resources; and

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

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

1. That the United States Congress enact legislation to protect local economies and to preserve local customs, cultures and historical uses by prohibiting the federal government from establishing, authorizing or declaring any new national monument, national park, wildlife refuge, conservation area, area of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic river, wilderness, wilderness characteristic area or any other federal reservation or special use designation within Arizona's border and from withdrawing or reserving any additional federal mineral, land, water or other national resource rights within Arizona's border, unless with:

(a) The express authorization of Congress.

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

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

2. That a comprehensive economic impact study be completed that analyzes the cumulative, tangible and measurable impacts to the national, state and local economies by the removal of the additional land, water or natural resources from economic production and that demonstrates the removal of these lands, water or natural resources represents the least burdensome and costly method to achieve the desired cultural, historical or environmental protections. The economic impact statement should include an analysis of the impacts to the state and local tax base, including property, income and sales tax.

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

POM–168. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the federal government to end its pause on pending approval of liquefied natural gas exports; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, the oil and natural gas industry has historically provided thousands of high-paying jobs for Louisianans working in production or transportation of oil and natural gas, generating millions of dollars in annual revenue for state and local programs, and decreasing America's dependence on imported oil; and

Whereas, recent action by the federal government has temporarily paused pending approvals of liquefied natural gas exports; and

Whereas, a pause on approvals of liquefied natural gas exports will disrupt the global supply chain, causing national security and national defense problems; and

Whereas, the demand for fuel is not expected to decrease; and

Whereas, a decrease in world supply of liquefied natural gas would increase costs and hurt vulnerable populations the most; and

Whereas, contracts for the purchase of liquefied natural gas are long term, with there being a high importance to not interrupt or disrupt long-term contracts, as doing so could destabilize global markets; and

Whereas, Louisiana is home to the Haynesville Shale, a massive dry natural gas formation in Northwest Louisiana, and is well positioned to capitalize on the demand side of the industry; and

Whereas, in Louisiana alone, oil and natural gas activities represent twenty-six percent of Louisiana's gross domestic product, and the industry accounts for over $4 billion in state and local tax revenue; and

Whereas, Louisiana is home to three of the top eight domestic LNG export terminals with at least three more projects approved and eight more in prefiling or proposed stages; and

Whereas, the oil and natural gas industry has invested over $108 billion in greenhouse gas mitigating technologies, contributing to a sharp decline in emission of CO_2 in the United States; and

Whereas, from 2000 to 2018 emissions declined sixty-seven percent in the United States relative to oil and gas production; and

Whereas, in the same period of time, carbon dioxide emissions in the rest of the world increased by twenty-nine percent; and

Whereas, the 2020 Louisiana Emissions Analysis, published by the Consumer Energy Alliance, a leading voice for sensible energy policies for families and businesses, found that emissions declined by seventy-one percent across the state since 1990; and

Whereas, during that same period of emissions reduction, Louisiana's gross domestic product surged one hundred seventy-seven percent; and

Whereas, broad and predictable access to offshore oil and natural gas resources will help support and grow more jobs and activity in Louisiana and the Gulf region, reduce America's reliance on overseas imports, and increase revenues to the state and its localities. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the administration of President Biden to end its pause on pending approval of liquefied natural gas exports; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana also expresses its support of America's liquefied natural gas production and exportation to the benefit of American consumers and American workers and allows the inherent economic benefits thereof to be fully realized; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, each member of the president's cabinet, and to the members of the capitol press corps.

POM–169. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to withdraw its proposed regulations on greenhouse gas emissions and urging the United States Congress to take action to prevent the regulations from taking effect; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 469

Whereas, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has proposed new regulations governing greenhouse gas emissions from coal and natural gas-fired power plants; and

Whereas, The proposed regulations require unachievable and unrealistic timelines to reduce carbon emissions, which will negatively impact the economic viability of new and existing natural gas plants and all but ensure coal power plants will need to shut down by 2035; and

Whereas, The proposed regulations will require the adoption of new technologies, such as those related to clean hydrogen and carbon capture, that are not yet commercially available and have not been adequately demonstrated as required by the federal Clean Air Act; and

Whereas, Adoption of the proposed regulations will jeopardize energy reliability and result in more blackouts, higher costs, and greater uncertainty for American families and businesses; and

Whereas, The proposed regulations exceed USEPA's regulatory authority and grant USEPA vastly expanded powers with major economic and political significance without Congressional assent; and

Whereas, The proposed regulations disregard the ''major questions doctrine'' raised by recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings and are inconsistent with the text, structure, and context of Section 111 of the federal Clean Air Act; now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the USEPA to halt its efforts to adopt the proposed regulations; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the United States Congress to enact clear legislation to prevent the USEPA from adopting the proposed regulations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, the Administrator of the USEPA, and the news media of Ohio.

POM–170. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to preserve patient access to physician care by enacting systemic reform to the Medicare physician payment system and providing an annual inflationary update to physician fees based on the Medicare Economic Index for Medicare physician services; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104

Whereas, elderly and disabled patients deserve access to physicians with specialized training and rely on Medicare to supplement the cost of specialized health care; and

Whereas, individuals who depend on Medicare are at serious risk of losing access to physician care; and

Whereas, physicians are the only healthcare provider type whose Medicare payments do not automatically receive an annual inflationary update; and

Whereas, Medicare payments to physicians have been steadily declining relative to inflation and have lagged behind the rate of inflation growth by twenty-six percent since 2001; and

Whereas, physicians are struggling to keep their practices open due to inflation and burnout from the COVID–19 pandemic; and

Whereas, there have been three consecutive cuts to Medicare within the past three years totaling a ten percent cost reduction; and

Whereas, the lack of adequate reimbursement and rising practice costs may force physicians to stop treating Medicare patients or close their practices permanently; and

Whereas, current policies disproportionately impact small, independent, and rural physician practices, as well as those treating low-income or historically minoritized or marginalized patient communities; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to preserve patient access to physician care by enacting systemic reform to the Medicare physician payment system and providing an annual inflationary update to physician fees based on the Medicare Economic Index for Medicare physician services; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled ''Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2025'' (Rept. No. 118–203).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Coast Guard nomination of John C. Vann, to be Rear Admiral.

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nomination of Chad M. Cary, to be Rear Admiral.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

*Coast Guard nomination of Andrew D. Ray, to be Lieutenant Commander.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Nicholas G. Derenzo and ending with Isaac Yates, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2024.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Douglas D. Graul and ending with Benedict S. Gullo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2024.

*Coast Guard nomination of Philip J. Granati, to be Captain.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Derek A. Williams and ending with Trent J. Lamun, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.

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

*Shannon A. Estenoz, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Sherri Malloy Beatty-Arthur, 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.

*Erin Camille Johnston, 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.

*Ray D. McKenzie, 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.

*Rahkel Bouchet, 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.

*John Cuong Truong, 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.

*Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2030.

*Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2030.

*Carmen G. Iguina Gonzalez, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

*Joseph Russell Palmore, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. 4871. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for hazard mitigation projects in connection with certain working waterfront property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 4872. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt sports betting from the tax on authorized wagers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 4873. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit allowance of the advanced manufacturing production credit for components produced by foreign entities of concern; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4874. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4875. A bill to protect intellectual property rights in the voice and visual likeness of individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4876. A bill to create a new Federal grant program that provides grants to State libraries to allow schools with summer lunch programs to keep their libraries open for student use during the summer months; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4877. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4878. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to approval of abbreviated new drug applications; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4879. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

S. 4880. A bill to implement or strengthen programs that increase the supply of quality child care services by enhancing the wages of child care workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 4881. A bill to repeal the Military Selective Service Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 4882. A bill to establish a pilot program for tracking awards made through other transaction authority; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4883. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to issue a report on interference by Islamic Republic of Iran in United States domestic politics, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 4884. A bill to require that all new washing machines sold or offered for sale in the United States contain a microfiber filtration system; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 4885. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require that additional factors be included in the design of counseling pathways under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4886. A bill to amend the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act to modify the program for Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native culture and arts development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4887. A bill to protect certain victims of human trafficking by expanding the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant such aliens continued presence in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 4888. A bill to include Czechia in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E–1 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Czechia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4889. A bill to remove educational barriers to Federal employment for workers who are skilled through alternative routes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 4890. A bill to permit a registered investment company to omit certain fees from the calculation of acquired fund fees and expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4891. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to limit copayments for outpatient visits for mental health or behavioral health under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 4892. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for first responder mental health and wellness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 4893. A bill to require online service providers to disclose their acceptable use policies, provide users with written notice before the termination of a user's account, and publish an annual report detailing actions taken to enforce their acceptable use policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 4894. A bill to urge the United Nations to abolish the position of Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures and to withhold United States funding for such position; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 4895. A bill to establish a program to disseminate technical and other assistance to small and rural electric cooperatives to support expanding electric transmission capacity and hardening electric transmission and distribution infrastructure against cyberattacks and threats from natural hazards, with a focus on threats from wildfire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 4896. A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to support research on the development of artificial intelligence-enabled efficient technologies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4897. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures, storm water management measures, and waste-water management measures; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 4898. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include extreme heat in the definition of a major disaster; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BUTLER:

S. 4899. A bill to establish a grant program for States that adopt the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BUTLER:

S. 4900. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 4901. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to maintain the National Mesonet Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4902. A bill to prevent discrimination, including harassment, in employment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BUTLER (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 4903. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to require youth representation on each State workforce development board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4904. A bill to establish the National Fab Lab Network, a nonprofit organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 4905. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4906. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure that revenues collected from passengers as aviation security fees are used to help finance the costs of aviation security screening by repealing a requirement that a portion of such fees be credited as offsetting receipts and deposited in the general fund of the Treasury; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 4907. A bill to improve weather research and forecasting by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 4908. A bill to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the ''James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4909. A bill to clarify the use of direct deposit for contributions to ABLE programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4910. A bill to direct Federal agencies to provide information on ABLE accounts and to provide grants for increasing awareness of ABLE accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4911. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow employers to contribute to ABLE accounts in lieu of retirement plan contributions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LUMMIS:

S. 4912. A bill to establish a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and other programs to ensure the transparent management of Bitcoin holdings of the Federal Government, to offset costs utilizing certain resources of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 4913. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of certain organizations of the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4914. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ

harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 4915. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the low-income housing credit and to reauthorize and reform the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4916. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to address the placement of security freezes for protected consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4917. A bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing , and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4918. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4919. A bill to establish a regulatory sandbox program under which agencies may provide waivers of agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 4920. A bill to establish a task force for regulatory oversight and review; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S.J. Res. 106. A joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic Republic of Iran for threatening the national security of the United States through the development of nuclear weapons; 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. GRAHAM:

S. Res. 784. A resolution deterring Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic of Iran for their repeated and continued acts of terrorism against the State of Israel and the United States and urging the United States to use all diplomatic tools available to hold them accountable for such actions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 785. A resolution commending and congratulating the Florida Panthers on winning the 2024 Stanley Cup Final; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 786. A resolution congratulating the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as the College World Series winner; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 787. A resolution congratulating the University of Oklahoma softball team for winning the 2024 Women's College World Series, the eighth national title in program history; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 788. A resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 789. A resolution commending the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's and men's basketball teams for winning the 2024 NCAA Division II Basketball National Championships; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 790. A resolution commending and congratulating the University of Connecticut men's basketball team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 791. A resolution designating August 1, 2024, as ''Gold Star Children's Day'' ; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 792. A resolution designating September 2024 as ''National Child Awareness Month'' to promote awareness of charities that benefit children as well as youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MORAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 793. A resolution designating July 30, 2024, as ''National Whistleblower Appreciation Day'' ; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Con. Res. 39. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that individuals who have been wrongfully or unjustly deported from the United States who established significant ties to the United States through years of life in the United States deserve a chance to come home to reunite with loved ones through a fair and centralized process within the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 500

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of Presidential election campaigns.

S. 597

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

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) 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. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the ''Hello Girls'' .

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United State Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1468, a bill to ensure that Federal work-study funding is available for students enrolled in residency programs for teachers, principals, or school leaders, and for other purposes.

S. 1501

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1501, a bill to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1806

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1806, a bill to establish Ocean Innovation Clusters to strengthen the coastal communities and ocean economy of the United States through technological research and development, job training, and cross-sector partnerships, and for other purposes.

S. 2176

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2176, a bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 2382

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2382, a bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to remove the limitation on the amount of a civil penalty, and for other purposes.

S. 3028

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3028, a bill to continue in effect certain Executive orders imposing sanctions with respect to Iran, to prevent the waiver of certain sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran until the Government of Iran ceases to attempt to assassinate United States officials, other United States citizens, and Iranian nationals residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3109

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3109, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 3124

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3124, a bill to expand and improve the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program to ensure legal assistance is provided for survivors in proceedings related to domestic violence and sexual assault, and for other purposes.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3253

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) 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. 3297

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3297, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program.

S. 3305

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3305, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to minimum participation standards for pension plans and qualified trusts.

S. 3399

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3399, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to guarantee investments that will open new markets for forest owners in rural areas of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3548

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3548, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 3696

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3696, a bill to improve rights to relief for individuals affected by non-consensual activities involving intimate digital forgeries, and for other purposes.

S. 3702

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) 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. 3938

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3938, a bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lynchburg, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class Desmond T. Doss VA Clinic''.

S. 4075

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

S. 4178

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4178, a bill to establish artificial intelligence standards, metrics, and evaluation tools, to support artificial intelligence research, development, and capacity building activities, to promote innovation in the artificial intelligence industry by ensuring companies of all sizes can succeed and thrive, and for other purposes.

S. 4272

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4272, a bill to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to obtain a statue of Shirley Chisholm for placement in the United States Capitol.

S. 4294

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4294, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to negotiate with the Government of Canada regarding an agreement for integrated cross border aerial law enforcement operations, and for other purposes.

S. 4334

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4334, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4532

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 4650

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4650, a bill to establish a rental assistance program for low-income veteran families, and for other purposes.

S. 4651

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4651, a bill to require agencies to use information and communications technology products obtained from original equipment manufacturers or authorized resellers, and for other purposes.

S. 4680

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4680, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Jens Stoltenberg, in recognition of his contributions to the security, unity, and defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

S. 4706

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4706, a bill to modernize the business of selling firearms.

S. 4772

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4772, a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. RES. 569

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 569, a resolution recognizing religious freedom as a fundamental right, expressing support for international religious freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy, and expressing concern over increased threats to and attacks on religious freedom around the world.

S. RES. 753

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2290

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2290 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2720

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2720 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2816

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2816 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2942

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2942 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2962

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2962 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3062

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3062 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3181

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3181 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 4878. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to approval of abbreviated new drug applications; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 4878

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 ''Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act'' or the ''REMEDY Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO ANDA APPROVAL PROVISIONS.

Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2) by adding at the end the following: ''With respect to a drug approved on or after the date of enactment of the Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act, when a holder of an approved application first files information under this paragraph with respect to one or more patents described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii), the holder shall select one such patent with respect to which the owner or licensee may receive the 30-month stay under paragraph (3)(C), as applicable; for purposes of paragraphs (3)(C) and (3)(E) and subsections (j)(5)(D)(iii) and (j)(5)(F)(ii), such patent shall be referred to as the 'covered patent'. The selection of such covered patent may not be changed or amended.'';

(2) in subsection (c)(3)(C)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(i) by striking ''an action is brought for infringement'' and all that follows through the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting ''with respect to a drug approved under this subsection before the date of enactment of the Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act, an action is brought for infringement of any patent that is the subject of the certification and for which information was submitted to the Secretary under paragraph (2) or subsection (b)(1) before the date on which the application (excluding an amendment or supplement to the application) was submitted, or, with respect to a drug approved under this subsection on or after the date of enactment of the Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act, an action is brought for infringement of the covered patent (as described in paragraph (2)), before the date on which the application (excluding an amendment or supplement to the application) was submitted.''; and

(ii) by striking ''an action is brought before'' and inserting ''an action with respect to a patent or a covered patent, as applicable, is brought before''; and

(B) in clause (i), by striking ''decides that the patent'' and inserting ''decides that the patent or the covered patent, as applicable'';

(3) in the second sentence of subsection (c)(3)(E)(ii), by inserting ''with respect to any patent that claims a drug that was approved under this subsection before the date of enactment of the Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act, or, with respect to a covered patent (as described in paragraph (2)) that claims a drug approved under this subsection on or after the date of enactment of such Act,'' after ''action for patent infringement'';

(4) in subsection (j)(5)(B)(iii)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(i) by striking ''an action is brought for infringement'' and all that follows through the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting ''with respect to a drug approved under subsection (c) before the date of enactment of the Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act, an action is brought for infringement of any

patent that is the subject of the certification and for which information was submitted to the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) or (c)(2) before the date on which the application (excluding an amendment or supplement to the application), which the Secretary later determines to be substantially complete, was submitted, or, with respect to a drug approved under subsection (c) on or after the date of enactment of the Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act, an action is brought for infringement of the covered patent (as described in subsection (c)(2)) before the date on which the application (excluding an amendment or supplement to the application), which the Secretary later determines to be substantially complete, was submitted.''; and

(ii) by striking ''an action is brought before'' and inserting ''an action with respect to a patent or a covered patent, as applicable, is brought before''; and

(B) in subclause (I), by striking ''decides that the patent'' and inserting ''decides that the patent or covered patent, as applicable,''; and

(5) in the second sentence of subsection (j)(5)(F)(ii), by inserting ''with respect to any patent that claims a drug that was approved under subsection (c) before the date of enactment of the Reforming Evergreening and Manipulation that Extends Drug Years Act, or, with respect to a covered patent (as described in subsection (c)(2)) that claims a drug approved under subsection (c) on or after the date of enactment of such Act,'' after ''action for patent infringement''.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4879. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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. 4879

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 ''American Cures Act''.

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATIONS FOR INNOVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, and appropriated, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following:

(1) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—For the National Institutes of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $52,468,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $56,665,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $61,198,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $66,094,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $71,382,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $77,093,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $83,260,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $89,921,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $97,115,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $104,884,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the Department of Health and Human Services—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $9,960,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $10,757,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $11,618,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $12,547,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $13,551,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $14,635,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $15,806,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $17,070,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $18,436,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $19,911,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(3) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—For the research, development, test, and evaluation program of the Department of Defense health program—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $3,550,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $3,834,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $4,141,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $4,472,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $4,830,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $5,216,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $5,633,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $6,084,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $6,571,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $7,096,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(4) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—For the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $1,018,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $1,099,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $1,187,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $1,282,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $1,385,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $1,496,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $1,616,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $1,745,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $1,885,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $2,035,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—The term ''Centers for Disease Control and Prevention'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(2) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term ''research, development, test, and evaluation program of the Department of Defense health program'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the research, development, test, and evaluation program of the Department of Defense health program.

(3) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The term ''medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—The term ''National Institutes of Health'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after ''Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16–0327–0–1–600).'' the following:

''Appropriations under the American Cures Act.''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

(1) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 4905. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today, I am joining Senator CAPITO to introduce the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act of 2024 in order to improve access to needed therapies for children.

Children are not just small adults. Drugs affect their developing bodies differently, so new treatments need to be studied carefully to ensure that they are appropriately prescribed and that dosages are properly adjusted. Additionally, drugs that are designed to treat a specific condition in adults may have enormous benefits in treating completely different illnesses in kids, but research is needed to unlock these potentially lifesaving possibilities.

Unfortunately, drug development still leaves children behind. The legislation we are introducing today would help speed therapies to children who need them by making needed changes to the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act BPCA, and the Pediatric Research Equity Act, PREA—two laws that encourage and require the study of drugs in children.

Data resulting from BPCA and PREA studies are added to drug labels to give parents and providers essential information on the safety and efficacy of drugs used in children. I was proud to have helped author these laws when I

was a member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. While we have made tremendous progress in advancing treatments for children because of these laws, there are gaps. For example, there is a loophole in PREA that exempts drug companies from pediatric study requirements when the treatment would only be used for a rare pediatric condition.

There are close to 7,000 rare diseases without appropriate treatments, and the vast majority of these diseases affect children as well as adults. But in developing new drugs also known as orphan drugs to treat rare diseases, pharmaceutical developers focus their research on adult patients only since they are not required study their impact on children.

And since the majority of new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration, FDA are orphan drugs, this means that the majority of newly approved drugs have not been studied for their impacts on kids. This leaves doctors, parents, and sick kids in the dark about the best possible treatments. Our bill closes this loophole to require studies for children so that they, too, can benefit from new and innovative treatments for rare diseases.

In addition to this change, the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act would invest in pediatric studies of older, off-patent drugs. The FDA incentives and requirements under BPCA and PREA work for many newer drugs but unfortunately cannot help encourage studies of older drugs. For this reason, in 2002, Congress authorized a program which funds the National Institutes of Health to conduct studies of off-patent drugs used in children that would never be completed otherwise. Drug studies are expensive, and costs have only increased since then, but the program has been flat-funded at $25 million since it was created more than 20 years ago. Our legislation would increase the authorization for the BPCA NIH program to ensure we have better data about older drugs to treat diseases in children.

Lastly, the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act would give FDA the authority it needs to ensure that legally required pediatric studies are completed in a timely manner. Due dates for studies required by PREA are typically deferred by FDA until after the approval of the drug for adults, but, FDA has no effective enforcement tools to ensure that these studies are completed on time—or at all.

I am pleased to be working with my colleague Senator CAPITO on pediatric health issues. We have worked closely for many years on pediatric cancer, first authoring the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research, STAR Act in 2015. That bill was signed into law in 2018, and we worked to fully fund the law every year since.

I look forward to working with her as well as the sponsors of the House companion legislation, Representatives ANNA ESHOO and MICHAEL MCCAUL to move the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act forward, to give children and their families more options for treatments.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 784—DETERRING HEZBOLLAH AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN FOR THEIR REPEATED AND CONTINUED ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES AND URGING THE UNITED STATES TO USE ALL DIPLOMATIC TOOLS AVAILABLE TO HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE FOR SUCH ACTIONS

Mr. GRAHAM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 784

Whereas, in 1982, the Lebanon-based, radical-Shia terrorist group Hizballah (referred to in this preamble as ''Hezbollah''), which translates to ''The Party of God'', was founded to violently advocate for global Shia empowerment through acts of terror;

Whereas Hezbollah's founding manifesto states, ''The American threat is not local or restricted to a particular region, and as such, confrontation of such a threat must be international as well'', resulting in the terrorist organization conducting numerous attacks against Israeli and Western targets;

Whereas since its inception, Hezbollah has received significant support from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world;

Whereas, on April 18, 1983, Hezbollah attacked the United States Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 63 American and Lebanese employees and citizens;

Whereas, on October 23, 1983, Hezbollah attacked the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 United States military personnel, including 220 United States Marines, 18 United States Navy sailors, and 3 United States Army soldiers, resulting in the single deadliest day for the United States Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II;

Whereas, on September 20, 1984, Hezbollah attacked the United States Embassy Annex in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 23 American and Lebanese employees and citizens;

Whereas, on February 16, 1985, Hezbollah stated that their violent actions would only cease when Israel is ''obliterated'' and that Hezbollah ''vigorously condemns all plans for negotiation with Israel'';

Whereas, on June 14, 1985, Hezbollah hijacked Trans World Airlines (TWA) Flight 847 and immediately demanded to know the identity of ''those with Jewish-sounding names'', holding hostage the plane and many TWA employees and passengers for 17 days;

Whereas, in 1992, Hassan Nasrallah assumed the position of Secretary-General of Hezbollah and has overseen their regime of terror ever since;

Whereas, on March 17, 1992, with the backing of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah detonated a truck bomb at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people and wounding more than 240 other people;

Whereas, on July 18, 1994, with the backing of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah attacked the Buenos Aires, Argentina, headquarters of the Argentine-Israelite Mutual Association, a Jewish community center, killing 85 people and wounding more than 300 other people, which is the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of Argentina;

Whereas, on October 8, 1997, Hezbollah was designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a));

Whereas, before September 11, 2001, Hezbollah was responsible for more deaths of United States citizens than any other terrorist organization;

Whereas, on September 23, 2001, Hezbollah was designated a ''Specially Designated Global Terrorist'' entity pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

Whereas, on July 12, 2006, Hezbollah abducted 2 Israeli soldiers, which resulted in a 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah;

Whereas according to the Department of State's Country Reports on Terrorism 2021: Iran, ''Since the end of the 2006 Israeli-Hizballah conflict, Iran has supplied Hizballah in Lebanon with thousands of rockets, missiles, and small arms in violation of UNSCR 1701'';

Whereas, in 2010, the Department of State labeled Hezbollah as ''the most technically capable terrorist group in the world and a continued security threat to the United States'';

Whereas, on July 18, 2012, Hezbollah detonated a bus bomb in Burgas, Bulgaria, killing 5 Israeli citizens and 1 Bulgarian citizen;

Whereas since October 7, 2023, Hezbollah has increased its attacks against northern Israel, resulting in the deaths of Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers and Israeli civilians and the displacement of tens of thousands of residents in northern Israel;

Whereas, since October 8, 2023, Hezbollah has increased the number of rockets launched into Israel, resulting in the deaths of at least 22 IDF soldiers and 24 Israeli civilians;

Whereas, on November 15, 2023, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Christopher Wray, testified before the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that ''FBI arrests in recent years also indicate that Hizballah has tried to seed operatives, establish infrastructure, and engage in spying here domestically—raising our concern that they may be contingency planning for future operations in the United States'';

Whereas, on February 5, 2024, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence submitted its annual report pursuant to section 108B of the National Security Act of 1947 (commonly known as the ''Annual Threat Assessment''), which concluded ''Hizballah will continue to develop its global terrorist capabilities as a complement to the group's growing conventional military capabilities in the region. . .[and] Hizballah probably will continue to conduct provocative actions such as rocket launches against Israel'';

Whereas, on June 19, 2024, Hassan Nasrallah threatened European Union member Cyprus, stating ''The Cypriot Government must be warned that opening Cypriot airports and bases for the Israeli enemy to target Lebanon means that the Cypriot Government has become part of the war and the resistance (Hezbollah) will deal with it as part of the war'';

Whereas, on July 27, 2024, Hezbollah launched a rocket at the town of Majdal Shams in northern Israel, killing at least 12 children and teenagers, and wounding dozens more, resulting in the single deadliest

Hezbollah attack on northern Israel since fighting began there in October;

Whereas Hezbollah has been deeply involved in training and continuously providing weapons to Houthi militants in Yemen and has reportedly assisted the Houthi campaign against international shipping in the Red Sea;

Whereas Hassan Nasrallah has repeatedly vowed to destroy Israel, stating ''[Israel] is an aggressive, illegal and illegitimate entity, which has no future in our land. Its destination is manifested in our motto, 'Death to Israel' '';

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran's Mission to the United Nations has echoed the statements of Hassan Nasrallah, stating, ''[S]hould [Israel] embark on full-scale military aggression, an obliterating war will ensue. All options, [including] the full involvement of all Resistance Fronts, are on the table.'';

Whereas it has been reported that Hezbollah is using Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut, Lebanon, to store ballistic missiles, unguided artillery rockets, laser-guided anti-tank guided missiles, and a highly explosive and toxic white powder known as ''RDX'';

Whereas Hezbollah reportedly has at least 150,000 missiles in its arsenal, some of which are precision-guided, which could be launched at Israel without warning and would overwhelm the Iron Dome air defense system and greatly expand the current regional conflict;

Whereas Israel's Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, previously stated the Islamic Republic of Iran provides Hezbollah $700,000,000 a year in funding and ''knowledge and strategic weaponry'';

Whereas former Special Representative for Iran, Brian Hook, previously stated, ''Hezbollah has been Iran's favorite child. Their favorite son from the beginning. And it's a model that they try to replicate around the Middle East. . . Seventy percent of Hezbollah's budget comes from Iran and that comes to about $700,000,000 per year'';

Whereas the Department of the Treasury, in its 2018 report, *National Strategy for Combating Terrorist and Other Illicit Financing*, concluded that—

(1) ''Hizballah continues to present a significant terrorism threat to. . . U.S., Israeli, and Saudi Arabian interests'';

(2) ''Hizballah receives the majority of its funding, upwards of $700 million a year, from Iran, which is the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism''; and

(3) ''Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) continues to provide hundreds of millions of dollars a year to Iran's terrorist proxies, such as Hizballah and the Assad regime in Syria'';

Whereas the Department of State, in its 2020 report, *Outlaw Regime: A Chronicle of Iran's Destructive Activities*, concluded ''In Lebanon, Iranian support has been foundational to Hizballah since its emergence in the 1980s as the first organization to employ the widespread and regular use of suicide bombers. In addition to providing as much as $700 million in funds annually, Iran has long been one of the primary suppliers of Hizballah's military technology, enabling the group's transformation into a quasi-conventional force.'';

Whereas the Department of State, in its annual country reports on terrorism required under section 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f), concluded that—

(1) ''Iran's annual financial backing to Hizballah — which has been estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars annually — accounts for the overwhelming majority of the group's annual budget'';

(2) ''Iran has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in support of Hizballah and trained thousands of its fighters at camps in Iran'';

(3) ''Iran continues to provide Hizballah with most of its funding, training, weapons, and explosives, as well as political, diplomatic, monetary, and organizational aid''; and

(4) ''Israeli security officials and politicians [have] expressed concerns that Iran [is] supplying Hizballah with advanced weapons systems and technologies, as well as assisting the group in creating infrastructure that would permit it to produce its own rockets and missiles, thereby threatening Israel from Lebanon and Syria'';

Whereas the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, in an assessment published in accordance with the Iran Nuclear Weapons Capability and Terrorism Monitoring Act of 2022 (22 U.S.C. 8701 note; Public Law 117–263), concluded, ''Iran provides aid to Lebanese Hizballah. . . to build and strengthen a network which Tehran intends to leverage to advance its interests'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that any escalation by Hezbollah against the State of Israel that leads to a major confrontation will be viewed as an attack carried out and executed by the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(2) asserts that efforts to deter Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic of Iran are most credible when the President keeps all options on the table, including the use of military force, in accordance with constitutional processes;

(3) recognizes that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hezbollah will be responsible for any adverse impacts on the people of Lebanon that result from an attack on the State of Israel by Hezbollah;

(4) condemns Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic of Iran for their repeated acts of terrorism and urges Congress and the President to use all diplomatic tools and power projection capabilities to hold both parties accountable for their actions;

(5) denounces all comments made by Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic of Iran, including comments by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Mission to the United Nations, which call for the obliteration and destruction of the State of Israel; and

(6) supports the State of Israel as it continues to defend its sovereignty against attacks from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah, and all other Iranian proxies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 785—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA PANTHERS ON WINNING THE 2024 STANLEY CUP FINAL

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 785

Whereas, on June 24, 2024, the Florida Panthers (referred to in this preamble as the ''Panthers'') won the 2024 National Hockey League (referred to in this preamble as the ''NHL'') Stanley Cup Final;

Whereas the 2024 NHL Stanley Cup Final is the first Stanley Cup Final won by the Panthers in the 30-year history of the Panthers franchise;

Whereas, on the way to winning the 2024 Stanley Cup Final, the Panthers defeated—

(1) in the first round of the playoffs, the Tampa Bay Lightning;

(2) in the second round of the playoffs, the Boston Bruins;

(3) in the Eastern Conference Finals to win the Prince of Wales Trophy, the New York Rangers; and

(4) in the Stanley Cup Final, the Edmonton Oilers;

Whereas, during the 2023–2024 NHL Season, the Panthers—

(1) won 52 games during the regular season and scored 268 goals; and

(2) had 2 players, Sam Reinhart (forward) and Sergei Bobrovsky (goaltender), represent the Panthers as All-Stars at the 2024 NHL All-Star Game in Toronto, Canada;

Whereas Aleksander Barkov of the Panthers won the Selke Trophy and was recognized as the best defensive forward in the NHL for the second time in his career;

Whereas the entire Panthers roster contributed to the 2024 Stanley Cup Final victory;

Whereas supporting the Panthers players was a team of coaches and support staff committed to enriching the South Florida community on and off the ice; and

Whereas the Panthers represent their loyal fans, the South Florida community, and the entire State of Florida with a commitment to excellence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Florida Panthers for winning the 2024 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Final; and

(B) the loyal fan base of the Florida Panthers for their support throughout the 2023–2024 season; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to members of the Florida Panthers ownership, management, and coaching staff, including—

(A) the chairman, owner, and governor of the Florida Panthers, Vincent Viola, and his family;

(B) the president and CEO of the Florida Panthers, Matthew Caldwell; and

(C) the president of hockey operations and general manager of the Florida Panthers, Bill Zito, and the head coach of the Florida Panthers, Paul Maurice.

SENATE RESOLUTION 786—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE AS THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES WINNER

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 786

Whereas the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (referred to in this preamble as the ''University of Tennessee'') is located in the second congressional district of Tennessee;

Whereas the University of Tennessee Volunteers baseball team finished the 2024 season with a record number of wins and earned the distinction of national champions for the first time in program history;

Whereas the University of Tennessee Volunteers baseball team won the Southeastern Conference regular season and tournament titles;

Whereas the 2024 University of Tennessee Volunteers baseball team is the first Southeastern Conference baseball team in history to win 60 games;

Whereas the University of Tennessee Volunteers baseball team set a record with 5 players recording 20 or more home runs during the 2024 season;

Whereas the University of Tennessee Volunteers defeated Texas A&M University by a score of 6 to 5 on Monday, June 25, to win the 2024 College World Series;

Whereas this victory is a testament to the dedication of the players, coaches, staff, and fans of the University of Tennessee Volunteers baseball program; and

Whereas this remarkable team has made the entire State of Tennessee deeply proud: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Volunteers baseball program for its incredible win in the 2024 College World Series and for winning the first baseball national title in program history;

(2) recognizes the achievements, teamwork, and Volunteer spirit of the coaches, players, and staff of the University of Tennessee baseball team;

(3) commends the fans and the entire State of Tennessee for their dedication and support; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Head Coach of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville baseball team, Tony Vitello;

(B) the Chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Donde Plowman; and

(C) the Director of Athletics of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Danny White.

SENATE RESOLUTION 787—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES, THE EIGHTH NATIONAL TITLE IN PROGRAM HISTORY

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

S. RES. 787

Whereas the 2024 University of Oklahoma softball team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Sooners''), under the direction of head coach Patty Gasso, swept rival University of Texas at Austin Longhorns in the Women's College World Series championship to win its record fourth consecutive National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as ''NCAA'') title;

Whereas the Sooners, over the 50-year history of the University of Oklahoma softball program, have won 8 national championships, including an unprecedented 6 in the past 8 seasons and 7 in the past 11 seasons, and have competed in 17 Women's College World Series tournaments, including 12 of the last 13;

Whereas the Sooners opened the state-of-the-art softball stadium Love's Field on March 1, 2024 and drew an NCAA single season record of 108,156 fans for an average crowd size of 4,326 per game;

Whereas a Nation-high 5 Sooners players were named 2024 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (referred to in this preamble as ''NFCA'') All-Americans, including Alyssa Brito and Tiare Jennings, who received first-team honors;

Whereas the Sooners won their ninth conference tournament by winning the 2024 Big 12 Softball Championship in Oklahoma City, defeating rival University of Texas at Austin Longhorns in the title game;

Whereas Head Coach Gasso earned her 1,500th NCAA Division I win and became the first Big 12 coach in any sport, men's or women's, to record 400 conference victories;

Whereas the Sooners placed 9 student-athletes on the 2024 All-Big 12 teams, including a league-high 5 on the first team;

Whereas Oklahoma student-athletes received numerous honors, including—

(1) Kinzie Hansen, who was named 2024 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year;

(2) Ella Parker, who was recognized as a top 3 finalist for the 2024 Tucci/NFCA Division I Freshman of the Year;

(3) Alyssa Brito, who was named College Sports Communicators Academic All-America Team Member of the Year; and

(4) 5 Sooners, more than any other team, who were among the 26 finalists for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award; and

Whereas the University of Oklahoma 2024 senior class of softball players closed its career with the most wins in a 4-year stretch in NCAA softball history, recording 235 victories to just 15 losses, including 73 victories to 7 losses in Big 12 Conference play and 41 victories to 4 losses in the NCAA tournament: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound appreciation to Head Coach Patty Gasso and the 2024 University of Oklahoma softball team for the excitement and pride they bring to the University of Oklahoma, the State of Oklahoma, and to Sooners everywhere; and

(2) expresses profound appreciation for the exemplary manner in which the 2024 University of Oklahoma softball team represents the University of Oklahoma and its tradition of excellence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 788—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARROLL COUNTY WABASH & ERIE CANAL, INC

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

S. RES. 788

Whereas, following the success of the Erie Canal in the State of New York, the leaders of the State of Indiana had a dream of digging a statewide network of canals;

Whereas, in 1836, the General Assembly of the State of Indiana passed ''An Act to provide for a general system of Internal Improvements''(commonly known as ''the Internal Improvements Act of 1836'' or the ''Indiana Mammoth Internal Improvement Act''), which appropriated millions of dollars for canal building and other improvements that launched the State of Indiana into the Canal Era;

Whereas only 2 canal lines were successfully completed in the State of Indiana, including—

(1) the 101-mile Whitewater Canal from Hagerstown, Indiana, to Cincinnati, Ohio; and

(2) the 468-mile Wabash & Erie Canal from Toledo, Ohio, to Evansville, Indiana, on the Ohio River;

Whereas the Wabash & Erie Canal economically and culturally connected the State of Indiana to the rest of the United States through the Erie Canal and other canal networks;

Whereas, at 468 miles in length, the Wabash & Erie Canal was the largest fabricated structure in the United States when it was completed in 1853 and, as of 2024, is the second-longest canal in the world;

Whereas, to appreciate the impact that the Wabash & Erie Canal had on the population of the State of Indiana, consider that, when the Wabash & Erie Canal began operations, the State of Indiana had a population of 350,000, and by 1840, it had a population of 988,000;

Whereas, in 1835, the counties in the State of Indiana that bordered the Wabash & Erie Canal boasted 12,000 inhabitants and, by 1850, the number of inhabitants was 150,000;

Whereas, in the 3 years following the opening of the Wabash & Erie Canal, 5 new counties were created along the route of the Wabash & Erie Canal from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Huntington, Indiana;

Whereas, in the 1870s, the Wabash & Erie Canal closed due to the high cost of maintenance and low income amidst competition from railroads;

Whereas, after the Wabash & Erie Canal closed, the canal section in Delphi, Indiana, was left to decay, becoming a festering public hazard and eyesore;

Whereas, in February 1971, the very first meeting of the dozen people concerned with forming a Canal history group, later known as Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., was held in Carroll County, Indiana;

Whereas, in 1974, the Internal Revenue Service granted nonprofit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc.;

Whereas Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., has invested thousands of hours to repair the Wabash & Erie Canal and surrounding areas to represent its former glory and to educate the public of its history;

Whereas, in 2003, the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center opened, and, thanks to volunteer labor, community donations, and grant funding, offers an interactive museum, a reception hall for community events, and a research archive of canal history;

Whereas Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., has developed and maintained miles of trails along historic sites of Delphi, Indiana, for public enjoyment and recreation;

Whereas the volunteers of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., restored and relocated several historic bridges to span the Wabash & Erie Canal, including the wrought iron 1874 Paint Creek Bridge;

Whereas, since 2009, Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., has offered public canal boat tours aboard a 54-foot replica canal boat named, ''the Delphi'';

Whereas the volunteers of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., built an open-air 1850s canal-era village by relocating and restoring historic structures from around the State of Indiana; and

Whereas, besides 1 full-time executive director and limited part-time staff, the rest of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., and its activities and programs are staffed by local volunteers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the Wabash & Erie Canal as a historic landmark that preserves the story of the canal systems of the United States and their importance to early settlers for future generations;

(2) recognizes the prominent role that the Wabash & Erie Canal, the second-largest canal in the world as of 2024, had in the growth and expansion of the United States, especially in the Midwest and in the State of Indiana;

(3) recognizes Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., for its extensive community efforts to preserve the Wabash & Erie Canal while offering educational and recreational services to the public; and

(4) commemorates the 50th anniversary of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., that was founded to preserve canal history and make it possible for visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the last remaining navigable section of the Wabash & Erie Canal in the State of Indiana.

SENATE RESOLUTION 789—COMMENDING THE MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS FOR WINNING THE 2024 NCAA DIVISION II BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 789

Whereas, on March 29, 2024, the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the ''women's basketball team'') won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the ''NCAA'') Division II women's basketball national championship game against the Texas Woman's University Pioneers by a score of 89 to 73;

Whereas the women's basketball team, the number 5 seed in the tournament, claimed its first national championship since 2009, when the program won its only other national title;

Whereas sophomore Natalie Bremer, from Lake City, Minnesota—

(1) led the offense of the women's basketball team with 27 points, hitting 9 of 17 shots from the field, 3 of 4 shots from beyond the arc, and 6 of 6 shots at the free throw line;

(2) was named the NCAA Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player with an average of 23.3 points, 5.6 rebounds, and 3.6 steals per game, shooting 50.9 percent from the field; and

(3) became the 26th member of the Minnesota State 1,000 Point Club by scoring 29 points in the national semifinal game against California State University San Marcos;

Whereas senior Joey Batt, from New Ulm, Minnesota—

(1) was honored as an NCAA Central Region Tournament Most Valuable Player, with an average of 18.3 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals per game;

(2) was named to the NCAA Elite Eight team after averaging 14.6 points, 4.6 assists, and 3 steals per game at the NCAA Elite Eight;

(3) led the women's basketball team in scoring, averaging 16 points per game and shooting 44.5 percent from the field and 36 percent from 3-point range;

(4) led the women's basketball team in steals with 117 steals;

(5) finished second on the women's basketball team in assists with 104 assists;

(6) was named a Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American;

(7) was named to the Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-American Third Team; and

(8) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Defensive Player of the Year;

Whereas Head Coach Emilee Thiesse—

(1) led the women's basketball team to an overall record of 32 wins and only 5 losses in the 2023–2024 season;

(2) finished the 2023–2024 season on an 11-game winning streak; and

(3) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year;

Whereas the NCAA Division II women's basketball national runner-up, Texas Women's University, finished the 2023–2024 season with 34 wins and only 5 losses;

Whereas, on March 30, 2024, the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the ''men's basketball team'') won the 2024 NCAA Division II men's basketball national championship game against Nova Southeastern University by a score of 88 to 85;

Whereas junior guard Kyreese Willingham hit a game-winning 3-point shot from the corner with 0.8 seconds on the clock off of a pass from his brother, senior guard Malik Willingham;

Whereas senior forward Dylan Peeters—

(1) led the men's basketball team with 19 points; and

(2) made 9 of 10 shots from the field;

Whereas Malik Willingham, from Waseca, Minnesota—

(1) was named the NCAA Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player;

(2) averaged 17.3 points, 5.7 rebounds, and 5 assists per game in the tournament; and

(3) finished his career as the third leading scorer in Minnesota State University history;

Whereas Kyreese Willingham, from Waseca, Minnesota—

(1) was named the Most Valuable Player of the NCAA Central Region Tournament, posting 17 points and 6.7 rebounds per game while shooting 61.3 percent from the field; and

(2) was named to the NCAA Elite Eight All-Tournament Team, recording 14 points and 4 rebounds per game;

Whereas, in his 23rd season as head coach, Coach Matt Margenthaler—

(1) guided the men's basketball team to a season of 35 wins and 2 losses;

(2) guided the men's basketball team to their first NCAA Division II Championship in program history;

(3) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year; and

(4) was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II Coach of the Year;

Whereas the men's basketball team finished the 2023–2024 season ranked second in attendance in Division II of the NCAA; and

Whereas the NCAA Division II men's basketball national runner-up, Nova Southeastern University, finished with a record of 32 wins and 3 losses 1 year after winning the Division II Men's Basketball National Championship:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball national championship game;

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, togetherness, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, fans, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the Minnesota State University women's basketball team in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball national championship game;

(3) commends Texas Women's University on a great season as the Division II women's basketball national runner-up;

(4) commends the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II men's basketball national championship game;

(5) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, togetherness, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, fans, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the Minnesota State University men's basketball team in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II men's basketball national championship game; and

(6) commends Nova Southeastern University on a great season as the Division II men's basketball national runner-up.

SENATE RESOLUTION 790—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 790

Whereas, on Monday, April 8, 2024, the University of Connecticut's men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the ''UConn Huskies'') won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the ''NCAA'') Men's Basketball Championship with a 75–60 win over the Purdue University Boilermakers;

Whereas this is the UConn Huskies' sixth national championship, continuing the team's undefeated streak in national championship games;

Whereas this is the UConn Huskies' second consecutive national championship, becoming only the eighth NCAA Division I men's basketball team to accomplish this feat;

Whereas the UConn Huskies earned all 6 national titles since 1999, a feat that no other college team has surpassed during that time;

Whereas Tristen Newton was named the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament, averaging 14.5 points per game;

Whereas the UConn Huskies won every NCAA tournament game by 14 points or more for a second straight year and set the record this year for the largest margin of victory over its 6-game run with 140 combined points; and

Whereas, because the University of Connecticut is also home to the most successful NCAA Division I women's basketball program, having won a record 11 national championships and appearing in their twenty-third Final Four this year, Storrs, Connecticut, is the Basketball Capital of the World: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Connecticut men's basketball team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship;

(2) congratulates the fans, students, and faculty of the University of Connecticut; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the University of Connecticut, Radenka Maric; and

(B) the Head Coach of the University of Connecticut men's basketball team, Dan Hurley.

SENATE RESOLUTION 791—DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2024, AS ''GOLD STAR CHILDREN'S DAY''

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

S. RES. 791

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the families of fallen members of the Armed Forces displayed a service flag with a gold star in the window of their homes;

Whereas, in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation declaring Gold Star Mother's Day, now known as

''Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day'', a national observance honoring the mothers of fallen members of the Armed Forces annually on the last Sunday of September;

Whereas, since 2010, the Senate has honored Gold Star Spouses by resolution annually on April 5, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by spouses of fallen members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas many thousands of children of military families have lost parents who served in the Armed Forces and also deserve national recognition for the burden and legacy they carry; and

Whereas no date has existed to specifically recognize the children of fallen members of the Armed Forces as part of a national debt of gratitude that the people of the United States owe to the members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed all in protecting the freedom of the United States and the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 1, 2024, as ''Gold Star Children's Day'';

(2) honors the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen members of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Children's Day in support of children of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 792—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS ''NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH'' TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AS WELL AS YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 792

Whereas the millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase the focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2024 as ''National Child Awareness Month''—

(1) to promote awareness of—

(A) charities that benefit children; and

(B) youth-serving organizations throughout the United States;

(2) to recognize the efforts made by the charities and organizations described in paragraph (1) on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; and

(3) to recognize the importance of meeting the needs of at-risk children and youth, including children and youth who—

(A) have experienced homelessness;

(B) are in the foster care system;

(C) have been victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of child sex trafficking;

(D) have been impacted by violence;

(E) have experienced trauma; and

(F) have serious physical and mental health needs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 793—DESIGNATING JULY 30, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY''

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MORAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 793

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct that was harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously passed the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: ''*Resolved*, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge'' (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, DC, 1904–37), 11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution of the United States, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 30, 2024, as ''National Whistleblower Appreciation Day''; and

(2) ensures that the Federal Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation passed on July 30, 1778 (relating to whistleblowers), by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States, and members of the public about the legal right of a United States citizen to ''blow the whistle'' to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 39—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN WRONGFULLY OR UNJUSTLY DEPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES WHO ESTABLISHED SIGNIFICANT TIES TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH YEARS OF LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES DESERVE A CHANCE TO COME HOME TO REUNITE WITH LOVED ONES THROUGH A FAIR AND CENTRALIZED PROCESS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 39

Whereas, since 2014, the United States has deported over 2,000,000 individuals, and not every such deportation was fair, just, or accurate under Federal law;

Whereas many individuals who were wrongfully or unjustly deported had resided in the United States for years or even decades, raising their families, building their own businesses, and contributing to their communities and the United States economy;

Whereas, in Padilla v. Kentucky (2010), the Supreme Court states that deportation is a ''particularly harsh penalty'' and recognizes ''the severity of deportation'' as ''the equivalent of banishment or exile'';

Whereas nearly all individuals who were deported based on an unjust removal order, or who have a new claim to lawful status in the United States since their deportation, do not have an avenue to meaningfully present their case to return home and reunite with their loved ones in the United States;

Whereas there are limited but critical procedures under United States immigration law for allowing wrongfully or unjustly deported individuals to seek return to the United States after deportation, but in practice such mechanisms are difficult to access

and onerous to navigate and rarely result in permission to return;

Whereas individuals wrongfully or unjustly deported from the United States include—

(1) individuals who have been separated from their children, families, and loved ones after residing in the United States for years or decades;

(2) recipients of deferred action under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program who lost such status as a result of protracted litigation related to the program;

(3) individuals targeted for deportation as retaliation for exercising their right under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protest conditions in the immigration system;

(4) individuals who have succeeded in winning their immigration cases after deportation but nevertheless are unable to return to the United States;

(5) individuals deported for past nonviolent criminal convictions who have subsequently demonstrated a commitment to renewal and to their community;

(6) individuals whose criminal convictions that were the basis of deportation have been expunged or pardoned; and

(7) veterans who served the United States;

Whereas, by permanently separating individuals from their children, spouses, and communities, deportation leads to destabilizing and enduring poverty, food and housing insecurity, and irreparable psychological harm to children left behind;

Whereas many deported individuals are sent back to dangerous conditions that pose a significant risk to their lives and wellbeing, or to countries where they have no personal ties at all;

Whereas the harms of deportation disproportionately affect Black and brown immigrant families, who are over-represented within the deportation system;

Whereas the Immigration Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), relevant regulations, and Federal agency policy do include certain legal mechanisms and avenues designed to allow an individual to present a case for return after deportation (including through procedures to reopen a closed immigration court case), to effectuate return upon prevailing on an appeal, and to seek discretionary authority to return; however, such mechanisms intended by Congress and the relevant Federal agencies to remedy wrongful or unjust deportations are largely ineffective and insufficient due to a decentralized review process, associated lengthy wait times, complicated and opaque application procedures, little to no access to counsel, and a lack of resources for line-level decisionmakers with the Department of Homeland Security to meaningfully consider such cases;

Whereas a centralized, dedicated unit within the Department of Homeland Security that offers a fair and independent process for reviewing applications from individuals seeking to return to the United States after a wrongful or unjust deportation would ensure greater fairness and consistency in adjudication, alleviate the burden on individual Government attorneys and immigration courts, and reorient the Department of Homeland Security toward remedying past wrongful or unjust deportation decisions;

Whereas such a unit could exercise the legal and discretionary authority already provided under Federal law to facilitate the return of individuals whose removal orders were contrary to law or justice;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security has already established a successful central removal review unit, known as ''ImmVets'', for the repatriation of wrongfully or unjustly deported United States veterans, including approximately 100 such veterans who have returned to the United States after deportation, which demonstrates the feasibility and effectiveness of such an approach;

Whereas establishing such a unit is wholly within the broad legal authority of the Department of Homeland Security and would bring fairness and credibility to the United States immigration system; and

Whereas bringing home wrongfully or unjustly deported fathers, mothers, community leaders, and workers is essential for moving toward an immigration system that prioritizes family unity, community wellbeing, economic prosperity, and basic due process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that wrongfully or unjustly deported individuals deserve a meaningful chance to come home to the United States and reunite with their loved ones through a centralized unit within the Department of Homeland Security dedicated to reviewing requests for return to the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3207. 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.

SA 3208. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3209. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. RUBIO to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3210. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3211. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3212. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3213. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3214. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7024, to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3215. Mr. WELCH (for Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. RISCH)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2781, to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3207. 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 XII, add the following:

SEC. 1239. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR BELARUS.

Section 6406(d) of the Defense of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following:

''(1) shall only exist while United States diplomatic operations in Belarus at the United States Embassy in Minsk, Belarus are suspended; and

''(2) shall oversee the operations and personnel of the Belarus Affairs Unit.''.

SA 3208. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina 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 E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1272. REPORTS ON FOREIGN BOYCOTTS OF ISRAEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of the Office of Antiboycott Compliance of the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on boycotts described in section 1773(a) of the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4842(a)) targeted at the State of Israel.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a description of—

(1) boycotts described in that subsection; and

(2) the steps taken by the Department of Commerce to enforce the provisions of the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4841 et seq.) with respect to those boycotts.

(c) TERMINATION.—The requirement to submit reports under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3209. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Rubio 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:

DIVISION ____—INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term ''congressional intelligence committees'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in such section.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 for the conduct of

the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Federal Government.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the Federal Government are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany this division.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a), or of appropriate portions of such Schedule, within the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2025 the sum of $656,573,000.

(b) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account for fiscal year 2025 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

SEC. 104. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this division for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund $514,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

TITLE III—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

SEC. 301. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN THE INTELLIGENCE INNOVATION BOARD.

Section 7506(g) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''active and'' before ''potential'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community'' and inserting ''the designated agency ethics official'';

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) Authority for the designated agency ethics official to grant a waiver for a conflict of interest, except that—

''(i) no waiver may be granted for an active conflict of interest identified with respect to the Chair of the Board;

''(ii) every waiver for a potential conflict of interest requires review and approval by the Director of National Intelligence; and

''(iii) for every waiver granted, the designated agency ethics official shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees notice of the waiver.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DEFINITION OF DESIGNATED AGENCY ETHICS OFFICIAL.—In this subsection, the term 'designated agency ethics official' means the designated agency ethics official (as defined in section 13101 of title 5, United States Code) in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.''.

SEC. 302. NATIONAL THREAT IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION ASSESSMENT AND NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.

Section 904(f)(3) of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383(f)(3)) is amended by striking ''National Counterintelligence Executive'' and inserting ''Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center''.

SEC. 303. OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS PERSONNEL.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this division for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated or expended by the Office to increase, above the staffing level in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, the number of personnel assigned to the Open Source Intelligence Division who work exclusively or predominantly on domestic terrorism issues.

SEC. 304. IMPROVEMENTS TO ADVISORY BOARD OF NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

Section 106A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3041a(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking ''five members appointed by the Director'' and inserting ''up to 8 members appointed by the Director''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and who do not present any actual or potential conflict of interest'' before the period at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE.—The Director shall ensure that no more than 2 concurrently serving members of the Board qualify for membership on the Board based predominantly on a single qualification set forth under clause (i).'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (7) as paragraphs (6) through (8), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) CHARTER.—The Director shall establish a charter for the Board that includes the following:

''(A) Mandatory processes for identifying potential conflicts of interest, including the submission of initial and periodic financial disclosures by Board members.

''(B) The vetting of potential conflicts of interest by the designated agency ethics official, except that no individual waiver may be granted for a conflict of interest identified with respect to the Chair of the Board.

''(C) The establishment of a process and associated protections for any whistleblower alleging a violation of applicable conflict of interest law, Federal contracting law, or other provision of law.''; and

(4) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking ''September 30, 2024'' and inserting ''August 31, 2027''.

SEC. 305. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title X of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3227 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1035. National Intelligence University acceptance of grants

''(a) AUTHORITY.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize the President of the National Intelligence University to accept qualifying research grants.

''(b) QUALIFYING GRANTS.—A qualifying research grant under this section is a grant that is awarded on a competitive basis by an entity referred to in subsection (c) for a research project with a scientific, literary, or educational purpose.

''(c) ENTITIES FROM WHICH GRANTS MAY BE ACCEPTED.—A qualifying research grant may be accepted under this section only from a Federal agency or from a corporation, fund, foundation, educational institution, or similar entity that is organized and operated primarily for scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

''(d) ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT FUNDS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—The Director shall establish an account for administering funds received as qualifying research grants under this section.

''(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The President of the University shall use the funds in the account established pursuant to paragraph (1) in accordance with applicable provisions of the regulations and the terms and conditions of the grants received.

''(e) RELATED EXPENSES.—Subject to such limitations as may be provided in appropriations Acts, appropriations available for the National Intelligence University may be used to pay expenses incurred by the University in applying for, and otherwise pursuing, the award of qualifying research grants.

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents preceding section 2 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1034 the following new item:

''Sec. 1035. National Intelligence University acceptance of grants.''.

SEC. 306. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR NEW CONTROLLED ACCESS PROGRAMS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this division for the National Intelligence Program (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) may be obligated or expended for any controlled access program (as defined in section 501A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091a(d))), or a compartment or subcompartment therein, that is established on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, until the head of the element of the intelligence community responsible for the establishment of such program, compartment, or subcompartment, submits the notification required by section 501A(b) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091a(b)).

SEC. 307. LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS FROM CONTROLLED ACCESS PROGRAMS.

Section 501A(b) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091a(b)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''LIMITATION ON ESTABLISHMENT'' and inserting ''LIMITATIONS'';

(2) by striking ''A head'' and inserting the following:

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—A head''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) TRANSFERS.—A head of an element of the intelligence community may not transfer a capability from a controlled access program, including from a compartment or subcompartment therein to a compartment or subcompartment of another controlled access program, to a special access program (as defined in section 1152(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (50 U.S.C. 3348(g))), or to anything else outside the controlled access program, until the head submits to the appropriate congressional committees and congressional leadership notice of the intent of the head to make such transfer.''.

SEC. 308. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE COAST GUARD.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard may use up to 1 percent of the amounts made available for the National Intelligence Program (as such term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) for each fiscal year for intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Coast Guard relating to objects of a confidential, extraordinary, or emergency nature, which amounts may be accounted for solely on the certification of the Commandant and each such certification shall be considered to be a sufficient voucher for the amount contained in the certification.

SEC. 309. STRENGTHENING OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS.

(a) IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 311 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 311. Office of Economic Intelligence and Security

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'counterintelligence', 'foreign intelligence', and 'intelligence community' have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence of the Department of the Treasury, the Office of Economic Intelligence and Security (in this section referred to as the 'Office'), which, subject to the availability of appropriations, shall—

''(1) be responsible for the receipt, analysis, collation, and dissemination of foreign intelligence and foreign counterintelligence information relating to the operation and responsibilities of the Department of the Treasury and other Federal agencies executing economic statecraft tools that do not include any elements that are elements of the intelligence community;

''(2) provide intelligence support and economic analysis to Federal agencies implementing United States economic policy, including for purposes of global strategic competition; and

''(3) have such other related duties and authorities as may be assigned by the Secretary for purposes of the responsibilities described in paragraph (1), subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence.

''(c) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Assistant Secretary shall report directly to the Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 311 and inserting the following:

''311. Office of Economic Intelligence and Security.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(4)(J) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)(J)) is amended by striking ''Office of Intelligence and Analysis'' and inserting ''Office of Economic Intelligence and Security''.

(4) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury shall be deemed a reference to the Office of Economic Intelligence and Security of the Department of the Treasury.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN AND EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Treasury submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a 3-year strategic plan detailing the resources required by the Department of the Treasury.

(3) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall include the following:

(A) Staffing and administrative expenses planned for the Department for the 3-year period beginning on the date of the submittal of the plan, including resourcing requirements for each office and division in the Department during such period.

(B) Stuctural changes and resources, including leadership structure and staffing, required to implement subsection (a) during the period described in subparagraph (A).

(c) LIMITATION.—None of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available before the date of the enactment of this Act for the Office of Foreign Asset Control, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Office of International Affairs, the Office of Tax Policy, or the Office of Domestic Finance may be transferred or reprogrammed to support the Office of Economic Intelligence and Security established by section 311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 310. REPORT ON COLLECTION OF UNITED STATES LOCATION INFORMATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) UNITED STATES LOCATION INFORMATION.—The term ''United States location information'' means information derived or otherwise calculated from the use of technology, including global positioning systems-level latitude and longitude coordinates or other mechanisms, that reveals the past or present approximate or specific location of a customer, subscriber, user, or device in the United States, or, if the customer, subscriber, or user is known to be a United States person, outside the United States.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall issue a report on the collection of United States location information by the intelligence community.

(c) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall address the filtering, segregation, use, dissemination, masking, and retention of United States location information by the intelligence community.

(d) FORM; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required by subsection (a)—

(1) shall be issued in unclassified form and made available to the public; and

(2) may include a classified annex, which the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing—

(1) any rulemaking; or

(2) the collection or access of United States location information.

TITLE IV—COUNTERING FOREIGN THREATS

Subtitle A—People's Republic of China

SEC. 401. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATUS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterproliferation and Biosecurity Center and such heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Director of National Intelligence considers appropriate, conduct an assessment of the current status of the biotechnology of the People's Republic of China, which shall include an assessment of how the People's Republic of China is supporting the biotechnology sector through both licit and illicit means, such as foreign direct investment, subsidies, talent recruitment, or other efforts.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Direct of National Intelligence completes the assessment required by subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Director with respect to the assessment.

(3) FORM.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 402. INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON SYNTHETIC OPIOID PRECURSOR CHEMICALS ORIGINATING IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Director of National Intelligence shall, in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of such other departments and agencies as the Director considers appropriate, develop a strategy to ensure robust intelligence sharing relating to the illicit trafficking of synthetic opioid precursor chemicals from the People's Republic of China and other source countries.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of existing intelligence sharing between the intelligence community, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, any other relevant Federal departments, and State, local, territorial and tribal law enforcement entities, including any mechanisms that allow subject matter experts with and without security clearances to share and receive information and any gaps identified.

(2) A plan to ensure robust intelligence sharing, including by addressing gaps identified pursuant to subparagraph (1) and identifying additional capabilities and resources needed;

(3) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights in carrying out this strategy.

SEC. 403. REPORT ON EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO EVADE UNITED STATES TRANSPARENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on efforts of the People's Republic of China to evade the following:

(1) Identification under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(2) Restrictions or limitations imposed by any of the following:

(A) Section 805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31).

(B) Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 41 U.S.C. 3901 note prec.).

(C) The list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury (commonly known as the ''SDN list'').

(D) The Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(E) Commercial or dual-use export controls under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.) and the Export Administration Regulations.

(F) Executive Order 14105 (88 Fed. Reg. 54867; relating to addressing United States investments in certain national security technologies and products in countries of concern), or successor order.

(G) Import restrictions on products made with forced labor implemented by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to Public Law 117–78 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note).

(c) FORM.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

SEC. 404. PLAN FOR RECRUITMENT OF MANDARIN SPEAKERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive plan to prioritize the recruitment and training of individuals who speak Mandarin Chinese for each element of the intelligence community.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle B—The Russian Federation

SEC. 411. REPORT ON RUSSIAN FEDERATION SPONSORSHIP OF ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ''foreign terrorist organization'' means an organization that has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(3) SPECIALLY DESIGNATED GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ''specially designated global terrorist organization'' means an organization that has been designated as a specially designated global terrorist by the Secretary of State or the Secretary, pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(4) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term ''state sponsor of terrorism'' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, for purposes of—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(D) any other provision of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in concurrence with the Secretary of State, conduct and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A list of all instances in which the Russian Federation, or an official of the Russian Federation, has provided financial, material, technical, or lethal support to foreign terrorist organizations, specially designated global terrorist organizations, state sponsors of terrorism, or for acts of international terrorism.

(2) A list of all instances in which the Russian Federation, or an official of the Russian Federation, has willfully aided or abetted—

(A) the international proliferation of nuclear explosive devices to persons;

(B) a person in acquiring unsafeguarded special nuclear material; or

(C) the efforts of a person to use, develop, produce, stockpile, or otherwise acquire chemical, biological, or radiological weapons.

(3) An assessment of threats to the homeland as a result of Russian government assistance to the Russian Imperial Movement.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 30 days after submittal of the report required by subsection (b), the Director of National Intelligence shall provide a classified briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the methodology and findings of the report.

SEC. 412. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY COURSE OF WAR IN UKRAINE.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in collaboration with the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment of the likely course of the war in Ukraine through December 31, 2025.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall include an assessment of each of the following:

(1) The ability of the military of Ukraine to defend against Russian aggression if the United States does, or does not, continue to provide military and economic assistance to Ukraine and does, or does not, maintain policy restrictions on the use of United States weapons during the period described in such subsection.

(2) The likely course of the war during such period if the United States does, or does

not, continue to provide military and economic assistance to Ukraine.

(3) The ability and willingness of countries in Europe and outside of Europe to continue to provide military and economic assistance to Ukraine if the United States does, or does not, do so, including the ability of such countries to make up for any shortfall in United States assistance.

(4) The effects of a potential defeat of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on United States national security and foreign policy interests, including the potential for further aggression from the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(d) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Subtitle C—International Terrorism

SEC. 421. ASSESSMENT AND REPORT ON THE THREAT OF ISIS-KHORASAN TO THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, in coordination with such elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers relevant, shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of the threats to the United States and United States citizens posed by ISIS-Khorasan; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written report on the findings of the assessment.

(c) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the historical evolution of ISIS-Khorasan, beginning with Al-Qaeda and the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

(2) A description of the ideology and stated intentions of ISIS-Khorasan as related to the United States and the interests of the United States, including the homeland.

(3) A list of all terrorist attacks worldwide attributable to ISIS-Khorasan or for which ISIS-Khorasan claimed credit, beginning on January 1, 2015.

(4) A description of the involvement of ISIS-Khorasan in Afghanistan before, during, and after the withdrawal of United States military and civilian personnel and resources in August 2021.

(5) The recruiting and training strategy of ISIS-Khorasan following the withdrawal described in paragraph (4), including—

(A) the geographic regions in which ISIS-Khorasan is physically present;

(B) regions from which ISIS-Khorasan is recruiting; and

(C) its ambitions for individual actors worldwide and in the United States.

(6) A description of the relationship between ISIS-Khorasan and ISIS core, the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and other terrorist groups, as appropriate.

(7) A description of the association of members of ISIS-Khorasan with individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(8) A description of ISIS-Khorasan's development of, and relationships with, travel facilitation networks in Europe, Central Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America.

(9) An assessment of ISIS-Khorasan's understanding of the border and immigration policies of the United States.

(10) An assessment of the known travel of members of ISIS-Khorasan within the Western Hemisphere and specifically across the southern border of the United States.

(11) As assessment of ISIS-Khorasan's intentions and capabilities within the United States.

(d) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Subtitle D—Other Foreign Threats

SEC. 431. ASSESSMENT OF VISA-FREE TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN WESTERN HEMISPHERE BY NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—The term ''countries of concern'' means—

(A) the Russian Federation;

(B) the People's Republic of China;

(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(D) the Syrian Arab Republic;

(E) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(F) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and

(G) the Republic of Cuba.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written assessment of the impacts to national security caused by travel without a visa to and within countries in the Western Hemisphere by nationals of countries of concern.

(c) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 432. ASSESSMENT OF THREAT POSED BY CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury.

(3) CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—The term ''citizenship-by-investment program'' means an immigration, investment, or other program of a foreign country that, in exchange for a covered contribution, authorizes the individual making the covered contribution to acquire citizenship in such country, including temporary or permanent residence that may serve as the basis for subsequent naturalization.

(4) COVERED CONTRIBUTION.—The term ''covered contribution'' means—

(A) an investment in, or a monetary donation or any other form of direct or indirect capital transfer to, including through the purchase or rental of real estate—

(i) the government of a foreign country; or

(ii) any person, business, or entity in such a foreign country; and

(B) a donation to, or endowment of, any activity contributing to the public good in such a foreign country.

(5) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of National Intelligence.

(b) ASSESSMENT OF THREAT POSED BY CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAMS.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director and the Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the other elements of the intelligence community and the head of any appropriate Federal agency, shall complete an assessment of the threat posed to the United States by citizenship-by-investment programs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An identification of each citizenship-by-investment program, including an identification of the foreign country that operates each such program.

(B) With respect to each citizenship-by-investment program identified under subparagraph (A)—

(i) a description of the types of investments required under the program; and

(ii) an identification of the sectors to which an individual may make a covered contribution under the program.

(C) An assessment of the threats posed to the national security of the United States by malign actors that use citizenship-by-investment programs—

(i) to evade sanctions or taxes;

(ii) to facilitate or finance—

(I) crimes relating to national security, including terrorism, weapons trafficking or proliferation, cybercrime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and espionage; or

(II) any other activity that furthers the interests of a foreign adversary or undermines the integrity of the immigration laws or security of the United States; or

(iii) to undermine the United States and its interests through any other means identified by the Director and the Assistant Secretary.

(D) An identification of the foreign countries the citizenship-by-investment programs of which pose the greatest threat to the national security of the United States.

(3) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

(A) REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after completing the assessment required by paragraph (1), the Director and the Assistant Secretary shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Director and the Assistant Secretary with respect to the assessment.

(ii) ELEMENTS.—The report required by clause (i) shall include the following:

(I) A detailed description of the threats posed to the national security of the United States by citizenship-by-investment programs.

(II) Recommendations for additional resources or authorities necessary to counter such threats.

(III) A description of opportunities to counter such threats.

(iii) FORM.—The report required by clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex, as appropriate.

(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report required by subparagraph (A) is submitted, the Director and Assistant Secretary shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress with a briefing on the report.

SEC. 433. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE REVIEW OF VISITORS AND ASSIGNEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNTRY OF RISK.—The term ''country of risk'' means a country identified in the report submitted to Congress by the Director of National Intelligence in 2024 pursuant to section 108B of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043b) (commonly referred to as the ''Annual Threat Assessment'').

(3) COVERED ASSIGNEE; COVERED VISITOR.—The terms ''covered assignee'' and ''covered visitor'' mean a foreign national from a country of risk that is ''engaging in competitive behavior that directly threatens U.S. national security'', who is not an employee of either the Department of Energy or the management and operations contractor operating a National Laboratory on behalf of the Department of Energy, and has requested access to the premises, information, or technology of a National Laboratory.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Department of Energy (or their designee).

(5) FOREIGN NATIONAL.—The term ''foreign national'' has the meaning given the term ''alien'' in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

(6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(7) NONTRADITIONAL COLLECTION THREAT.—The term ''nontraditional collection threat'' means a threat posed by an individual not employed by a foreign intelligence service, who is seeking access to information about a capability, research, or organizational dynamics of the United States to inform a foreign adversary or non-state actor.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The National Laboratories conduct critical, cutting-edge research across a range of scientific disciplines that provide the United States with a technological edge over other countries.

(2) The technologies developed in the National Laboratories contribute to the national security of the United States, including classified and sensitive military technology and dual-use commercial technology.

(3) International cooperation in the field of science is critical to the United States maintaining its leading technological edge.

(4) The research enterprise of the Department of Energy, including the National Laboratories, is increasingly targeted by adversarial nations to exploit military and dual-use technologies for military or economic gain.

(5) Approximately 40,000 citizens of foreign countries, including more than 8,000 citizens from China and Russia, were granted access to the premises, information, or technology of National Laboratories in fiscal year 2023.

(6) The Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Department of Energy is responsible for identifying counterintelligence risks to the Department, including the National Laboratories, and providing direction for the mitigation of such risks.

(c) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) before being granted access to the premises, information, or technology of a National Laboratory, citizens of foreign countries identified in the 2024 Annual Threat Assessment of the intelligence community as ''engaging in competitive behavior that directly threatens U.S. national security'' should be appropriately screened by the National Laboratory to which they seek access, and by the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Department, to identify risks associated with granting the requested access to sensitive military, or dual-use technologies; and

(2) identified risks should be mitigated.

(d) REVIEW OF COUNTRY OF RISK COVERED VISITOR AND COVERED ASSIGNEE ACCESS REQUESTS.—The Director shall, in consultation with the applicable Under Secretary of the Department of Energy that oversees the National Laboratory, or their designee, promulgate a policy to assess the counterintelligence risk that covered visitors or covered assignees pose to the research or activities undertaken at a National Laboratory.

(e) ADVICE WITH RESPECT TO COVERED VISITORS OR COVERED ASSIGNEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide advice to a National Laboratory on covered visitors and covered assignees when 1 or more of the following conditions are present:

(A) The Director has reason to believe that a covered visitor or covered assignee is a nontraditional intelligence collection threat.

(B) The Director is in receipt of information indicating that a covered visitor or covered assignee constitutes a counterintelligence risk to a National Laboratory.

(2) ADVICE DESCRIBED.—Advice provided to a National Laboratory in accordance with paragraph (1) shall include a description of the assessed risk.

(3) RISK MITIGATION.—When appropriate, the Director shall, in consultation with the applicable Under Secretary of the Department of Energy that oversees the National Laboratory, or their designee, provide recommendations to mitigate the risk as part of the advice provided in accordance with paragraph (1).

(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which shall include—

(1) the number of covered visitors or covered assignees permitted to access the premises, information, or technology of each National Laboratory;

(2) the number of instances in which the Director provided advice to a National Laboratory in accordance with subsection (e); and

(3) the number of instances in which a National Laboratory took action inconsistent with advice provided by the Director in accordance with subsection (e).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2032.

SEC. 434. ASSESSMENT OF THE LESSONS LEARNED BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WITH RESPECT TO THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR.

(a) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with such other heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written assessment of the lessons learned from the Israel-Hamas war.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) Lessons learned from the timing and scope of the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas against Israel, including lessons related to United States intelligence cooperation with Israel and other regional partners.

(2) Lessons learned from advances in warfare, including the use by adversaries of a complex tunnel network.

(3) Lessons learned from attacks by adversaries against maritime shipping routes in the Red Sea.

(4) Lessons learned from the use by adversaries of rockets, missiles, and unmanned aerial systems, including attacks by Iran.

(5) Analysis of the impact of the Israel-Hamas war on the global security environment, including the war in Ukraine.

(d) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 435. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT ON TREN DE ARAGUA.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in consultation with such other

heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an intelligence assessment on the gang known as ''Tren de Aragua''.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The intelligence assessment required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the key leaders, organizational structure, subgroups, presence in countries in the Western Hemisphere, and cross-border illicit drug smuggling routes of Tren de Aragua.

(2) A description of the practices used by Tren de Aragua to generate revenue.

(3) A description of the level at which Tren de Aragua receives support from the regime of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela.

(4) A description of the manner in which Tren de Aragua is exploiting heightened migratory flows out of Venezuela and throughout the Western Hemisphere to expand its operations.

(5) A description of the degree to which Tren de Aragua cooperates or competes with other criminal organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

(6) An estimate of the annual revenue received by Tren de Aragua from the sale of illicit drugs, kidnapping, and human trafficking, disaggregated by activity.

(7) Any other information the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency considers relevant.

(d) FORM.—The intelligence assessment required by subsection (b) may be submitted in classified form.

SEC. 436. ASSESSMENT OF MADURO REGIME'S ECONOMIC AND SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM AND FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written assessment of the economic and security relationships of the regime of Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela with the countries and organizations described in subsection (c), including formal and informal support to and from such countries and organizations.

(c) COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS DESCRIBED.—The countries and organizations described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The following countries designated by the United States as state sponsors of terrorism:

(A) The Republic of Cuba.

(B) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

(2) The following organizations designated by the United States as foreign terrorist organizations:

(A) The National Liberation Army (ELN).

(B) The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (FARC-EP).

(C) The Segunda Marquetalia.

(d) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 437. CONTINUED CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF IRANIAN EXPENDITURES SUPPORTING FOREIGN MILITARY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(b) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an update to the report submitted under section 6705 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (22 U.S.C. 9412) to reflect current occurrences, circumstances, and expenditures.

(c) FORM.—The update submitted pursuant to subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

TITLE V—EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

SEC. 501. STRATEGY TO COUNTER FOREIGN ADVERSARY EFFORTS TO UTILIZE BIOTECHNOLOGIES IN WAYS THAT THREATEN UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that as biotechnologies become increasingly important with regard to the national security interests of the United States, and with the addition of biotechnologies to the biosecurity mission of the National Counterproliferation and Biosecurity Center, the intelligence community must articulate and implement a strategy to identify and assess threats relating to biotechnologies.

(c) STRATEGY FOR BIOTECHNOLOGIES CRITICAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—

(1) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, acting through the Director of the National Counterproliferation and Biosecurity Center and in coordination with the heads of such other elements of the intelligence community as the Director of National Intelligence considers appropriate, develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a whole-of-government strategy to address concerns relating to biotechnologies.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed and submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Identification and assessment of threats associated with biotechnologies critical to the national security of the United States, including materials that involve a dependency on foreign adversary nations.

(B) A determination of how best to counter foreign adversary efforts to utilize biotechnologies that threaten the national security of the United States, including threats identified pursuant to paragraph (1).

(C) A plan to support efforts of other Federal departments and agencies to secure United States supply chains of the biotechnologies critical to the national security of the United States, by coordinating—

(i) across the intelligence community;

(ii) the support provided by the intelligence community to other relevant Federal departments and agencies and policymakers;

(iii) the engagement of the intelligence community with private sector entities, in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as may be applicable; and

(iv) how the intelligence community, in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, can support such efforts to secure United States supply chains for and use of biotechnologies.

(D) Proposals for such legislative or administrative action as the Directors consider necessary to support the strategy.

SEC. 502. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROLES, MISSIONS, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERPROLIFERATION AND BIOSECURITY CENTER.

Section 119A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3057) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking ''biosecurity and'' and inserting ''counterproliferation, biosecurity, and''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''analyzing and'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''Establishing'' and inserting ''Coordinating the establishment of'';

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''Disseminating'' and inserting ''Overseeing the dissemination of'';

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by inserting ''and coordinating'' after ''Conducting''; and

(v) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''Conducting'' and inserting ''Coordinating and advancing''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and analysis'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (D) through (F), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) Overseeing and coordinating the analysis of intelligence on biosecurity and foreign biological threats in support of the intelligence needs of Federal departments and agencies responsible for public health, including by providing analytic priorities to elements of the intelligence community and by conducting and coordinating net assessments.'';

(iv) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by clause (ii), by inserting ''on matters relating to biosecurity and foreign biological threats'' after ''public health'';

(v) in subparagraph (F), as redesignated by clause (ii), by inserting ''and authorities'' after ''capabilities''; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) Enhancing coordination between elements of the intelligence community and private sector entities on information relevant to biosecurity, biotechnology, and foreign biological threats, and coordinating such information with relevant Federal departments and agencies, as applicable.''.

SEC. 503. ENHANCING CAPABILITIES TO DETECT FOREIGN ADVERSARY THREATS RELATING TO BIOLOGICAL DATA.

(a) DEFINITION OF BIOLOGICAL DATA.—The term ''biological data'' means information,

including associated descriptors, derived from the structure, function, or process of a biological system that is either measured, collected, or aggregated for analysis.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with relevant heads of Federal departments and agencies, take the following steps to standardize the use by the intelligence community of biological data and the ability of the intelligence community to detect foreign adversary threats relating to biological data:

(1) Standardize the processes and procedures for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information relating to foreign adversary use of biological data, particularly in ways that threaten or could threaten the national security of the United States.

(2) Issue policy guidance within the intelligence community—

(A) to standardize the data security practices for biological data maintained by the intelligence community, including security practices for the handling and processing of biological data, including with respect to protecting the civil rights, liberties, and privacy of United States persons;

(B) to standardize intelligence engagements with foreign allies and partners with respect to biological data; and

(C) to standardize the creation of metadata relating to biological data maintained by the intelligence community.

(3) Ensure coordination with such Federal departments and agencies and entities in the private sector as the Director considers appropriate to understand how foreign adversaries are accessing and using biological data stored within the United States.

SEC. 504. NATIONAL SECURITY PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CERTAIN RISKS AND THREATS RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) DEFINITION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—In this section, the term ''artificial intelligence''—

(1) has the meaning given that term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401); and

(2) includes the artificial systems and techniques described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. 4061 note prec.)

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Artificial intelligence systems demonstrate increased capabilities in the generation of synthetic media and computer programming code, as well as areas such as object recognition, natural language processing, and workflow orchestration.

(2) The growing capabilities of artificial intelligence systems in the areas described in paragraph (1), as well as the greater accessibility of large-scale artificial intelligence models and advanced computation capabilities to individuals, businesses, and governments, have dramatically increased the adoption of artificial intelligence products in the United States and globally.

(3) The advanced capabilities of the systems described in paragraph (1), and their accessibility to a wide-range of users, have increased the likelihood and effect of foreign misuse or malfunction of these systems, such as to assist foreign actors to generate synthetic media for disinformation campaigns, develop or refine malware for computer network exploitation activity by foreign actors, enhance foreign surveillance capabilities in ways that undermine the privacy of citizens of the United States, and increase the risk of foreign exploitation or malfunction of information technology systems incorporating artificial intelligence systems in mission-critical fields such as health care, critical infrastructure, and transportation.

(c) PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and issue procedures to facilitate and promote mechanisms by which—

(1) vendors of advanced computation capabilities, vendors and commercial users of artificial intelligence systems, as well as independent researchers and other third parties, may effectively notify appropriate elements of the United States Government of—

(A) information security risks emanating from artificial intelligence systems, such as the use of an artificial intelligence system by foreign actors to develop or refine malicious software;

(B) information security risks such as indications of compromise or other threat information indicating a compromise to the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an artificial intelligence system, or to the supply chain of an artificial intelligence system, including training or test data, frameworks, computing environments, or other components necessary for the training, management, or maintenance of an artificial intelligence system posed by foreign actors;

(C) biosecurity risks emanating from artificial intelligence systems, such as the use of an artificial intelligence system by foreign actors to design, develop, or acquire dual-use biological entities such as putatively toxic small molecules, proteins, or pathogenic organisms;

(D) suspected foreign malign influence (as defined by section 119C of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3059(f))) activity that appears to be facilitated by an artificial intelligence system;

(E) chemical security risks emanating from artificial intelligence systems, such as the use of an artificial intelligence system to design, develop, or acquire chemical weapons or their analogues, or other hazardous chemical compounds; and

(F) any other unlawful activity by foreign actors facilitated by, or directed at, an artificial intelligence system;

(2) elements of the Federal Government may provide threat briefings to vendors of advanced computation capabilities and vendors of artificial intelligence systems, alerting them, as may be appropriate, to potential or confirmed foreign exploitation of their systems, as well as malign foreign plans and intentions; and

(3) an inter-agency process is convened to identify appropriate Federal agencies to assist in the private sector engagement described in this subsection and to coordinate with respect to risks that implicate multiple sectors and Federal agencies, including leveraging Sector Risk Management Agencies (as defined in section 2200 of the Homeland Security Act of 20002 (6 U.S.C. 650)) where appropriate.

(d) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—The President shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on procedures developed and issued pursuant to subsection (c).

(3) ELEMENTS.—The briefing provided pursuant to paragraph (2) shall include the following:

(A) A clear specification of which Federal agencies are responsible for leading outreach to affected industry and the public with respect to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) of subsection (c) and paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(B) An outline of a plan for industry outreach and public education regarding risks posed by, and directed at, artificial intelligence systems associated with foreign actors.

(C) Use of research and development, stakeholder outreach, and risk management frameworks established pursuant to—

(i) provisions of law in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(ii) Federal agency guidelines.

SEC. 505. ESTABLISHMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SECURITY CENTER.

(a) DEFINITION OF COUNTER-ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—In this section, the term ''counter-artificial intelligence'' means techniques or procedures to extract information about the behavior or characteristics of an artificial intelligence system, or to learn how to manipulate an artificial intelligence system, in order to subvert the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an artificial intelligence system or adjacent system.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Security Agency shall establish an Artificial Intelligence Security Center within the Cybersecurity Collaboration Center of the National Security Agency.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Artificial Intelligence Security Center shall be as follows:

(1) Developing guidance to prevent or mitigate counter-artificial intelligence techniques.

(2) Promoting secure artificial intelligence adoption practices for managers of national security systems (as defined in section 3552 of title 44, United States Code) and elements of the defense industrial base.

(3) Such other functions as the Director considers appropriate.

SEC. 506. SENSE OF CONGRESS ENCOURAGING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO INCREASE PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIP WITH OFFICE OF STRATEGIC CAPITAL OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO SECURE ENDURING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) acquisition leaders in the intelligence community should further explore the strategic use of private capital partnerships to secure enduring technological advantages for the intelligence community, including through the identification, development, and transfer of promising technologies to full-scale programs capable of meeting intelligence community requirements; and

(2) the intelligence community should undertake regular consultation with Federal partners, such as the Office of Strategic Capital of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, on best practices and lessons learned from their experiences integrating these resources so as to accelerate attainment of national security objectives.

SEC. 507. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY BRIDGE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(2) WORK PROGRAM.—The term ''work program'' means any agreement between In-Q-Tel and a third-party company, where such third-party company furnishes or is furnishing a product or service for use by any of In-Q-Tel's government customers to address those customers' technology needs or requirements.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence a program to assist in the transitioning of products or services from the research and development phase to the contracting and production phase, subject to the extent and in such amounts as specifically provided in advance in appropriations Acts for such purposes.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The program established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the ''Intelligence Community Technology Bridge Program'' (in this subsection referred to as the ''Program'').

(c) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Director shall, in consultation with In-Q-Tel, carry out the Program by providing assistance to businesses or nonprofit organizations that are transitioning products or services.

(2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided under paragraph (1) may be provided in the form of a grant or a payment for a product or service.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE.—Assistance may be provided under paragraph (1) to a business or nonprofit organization that is transitioning a product or service only if—

(A) the business or nonprofit organization—

(i) has participated or is participating in a work program; or

(ii) is engaged with an element of the intelligence community or Department of Defense for research and development; and

(B) the Director or the head of an element of the intelligence community attests that the product or service will be utilized by an element of the intelligence community for a mission need, such as because it would be valuable in addressing a needed capability, fill or complement a technology gap, or increase the supplier base or price-competitiveness for the Federal Government.

(4) PRIORITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS AND NONTRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.—In providing assistance under paragraph (1), the Director shall prioritize the provision of assistance to small business concerns (as defined under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a))) and nontraditional defense contractors (as defined in section 3014 of title 10, United States Code).

(d) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall be administered by the Director.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In administering the Program, the Director—

(A) shall consult with the heads of the elements of the intelligence community; and

(B) may consult with In-Q-Tel, the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Investment Fund, and the Defense Innovation Unit.

(e) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2025, and not less frequently than twice each fiscal year thereafter in which amounts are available for the provision of assistance under the Program, the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a semiannual report on the Program.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include, for the period covered by the report, information about the following:

(A) How much was expended or obligated by the Program in the provision of assistance under subsection (c).

(B) For what the amounts were expended or obligated.

(C) The effects of such expenditures and obligations, including a timeline for expected milestones for operational use.

(D) A summary of annual transition activities and outcomes of such activities for the intelligence community.

(E) A description of why products and services were chosen for transition, including a description of milestones achieved.

(3) FORM.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to carry out the Program $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 508. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PUBLIC-PRIVATE TALENT EXCHANGES.

(a) FOCUS AREAS.—Subsection (a) of section 5306 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3334) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) FOCUS AREAS.—The Director shall ensure that the policies, processes, and procedures developed pursuant to paragraph (1) require exchanges under this section relate to intelligence or counterintelligence with a focus on rotations described in such paragraph with private-sector organizations in the following fields:

''(A) Finance.

''(B) Acquisition.

''(C) Biotechnology.

''(D) Computing.

''(E) Artificial intelligence.

''(F) Business process innovation and entrepreneurship.

''(G) Cybersecurity.

''(H) Materials and manufacturing.

''(I) Any other technology or research field the Director determines relevant to meet evolving national security threats in technology sectors.''.

(b) DURATION OF TEMPORARY DETAILS.—Subsection (e) of section 5306 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3334) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''5 years''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''5 years''.

(c) TREATMENT OF PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYEES.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) shall not be considered to have a conflict of interest with an element of the intelligence community solely because of being detailed to an element of the intelligence community under this section.''.

(d) HIRING AUTHORITY.—Such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

''(j) HIRING AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may hire, under section 213.3102(r) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations, an individual who is an employee of a private-sector organization who is detailed to an element of the intelligence community under this section.

''(2) NO PERSONNEL BILLET REQUIRED.—Hiring an individual under paragraph (1) shall not require a personnel billet.''.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for 2 more years, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on—

(A) the implementation of the policies, processes, and procedures developed pursuant to subsection (a) of such section 5306 (50 U.S.C. 3334) and the administration of such section;

(B) how the heads of the elements of the intelligence community are using or plan to use the authorities provided under such section; and

(C) recommendations for legislative or administrative action to increase use of the authorities provided under such section.

SEC. 509. ENHANCING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ABILITY TO ACQUIRE EMERGING TECHNOLOGY THAT FULFILLS INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NEEDS.

(a) DEFINITION OF WORK PROGRAM.—The term ''work program'' means any agreement between In-Q-Tel and a third-party company, where such third-party company furnishes or is furnishing a property, product, or service for use by any of In-Q-Tel's government customers to address those customers' technology needs or requirements.

(b) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the exceptions listed under section 3304(a) of title 41, United States Code, and under section 3204(a) of title 10, United States Code, for the use of competitive procedures, the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community may use procedures other than competitive procedures to acquire a property, product, or service if—

(1) the property, product, or service is a work program; and

(2) the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community certifies that such property, product, or service has been shown to meet an identified need of the intelligence community.

(c) JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF PROCEDURES OTHER THAN COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A property, product, or service may not be acquired by the Director or the head of an element of the intelligence community under subsection (b) using procedures other than competitive procedures unless the acquiring officer for the acquisition justifies, at the directorate level, the use of such procedures in writing.

(2) CONTENTS.—A justification in writing described in paragraph (1) for an acquisition using procedures other than competitive procedures shall include the following:

(A) A description of the need of the element of the intelligence community that the property, product, or service satisfies.

(B) A certification that the anticipated costs will be fair and reasonable.

(C) A description of the market survey conducted or a statement of the reasons a market survey was not conducted.

(D) Such other matters as the Director or the head, as the case may be, determines appropriate.

SEC. 510. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HOSTILE FOREIGN CYBER ACTORS.

It is the sense of Congress that foreign ransomware organizations, and foreign affiliates associated with them, constitute hostile foreign cyber actors, that covered nations abet and benefit from the activities of these actors, and that such actors should be treated as hostile foreign cyber actors by the United States. Such actors include the following:

(1) DarkSide.

(2) Conti.

(3) REvil.

(4) BlackCat, also known as ''ALPHV''.

(5) LockBit.

(6) Rhysida, also known as ''Vice Society''.

(7) Royal.

(8) Phobos, also known as ''Eight'' and also known as ''Joanta''.

(9) C10p.

(10) Hackers associated with the SamSam ransomware campaigns.

(11) Play.

(12) BianLian.

(13) Killnet.

(14) Akira.

(15) Ragnar Locker, also known as ''Dark Angels''.

(16) Blacksuit.

(17) INC.

(18) Black Basta.

SEC. 511. DEEMING RANSOMWARE THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PRIORITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given such term in subsection (e) of the Critical Infrastructures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(b) RANSOMWARE THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PRIORITY.—The Director of National Intelligence, pursuant to the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458), section 1.3(b)(17) of Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note; relating to United States intelligence activities), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, and National Security Presidential Directive–26 (February 24, 2003; relating to intelligence priorities), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall deem ransomware threats to critical infrastructure a national intelligence priority component to the National Intelligence Priorities Framework.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implications of the ransomware threat to United States national security.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall address the following:

(A) Identification of individuals, groups, and entities who pose the most significant threat, including attribution to individual ransomware attacks whenever possible.

(B) Locations from which individuals, groups, and entities conduct ransomware attacks.

(C) The infrastructure, tactics, and techniques ransomware actors commonly use.

(D) Any relationships between the individuals, groups, and entities that conduct ransomware attacks and their governments or countries of origin that could impede the ability to counter ransomware threats.

(E) Intelligence gaps that have impeded, or currently are impeding, the ability to counter ransomware threats.

(3) FORM.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 512. ENHANCING PUBLIC-PRIVATE SHARING ON MANIPULATIVE ADVERSARY PRACTICES IN CRITICAL MINERAL PROJECTS.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the heads of such Federal agencies as the Director considers appropriate, develop a strategy to improve the sharing between the Federal Government and private entities of information and intelligence to mitigate the threat that foreign adversary illicit activities and tactics pose to United States persons in foreign jurisdictions on projects relating to energy generation and storage, including with respect to critical minerals inputs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall cover—

(1) how best to assemble and transmit information to United States persons—

(A) to protect against foreign adversary illicit tactics and activities relating to critical mineral projects abroad, including foreign adversary efforts to undermine such projects abroad;

(B) to mitigate the risk that foreign adversary government involvement in the ownership and control of entities engaging in deceptive or illicit activities targeting critical mineral supply chains pose to the interests of the United States; and

(C) to inform on economic espionage and other threats from foreign adversaries to the rights of owners of intellectual property, including owners of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, and other sensitive information, with respect to such property that is dependent on critical mineral inputs; and

(2) how best to receive information from United States persons on threats to United States interests in the critical mineral supply chains, resources, mines, and products, including disinformation campaigns abroad or other suspicious malicious activity.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director completes developing the strategy pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, or provide such committees a briefing on, a plan for implementing the strategy.

TITLE VI—CLASSIFICATION REFORM

SEC. 601. CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may, in accordance with this section, protect from unauthorized disclosure any information owned by, produced by or for, or under the control of the executive branch of the Federal Government when there is a demonstrable need to do so to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS, CATEGORIES, AND PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION.—

(1) GOVERNMENTWIDE PROCEDURES.—

(A) CLASSIFICATION.—The President shall, to the extent necessary, establish categories of information that may be classified and procedures for classifying information under subsection (a).

(B) DECLASSIFICATION.—At the same time the President establishes categories and procedures under subparagraph (A), the President shall establish procedures for declassifying information that was previously classified.

(C) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures established pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall—

(i) be the exclusive means for classifying information on or after the effective date established by subsection (c), except with respect to information classified pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

(ii) ensure that no information is classified unless there is a demonstrable need to do so to protect the national security and there is a reasonable basis to believe that means other than classification will not provide sufficient protection;

(iii) ensure that no information may remain classified indefinitely;

(iv) ensure that no information shall be classified, continue to be maintained as classified, or fail to be declassified in order—

(I) to conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error;

(II) to prevent embarrassment to a person, organization, or agency;

(III) to restrain competition; or

(IV) to prevent or delay the release of information that does not require protection in the interest of the national security;

(v) ensure that basic scientific research information not clearly related to the national security shall not be classified;

(vi) ensure that information may not be reclassified after being declassified and released to the public under proper authority unless personally approved by the President based on a determination that such reclassification is required to prevent significant and demonstrable damage to the national security;

(vii) establish standards and criteria for the classification of information;

(viii) establish standards, criteria, and timelines for the declassification of information classified under this section;

(ix) provide for the automatic declassification of classified records with permanent historical value;

(x) provide for the timely review of materials submitted for pre-publication;

(xi) ensure that due regard is given for the public interest in disclosure of information;

(xii) ensure that due regard is given for the interests of departments and agencies in sharing information at the lowest possible level of classification;

(D) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The President shall submit to Congress the categories and procedures established under subsection (b)(1)(A) and the procedures established under subsection (b)(1)(B) at least 60 days prior to their effective date.

(2) AGENCY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal agency shall establish a single set of consolidated standards and procedures to permit such agency to classify and declassify information created by such agency in accordance with the categories and procedures established by the President under this section and otherwise to carry out this section.

(B) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Each agency head shall submit to Congress the standards and procedures established by such agency head under subparagraph (A).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RELATION TO PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES.—Presidential directives regarding classifying, safeguarding, and declassifying national security information, including Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, as well as procedures issued pursuant to such Presidential directives, shall remain in effect until superseded by procedures issued pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 805(2) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3164(2)) is amended by inserting ''section 603 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025,'' before ''Executive Order''.

SEC. 602. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR EXECUTIVE AGENCY INSIDER THREAT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' means any Executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, any military department as defined in section 102 of such title, and any other entity in the executive branch of the Federal Government that comes into the possession of classified information.

(2) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''classified information'' means information that has been determined to require protection from unauthorized disclosure pursuant to Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or predecessor or successor order, to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSIDER THREAT PROGRAMS.—Each head of an agency with access to classified information shall establish an insider threat program to protect classified information from unauthorized disclosure.

(c) MINIMUM STANDARDS.—In carrying out an insider threat program established by the head of an agency pursuant to subsection (b), the head of the agency shall—

(1) designate a senior official of the agency who shall be responsible for management of the program;

(2) monitor user activity on all classified networks to detect activity indicative of insider threat behavior;

(3) build and maintain an insider threat analytic and response capability to review, assess, and respond to information obtained pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(4) provide insider threat awareness training to all cleared employees within 30 days of entry-on-duty or granting of access to classified information and annually thereafter.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Director of National Intelligence shall, serving as the Security Executive Agent under section 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a), submit to Congress an annual report on the compliance of agencies with respect to the requirements of this section.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to revoke or diminish any right of an individual provided by section 2303 or 7211 of title 5, United States Code, or under any other applicable protections for whistleblowers provided by law.

TITLE VII—SECURITY CLEARANCES AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 701. SECURITY CLEARANCES HELD BY CERTAIN FORMER EMPLOYEES OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS REQUIRED.—Section 803(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) issue guidelines and instructions to the heads of Federal agencies to ensure that any individual who was appointed by the President to a position in an element of the intelligence community but is no longer employed by the Federal Government shall maintain a security clearance only in accordance with Executive Order 12968 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to access to classified information), or successor order.''.

(b) SUBMITTAL OF GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO CONGRESS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in the Director's capacity as the Security Executive Agent pursuant to subsection (a) of section 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a), submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees the guidelines and instructions required by subsection (c)(5) of such Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the congressional defense committees;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once each year thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in the Director's capacity as the Security Executive Agent pursuant to section 803(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a(a)), submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on the eligibility status of former senior employees of the intelligence community to access classified information.

(3) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(A) A list of individuals who were appointed by the President to a position in an element of the intelligence community who currently hold security clearances.

(B) The number of such former employees who still hold security clearances.

(C) For each former employee described in subparagraph (B)—

(i) the position in the intelligence community held by the former employee;

(ii) the years of service in such position; and

(iii) the individual's current employment position and employer.

(D) The Federal entity authorizing and adjudicating the former employees' need to know classified information.

SEC. 702. POLICY FOR AUTHORIZING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PROGRAM OF CONTRACTOR-OWNED AND CONTRACTOR-OPERATED SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITIES.

(a) POLICY.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish a standardized policy for the intelligence community that authorizes a program of contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities as a service to the national security and intelligence enterprises.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The policy established pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) authorize the head of an element of the intelligence community to approve and accredit contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities; and

(2) designate an element of the intelligence community as a service of common concern (as defined in Intelligence Community Directive 122, or successor directive) to serve as an accrediting authority (in accordance with Intelligence Community Directive 705, or successor directive) on behalf of other elements of the intelligence community for contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities.

(c) COST CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the policy required by subsection (a), the Director shall consider existing demonstrated models where a contractor acquires, outfits, and manages a facility pursuant to an agreement with the Federal Government such that no funding from the Federal Government is required to carry out the agreement.

(d) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director establishes the policy pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on—

(A) additional opportunities to leverage contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities; and

(B) recommendations to address barriers, including resources or authorities needed.

SEC. 703. ENABLING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 113B the following new section:

''SEC. 113C. ENABLING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION.

''(a) PROVISION OF GOODS OR SERVICES.—Subject to and in accordance with any guidance and requirements developed by the Director of National Intelligence, the head of an element of the intelligence community may provide goods or services to another element of the intelligence community without reimbursement or transfer of funds for

hoteling initiatives for intelligence community employees and affiliates defined in any such guidance and requirements issued by the Director of National Intelligence.

''(b) APPROVAL.—Prior to the provision of goods or services pursuant to subsection (a), the head of the element of the intelligence community providing such goods or services and the head of the element of the intelligence community receiving such goods or services shall approve such provision.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 113B the following:

''Sec. 113C. Enabling intelligence community integration.''.

SEC. 704. APPOINTMENT OF SPOUSES OF CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3330d of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**military and Department of Defense civilian spouses**'' and inserting ''**military and Department of Defense, Department of State, and intelligence community spouses**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating the second paragraph (4) (relating to a spouse of an employee of the Department of Defense) as paragraph (7);

(B) by striking paragraph (5);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) (relating to the spouse of a disabled or deceased member of the Armed Forces) as paragraph (6);

(D) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) The term 'covered spouse' means an individual who is married to an individual who—

''(A)(i) is an employee of the Department of State or an element of the intelligence community; or

''(ii) is a member of the Armed Forces who is assigned to an element of the intelligence community; and

''(B) is transferred in the interest of the Government from one official station within the applicable agency to another within the agency (that is outside of normal commuting distance) for permanent duty.

''(4) The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

''(5) The term 'remote work' refers to a work flexibility arrangement under which an employee—

''(A) is not expected to physically report to the location from which the employee would otherwise work, considering the position of the employee; and

''(B) performs the duties and responsibilities of such employee's position, and other authorized activities, from an approved worksite—

''(i) other than the location from which the employee would otherwise work;

''(ii) that may be inside or outside the local commuting area of the location from which the employee would otherwise work; and

''(iii) that is typically the residence of the employee.''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) The term 'telework' has the meaning given the term in section 6501.''; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in the first paragraph (3) (relating to a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating the second paragraph (3) (relating to a spouse of an employee of the Department of Defense) as paragraph (4);

(D) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting '', including to a position in which the spouse will engage in remote work'' after ''Department of Defense''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) a covered spouse to a position in which the covered spouse will engage in remote work.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3330d and inserting the following:

''3330d. Appointment of military and Department of Defense, Department of State, and intelligence community civilian spouses.''.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATION COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the use of the authority provided pursuant to the amendments made by subsection (a) and the impacts on recruitment, retention, and job opportunities created by such amendments.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section shall be construed to revoke or diminish any right of an individual provided by title 5, United States Code.

(e) SUNSET AND SNAPBACK.—On the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) section 3330d of title 5, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) the item for such section in the table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by subsection (b), is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 705. PLAN FOR STAFFING THE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION POSITIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a plan for ensuring that the Directorate of Operations of the Agency has staffed every civilian full-time equivalent position authorized for that Directorate under the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (division G of Public Law 118–31).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Specific benchmarks and timelines for accomplishing the goal described in such subsection by September 30, 2025.

(2) An assessment of the appropriate balance of staffing between the Directorate of Operations and the Directorate of Analysis consistent with the responsibilities of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under section 104A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3036(d)).

SEC. 706. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that for the purposes of adjudicating the eligibility of an individual for access to classified information, renewal of a prior determination of eligibility for such access, or continuous vetting of an individual for eligibility for such access, including on form SF–86 or any successor form, each of the following should be considered an action advocating for an act of terrorism:

(1) Advocating for violence by an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(2) Soliciting funds for or contributing funds to an organization described in paragraph (1).

TITLE VIII—WHISTLEBLOWERS

SEC. 801. IMPROVEMENTS REGARDING URGENT CONCERNS SUBMITTED TO INSPECTORS GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 103H(k)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' before ''An employee of'';

(B) by inserting ''in writing'' before ''to the Inspector General''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) The Inspector General shall provide any support necessary to ensure that an employee can submit a complaint or information under this subparagraph in writing and, if such submission is not feasible, shall create a written record of the employee's verbal complaint or information and treat such written record as a written submission.'';

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B)(i)(I) Not later than the end of the period specified in subclause (II), the Inspector General shall determine whether the written complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) appears credible. Upon making such a determination, the Inspector General shall transmit to the Director notice of that determination, together with the complaint or information.

''(II) The period specified in this subclause is the 14-calendar-day period beginning on the date on which an employee who has submitted an initial written complaint or information under subparagraph (A) confirms that the employee has submitted to the Inspector General the material the employee intends to submit to Congress under such subparagraph.

''(ii) The Inspector General may transmit a complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) directly to the congressional intelligence committees—

''(I) without transmittal to the Director if the Inspector General determines that transmittal to the Director could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(II) following transmittal to the Director if the Director does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within the time period specified in subparagraph (C).'';

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''or does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B),'' and inserting ''does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B)(i)(I), or makes a determination pursuant

to subparagraph (B)(ii)(I) but does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within 21 calendar days of receipt,''; and

(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) An employee may contact the congressional intelligence committees directly as described in clause (i) only if—

''(I) the employee, before making such a contact—

''(aa) transmits to the Director, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact the congressional intelligence committees directly; and

''(bb) obtains and follows from the Director, through the Inspector General, direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(II) the Inspector General—

''(aa) determines that—

''(AA) a transmittal under subclause (I) could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(BB) the Director has failed to provide adequate direction pursuant to item (bb) of subclause (I) within 7 calendar days of a transmittal under such subclause; and

''(bb) provides the employee direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) In this paragraph, the term 'employee', with respect to an employee of an element of the intelligence community, an employee assigned or detailed to an element of the intelligence community, or an employee of a contractor to the intelligence community who may submit a complaint or information to the Inspector General under subparagraph (A), means—

''(i) a current employee at the time of such submission; or

''(ii) a former employee at the time of such submission, if such complaint or information arises from and relates to the period of employment as such an employee.''.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting (i) before ''An employee'';

(B) by inserting ''in writing'' before ''to the Inspector General''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) The Inspector General shall provide any support necessary to ensure that an employee can submit a complaint or information under this subparagraph in writing and, if such submission is not feasible, shall create a written record of the employee's verbal complaint or information and treat such written record as a written submission.'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i)(I) Not later than the end of the period specified in subclause (II), the Inspector General shall determine whether the written complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) appears credible. Upon making such a determination, the Inspector General shall transmit to the Director notice of that determination, together with the complaint or information.

''(II) The period specified in this subclause is the 14-calendar-day period beginning on the date on which an employee who has submitted an initial written complaint or information under subparagraph (A) confirms that the employee has submitted to the Inspector General the material the employee intends to submit to Congress under such subparagraph.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) The Inspector General may transmit a complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) directly to the congressional intelligence committees—

''(I) without transmittal to the Director if the Inspector General determines that transmittal to the Director could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information;

''(II) following transmittal to the Director if the Director does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within the time period specified in subparagraph (C) and has not made a determination regarding a conflict of interest pursuant to clause (ii); or

''(III) following transmittal to the Director and a determination by the Director that a conflict of interest exists pursuant to clause (ii) if the Inspector General determines that—

''(aa) transmittal to the Director of National Intelligence could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(bb) the Director of National Intelligence has not transmitted the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within the time period specified in subparagraph (C).'';

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''or does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B),'' and inserting ''does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B)(i)(I), or makes a determination pursuant to subparagraph (B)(iii)(I) but does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within 21 calendar days of receipt,''; and

(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) An employee may contact the congressional intelligence committees directly as described in clause (i) only if—

''(I) the employee, before making such a contact—

''(aa) transmits to the Director, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact the congressional intelligence committees directly; and

''(bb) obtains and follows from the Director, through the Inspector General, direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(II) the Inspector General—

''(aa) determines that—

''(AA) the transmittal under subclause (I) could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(BB) the Director has failed to provide adequate direction pursuant to item (bb) of subclause (I) within 7 calendar days of a transmittal under such subclause; and

''(bb) provides the employee direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) In this paragraph, the term 'employee', with respect to an employee of the Agency, or of a contractor to the Agency, who may submit a complaint or information to the Inspector General under subparagraph (A), means—

''(i) a current employee at the time of such submission; or

''(ii) a former employee at the time of such submission, if such complaint or information arises from and relates to the period of employment as such an employee.''.

(c) OTHER INSPECTORS GENERAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 416 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

''(1) EMPLOYEE.—The term 'employee', with respect to an employee of an element of the Federal Government covered by subsection (b), or of a contractor to such an element, who may submit a complaint or information to an Inspector General under such subsection, means—

''(A) a current employee at the time of such submission; or

''(B) a former employee at the time of such submission, if such complaint or information arises from and relates to the period of employment as such an employee.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting ''; SUPPORT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSION''; after ''MADE'';

(ii) by inserting ''in writing'' after ''may report the complaint or information'' each place it appears; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''in writing'' after ''such complaint or information''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) SUPPORT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSION.—The Inspector General shall provide any support necessary to ensure that an employee can submit a complaint or information under this paragraph in writing and, if such submission is not feasible, shall create a written record of the employee's verbal complaint or information and treat such written record as a written submission.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) CREDIBILITY.—

''(A) DETERMINATION.—Not later than the end of the period specified in subparagraph (B), the Inspector General shall determine whether the written complaint or information submitted under subsection (b) appears credible. Upon making such a determination, the Inspector General shall transmit to the head of the establishment notice of that determination, together with the complaint or information.

''(B) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this subparagraph is the 14-calendar-day period beginning on the date on which an employee who has submitted an initial written complaint or information under subsection (b) confirms that the employee has submitted to the Inspector General the material the employee intends to submit to Congress under such subsection.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TRANSMITTAL DIRECTLY TO INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The Inspector General may transmit the complaint or information directly to the intelligence committees—

''(A) without transmittal to the head of the establishment if the Inspector General determines that transmittal to the head of the establishment could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information;

''(B) following transmittal to the head of the establishment if the head of the establishment does not transmit the complaint or information to the intelligence committees within the time period specified in subsection (d) and has not made a determination regarding a conflict of interest pursuant to paragraph (2); or

''(C) following transmittal to the head of the establishment and a determination by the head of the establishment that a conflict of interest exists pursuant to paragraph (2) if the Inspector General determines that—

''(i) transmittal to the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(ii) the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense has not transmitted the complaint or information to the intelligence committees within the time period specified in subsection (d).'';

(4) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''or does not transmit the complaint or information to the head of the establishment in accurate form under subsection (c),'' and inserting ''does not transmit the complaint or information to the head of the establishment in accurate form under subsection (c)(1)(A), or makes a determination pursuant to subsection (c)(3)(A) but does not transmit the complaint or information to the intelligence committees within 21 calendar days of receipt,''; and

(5) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—An employee may contact the intelligence committees directly as described in paragraph (1) only if—

''(A) the employee, before making such a contact—

''(i) transmits to the head of the establishment, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact the intelligence committees directly; and

''(ii) obtains and follows from the head of the establishment, through the Inspector General, direction on how to contact the intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(B) the Inspector General—

''(i) determines that the transmittal under subparagraph (A) could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(ii) determines that the head of the establishment has failed to provide adequate direction pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) within 7 calendar days of a transmittal under such subparagraph; and

''(iii) provides the employee direction on how to contact the intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices.''.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section shall be construed to revoke or diminish any right of an individual provided by section 2303 or 7211 of title 5, United States Code, to make a protected disclosure to any congressional committee.

SEC. 802. PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF WHISTLEBLOWER IDENTITY AS ACT OF REPRISAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1104(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (K); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

''(J) an unauthorized whistleblower identity disclosure;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) UNAUTHORIZED WHISTLEBLOWER IDENTITY DISCLOSURE.—The term 'unauthorized whistleblower identity disclosure' means, with respect to an employee or a contractor employee described in paragraph (3), a knowing and willful disclosure revealing the identity or other personally identifiable information of the employee or contractor employee so as to identify the employee or contractor employee as an employee or contractor employee who has made a lawful disclosure described in subsection (b) or (c), but does not include such a knowing and willful disclosure that meets any of the following criteria:

''(A) Such disclosure was made with the express consent of the employee or contractor employee.

''(B) Such disclosure was made during the course of reporting or remedying the subject of the lawful disclosure of the whistleblower through management, legal, or oversight processes, including such processes relating to human resources, equal opportunity, security, or an Inspector General.

''(C) An Inspector General with oversight responsibility for the relevant covered intelligence community element determines that such disclosure—

''(i) was unavoidable under section 103H of this Act (50 U.S.C. 3033), section 17 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517), section 407 of title 5, United States Code, or section 420(b)(2)(B) of such title;

''(ii) was made to an official of the Department of Justice responsible for determining whether a prosecution should be undertaken; or

''(iii) was required by statute or an order from a court of competent jurisdiction.''.

(b) HARMONIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(f) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the President shall provide for the enforcement of this section.

''(2) HARMONIZATION WITH OTHER ENFORCEMENT.—To the fullest extent possible, the President shall provide for enforcement of this section in a manner that is consistent with the enforcement of section 2302(b)(8) of title 5, United States Code, especially with respect to policies and procedures used to adjudicate alleged violations of such section.''.

SEC. 803. PROTECTION FOR INDIVIDUALS MAKING AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES TO INSPECTORS GENERAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 103H(g)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(g)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) An individual may disclose classified information to the Inspector General in accordance with the applicable security standards and procedures established under Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), section 102A or section 803, chapter 12 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2161 et seq.), or any applicable provision of law. Such a disclosure of classified information that is made by an individual who at the time of the disclosure does not hold the appropriate clearance or authority to access such classified information, but that is otherwise made in accordance with such security standards and procedures, shall be treated as an authorized disclosure and does not violate—

''(i) any otherwise applicable nondisclosure agreement;

''(ii) any otherwise applicable regulation or order issued under the authority of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information) or chapter 18 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.); or

''(iii) section 798 of title 18, United States Code, or any other provision of law relating to the unauthorized disclosure of national security information.''; and

(3) in the paragraph enumerator, by striking ''(3) '' and inserting ''(3)(A)''.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section 17(e)(3) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) An individual may disclose classified information to the Inspector General in accordance with the applicable security standards and procedures established under Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), section 102A or 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024; 3162a), or chapter 12 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2161 et seq.). Such a disclosure of classified information that is made by an individual who at the time of the disclosure does not hold the appropriate clearance or authority to access such classified information, but that is otherwise made in accordance with such security standards and procedures, shall be treated as an authorized disclosure and does not violate—

''(i) any otherwise applicable nondisclosure agreement;

''(ii) any otherwise applicable regulation or order issued under the authority of Executive Order 13526 or chapter 18 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.); or

''(iii) section 798 of title 18, United States Code, or any other provision of law relating to the unauthorized disclosure of national security information.''; and

(3) in the paragraph enumerator, by striking ''(3) '' and inserting ''(3)(A)''.

(c) OTHER INSPECTORS GENERAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 416 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) PROTECTION FOR INDIVIDUALS MAKING AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES.—An individual may disclose classified information to an Inspector General of an element of the intelligence community in accordance with the applicable security standards and procedures established under Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), section 102A or 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024; 3162a), or chapter 12 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2161 et seq.). Such a disclosure of classified information that is made by an individual who at the time of the disclosure does not hold the appropriate clearance or authority to access such classified information, but that is otherwise made in accordance with such security standards and procedures, shall be treated as an authorized disclosure and does not violate—

''(1) any otherwise applicable nondisclosure agreement;

''(2) any otherwise applicable regulation or order issued under the authority of Executive Order 13526 or chapter 18 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.); or

''(3) section 798 of title 18, or any other provision of law relating to the unauthorized disclosure of national security information.''.

SEC. 804. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL TO RECEIVE PROTECTED DISCLOSURES.

Section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''or covered intelligence community element'' after ''the appropriate inspector general of the employing agency''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by inserting ''or covered intelligence community element'' after ''the appropriate inspector general of the employing or contracting agency''.

SEC. 805. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS RELATING TO PSYCHIATRIC TESTING OR EXAMINATION.

(a) PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES.—Section 1104(a)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (K); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following new subparagraph:

''(J) a decision to order psychiatric testing or examination; or''.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to matters arising under section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234) on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 806. ESTABLISHING PROCESS PARITY FOR ADVERSE SECURITY CLEARANCE AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Subparagraph (C) of section 3001(j)(4) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(j)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

''(C) CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (iii), in determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall find that paragraph (1) was violated if the individual has demonstrated that a disclosure described in paragraph (1) was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual.

''(ii) CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.—An individual under clause (i) may demonstrate that the disclosure was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual through circumstantial evidence, such as evidence that—

''(I) the official making the determination knew of the disclosure; and

''(II) the determination occurred within a period such that a reasonable person could conclude that the disclosure was a contributing factor in the determination.

''(iii) DEFENSE.—In determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall not find that paragraph (1) was violated if, after a finding that a disclosure was a contributing factor, the agency demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that it would have made the same security clearance or access determination in the absence of such disclosure.''.

SEC. 807. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON COMPENSATORY DAMAGES FOR RETALIATORY REVOCATION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Section 3001(j)(4)(B) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(j)(4)(B)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''not to exceed $300,000''.

TITLE IX—ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENTS

SEC. 901. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE AND HEADS OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PAY COSTS OF TREATING QUALIFYING INJURIES AND MAKE PAYMENTS FOR QUALIFYING INJURIES TO THE BRAIN.

Section 901(e) of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking ''a employee who, on or after January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''an employee who, on or after September 11, 2001''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(B) by inserting '', or duty station in the United States,'' after ''pursuant to subsection (f)'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon; and

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon.

TITLE X—UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA

SEC. 1001. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW OF ALL-DOMAIN ANOMALY RESOLUTION OFFICE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''congressional defense committees'', ''congressional leadership'', and ''unidentified anomalous phenomena'' have the meanings given such terms in section 1683(n) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373(n)).

(b) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (in this section referred to as the ''Office'').

(c) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted pursuant to subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A review of the implementation by the Office of the duties and requirements of the Office under section 1683 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373), such as the process for operational unidentified anomalous phenomena reporting and coordination with the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, and other departments and agencies of the Federal Government and non-Government entities.

(2) A review of such other matters relating to the activities of the Office that pertain to unidentified anomalous phenomena as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(d) REPORT.—Following the review required by subsection (b), in a timeframe mutually agreed upon by the congressional intelligence committees, the congressional defense committees, congressional leadership, and the Comptroller General, the Comptroller General shall submit to such committees and congressional leadership a report on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the review conducted under subsection (b).

SEC. 1002. SUNSET OF REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO AUDITS OF UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA HISTORICAL RECORD REPORT.

Section 6001 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (50 U.S.C. 3373 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting ''until April 1, 2025'' after ''quarterly basis''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting ''until June 30, 2025'' after ''semiannually thereafter''.

SEC. 1003. FUNDING LIMITATIONS RELATING TO UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.—The term ''congressional leadership'' means—

(A) the majority leader of the Senate;

(B) the minority leader of the Senate;

(C) the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM.—The term ''National Intelligence Program'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(4) UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA.—The term ''unidentified anomalous phenomena'' has the meaning given such term in section 1683(n) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373(n)).

(b) LIMITATIONS.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this division for the National Intelligence Program may be obligated or expended in support of any activity involving unidentified anomalous phenomena protected under any form of special access or restricted access limitation unless the Director of National Intelligence has provided the details of the activity to the appropriate committees of Congress and congressional leadership, including for any activities described in a report released by the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office in fiscal year 2024.

(c) LIMITATION REGARDING INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Independent research and development funding relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena shall not be allowable as indirect expenses for purposes of contracts covered by such instruction, unless such material and information is made available to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

TITLE XI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1101. LIMITATION ON DIRECTIVES UNDER FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978 RELATING TO CERTAIN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Section 702(i) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) LIMITATION RELATING TO CERTAIN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(I) the congressional intelligence committees;

''(II) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(III) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(ii) COVERED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the term 'covered electronic communication service provider' means—

''(aa) a service provider described in section 701(b)(4)(E);

''(bb) a custodian of an entity as defined in section 701(b)(4)(F); or

''(cc) an officer, employee, or agent of a service provider described in section 701(b)(4)(E).

''(II) EXCLUSION.—The term 'covered electronic communication service provider' does not include—

''(aa) an electronic communication service provider described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 701(b)(4); or

''(bb) an officer, employee, or agent of an electronic communication service provider described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 701(b)(4).

''(iii) COVERED OPINIONS.—The term 'covered opinions' means the opinions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review authorized for public release on August 23, 2023 (Opinion and Order, In re Petition to Set Aside or Modify Directive Issued to [REDACTED], No. [REDACTED], (FISA Ct. [REDACTED] 2022) (Contreras J.); Opinion, In re Petition to Set Aside or Modify Directive Issued to [REDACTED], No. [REDACTED], (FISA Ct. Rev. [REDACTED] 2023) (Sentelle, J.; Higginson, J.; Miller J.)).

''(B) LIMITATION.—A directive may not be issued under paragraph (1) to a covered electronic communication service provider unless the covered electronic communication service provider is a provider of the type of service at issue in the covered opinions.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTIVES TO COVERED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), any directive issued under paragraph (1) on or after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 to a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall include a summary description of the services at issue in the covered opinions.

''(ii) DUPLICATE SUMMARIES NOT REQUIRED.—A directive need not include a summary description of the services at issue in the covered opinions if such summary was included in a prior directive issued to the covered electronic communication service provider and the summary has not materially changed.

''(D) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW.—

''(i) NOTIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), on or after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, each time the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence serve a directive under paragraph (1) to a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B) and each time the Attorney General and the Director materially change a directive under paragraph (1) served on a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B), the Attorney General shall provide the directive to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on or before the date that is 7 days after the date on which the Attorney General and the Director served the directive, along with a description of the covered electronic communication service provider to whom the directive is issued and the services at issue.

''(II) DUPLICATION NOT REQUIRED.—The Attorney General does not need to provide a directive or description to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court under subclause (I) if a directive and description concerning the covered electronic communication service provider was previously provided to the Court and the directive or description has not materially changed.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—As soon as feasible and not later than the initiation of collection, the Attorney General shall, for each directive described in subparagraph (i), provide the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court a summary description of the type of equipment to be accessed, the nature of the access, and the form of assistance required pursuant to the directive.

''(iii) REVIEW.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court may review a directive received by the Court under clause (i) to determine whether the directive is consistent with subparagraph (B) and affirm, modify, or set aside the directive.

''(II) NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVIEW.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Court receives information under clause (ii) with respect to a directive, the Court shall provide notice to the Attorney General and cleared counsel for the covered electronic communication service provider indicating whether the Court intends to undertake a review under subclause (I) of this clause.

''(III) COMPLETION OF REVIEWS.—In a case in which the Court provides notice under subclause (II) indicating that the Court intends to review a directive under subclause (I), the Court shall, not later than 30 days after the date on which the Court provides notice under subclause (II) with respect to the directive, complete the review.

''(E) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—

''(i) NOTIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), on or after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, each time the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence serve a directive under paragraph (1) on a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B) and each time the Attorney General and the Director materially change a directive under paragraph (1) served on a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B), the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the directive on or before the date that is 7 days after the date on which the Attorney General and the Director serve the directive, along with a description of the covered electronic communication service provider to whom the directive is issued and the services at issue.

''(II) DUPLICATION NOT REQUIRED.—The Attorney General does not need to submit a directive or description to the appropriate committees of Congress under subclause (I) if a directive and description concerning the covered electronic communication service provider was previously submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress and the directive or description has not materially changed.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—As soon as feasible and not later than the initiation of collection, the Attorney General shall, for each directive described in subparagraph (i), provide the appropriate committees of Congress a summary description of the type of equipment to be accessed, the nature of the access, and the form of assistance required pursuant to the directive.

''(iii) REPORTING.—

''(I) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 and not less frequently than once each quarter thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the number of directives served, during the period covered by the report, under paragraph (1) to a covered electronic communication service provider and the number of directives provided during the same period to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court under subparagraph (D)(i).

''(II) FORM OF REPORTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to subclause (I) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(III) SUBMITTAL OF COURT OPINIONS.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review issues an opinion relating to a directive issued to a covered electronic communication service provider under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a copy of the opinion.''.

SEC. 1102. STRENGTHENING ELECTION CYBERSECURITY TO UPHOLD RESPECT FOR ELECTIONS THROUGH INDEPENDENT TESTING ACT OF 2024.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Strengthening Election Cybersecurity to Uphold Respect for Elections through Independent Testing Act of 2024'' or the ''SECURE IT Act of 2024''.

(b) REQUIRING PENETRATION TESTING AS PART OF THE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF VOTING SYSTEMS.—Section 231 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20971) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REQUIRED PENETRATION TESTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall provide for the conduct of penetration testing as part of the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software by the Commission based on accredited laboratories under this section.

''(2) ACCREDITATION.—The Commission shall develop a program for the acceptance of the results of penetration testing on election systems. The penetration testing required by this subsection shall be required for Commission certification. The Commission shall vote on the selection of any entity identified. The requirements for such selection shall be based on consideration of an entity's competence to conduct penetration testing under this subsection. The Commission may consult with the National Institute of Standards and Technology or any other appropriate Federal agency on lab selection criteria and other aspects of this program.''.

(c) INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

"PART 7—INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

"SEC. 297. INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish an Independent Security Testing and Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure Pilot Program for Election Systems (VDP–E) (in this section referred to as the 'program') to test for and disclose cybersecurity vulnerabilities in election systems.

''(2) DURATION.—The program shall be conducted for a period of 5 years.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall—

''(A) establish a mechanism by which an election systems vendor may make their election system (including voting machines and source code) available to cybersecurity researchers participating in the program;

''(B) provide for the vetting of cybersecurity researchers prior to their participation in the program, including the conduct of background checks;

''(C) establish terms of participation that—

''(i) describe the scope of testing permitted under the program;

''(ii) require researchers to—

''(I) notify the vendor, the Commission, and the Secretary of any cybersecurity vulnerability they identify with respect to an election system; and

''(II) otherwise keep such vulnerability confidential for 180 days after such notification;

''(iii) require the good faith participation of all participants in the program;

''(iv) require an election system vendor, within 180 days after validating notification of a critical or high vulnerability (as defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology) in an election system of the vendor, to—

''(I) send a patch or propound some other fix or mitigation for such vulnerability to the appropriate State and local election officials, in consultation with the researcher who discovered it; and

''(II) notify the Commission and the Secretary that such patch has been sent to such officials;

''(D) in the case where a patch or fix to address a vulnerability disclosed under subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) is intended to be applied to a system certified by the Commission, provide—

''(i) for the expedited review of such patch or fix within 90 days after receipt by the Commission; and

''(ii) if such review is not completed by the last day of such 90-day period, that such patch or fix shall be deemed to be certified by the Commission, subject to any subsequent review of such determination by the Commission; and

''(E) 180 days after the disclosure of a vulnerability under subparagraph (C)(ii)(I), notify the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the vulnerability for inclusion in the database of Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures.

''(4) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION; SAFE HARBOR.—

''(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in the program shall be voluntary for election systems vendors and researchers.

''(B) SAFE HARBOR.—When conducting research under this program, such research and subsequent publication shall be—

''(i) authorized in accordance with section 1030 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Computer Fraud and Abuse Act'), (and similar State laws), and the election system vendor will not initiate or support legal action against the researcher for accidental, good faith violations of the program; and

''(ii) exempt from the anti-circumvention rule of section 1201 of title 17, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Digital Millennium Copyright Act'), and the election system vendor will not bring a claim against a researcher for circumvention of technology controls.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit or otherwise affect any exception to the general prohibition against the circumvention of technological measures under subparagraph (A) of section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code, including with respect to any use that is excepted from that general prohibition by the Librarian of Congress under subparagraphs (B) through (D) of such section 1201(a)(1).

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term 'cybersecurity vulnerability' means, with respect to an election system, any security vulnerability that affects the election system.

''(B) ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term 'election infrastructure' means—

''(i) storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office; and

''(ii) related information and communications technology, including—

''(I) voter registration databases;

''(II) election management systems;

''(III) voting machines;

''(IV) electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results); and

''(V) other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

''(C) ELECTION SYSTEM.—The term 'election system' means any information system that is part of an election infrastructure, including any related information and communications technology described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(D) ELECTION SYSTEM VENDOR.—The term 'election system vendor' means any person providing, supporting, or maintaining an election system on behalf of a State or local election official.

''(E) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term 'information system' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

''(F) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(G) SECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term 'security vulnerability' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

''PART 7—INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

''Sec. 297. Independent security testing and coordinated cybersecurity vulnerability disclosure program for election systems.''.

SEC. 1103. PARITY IN PAY FOR STAFF OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 1061(j)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee(j)(1)) is amended by striking ''except that'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''except that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the highest amount paid by any element of the intelligence community for a comparable position, based on salary information provided to the chairman of the Board by the Director of National Intelligence.''.

SEC. 1104. MODIFICATION AND REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) BRIEFING ON IRANIAN EXPENDITURES SUPPORTING FOREIGN MILITARY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.—Section 6705(a)(1) of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (22 U.S.C. 9412(a)(1)) is amended by striking '', and not less frequently than once each year thereafter provide a briefing to Congress,''.

(b) REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS ON NATIONAL SECURITY EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WATER INSECURITY AND EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND PANDEMICS.—Section 6722(b) of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3024 note; division E of Public Law 116–92) is amended by—

(1) striking paragraph (2); and

(2) redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) REPEAL OF REPORT ON REMOVAL OF SATELLITES AND RELATED ITEMS FROM THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 1261(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (22 U.S.C. 2778 note; Public Law 112–239) is repealed.

(d) BRIEFING ON REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ANALYTIC PRODUCTION.—Section 1019(c) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3364(c)) is amended by striking ''December 1'' and inserting ''February 1''.

(e) REPEAL OF REPORT ON OVERSIGHT OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN ACADEMIA.—Section 5713 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3369b) is repealed.

(f) REPEAL OF BRIEFING ON IRANIAN EXPENDITURES SUPPORTING FOREIGN MILITARY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.—Section 6705 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (22 U.S.C. 9412) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) by striking the enumerator and heading for subsection (a);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively, and moving such subsections, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left;

(4) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and moving such paragraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left; and

(5) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) through (v) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left.

(g) REPEAL OF REPORT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT RISKS.—Section 6716 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3370a) is repealed.

(h) REPEAL OF REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS.—Section 6725(c) of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3334g(c)) is repealed.

(i) REPEAL OF REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION ON ATTRITION IN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 306(c) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (50 U.S.C. 3334h(c)) is repealed.

SEC. 1105. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES TO BE USED PRIMARILY BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 602(a) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (50 U.S.C. 3304(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$6,000,000'' and inserting ''$9,000,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''$2,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$4,000,000''; and

(B) by striking ''$6,000,000'' and inserting ''$9,000,000''.

(b) COPYRIGHT PROTECTION FOR CIVILIAN FACULTY OF CERTAIN ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS.—Section 105 of title 17, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 105. Subject matter of copyright: United States Government works

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government, but the United States Government is not precluded from receiving and holding copyrights transferred to it by assignment, bequest, or otherwise.

''(b) COPYRIGHT PROTECTION OF CERTAIN WORKS.—Subject to subsection (c), the covered author of a covered work owns the copyright to that covered work.

''(c) USE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—

''(1) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at a covered institution described in subparagraphs (A) through (K) of subsection (d)(2), the Secretary of Defense may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(2) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at the covered institution described in subsection (d)(2)(L), the Secretary of Homeland Security may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(3) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at the covered institution described in subsection (d)(2)(M), the Director of National Intelligence may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(4) SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at the covered institution described in subsection (d)(2)(N), the Secretary of Transportation may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED AUTHOR.—The term 'covered author' means a civilian member of the faculty of a covered institution.

''(2) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term 'covered institution' means the following:

''(A) National Defense University.

''(B) United States Military Academy.

''(C) Army War College.

''(D) United States Army Command and General Staff College.

''(E) United States Naval Academy.

''(F) Naval War College.

''(G) Naval Postgraduate School.

''(H) Marine Corps University.

''(I) United States Air Force Academy.

''(J) Air University.

''(K) Defense Language Institute.

''(L) United States Coast Guard Academy.

''(M) National Intelligence University.

''(N) United States Merchant Marine Academy.

''(3) COVERED WORK.—The term 'covered work' means a literary work produced by a covered author in the course of employment at a covered institution for publication by a scholarly press or journal.''.

SA 3210. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) 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 XV, add the following:

Subtitle E—Orbital Sustainability Act of 2024

SEC. 1551. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Orbital Sustainability Act of 2024'' or the ''ORBITS Act of 2024''.

SEC. 1552. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The safety and sustainability of operations in low-Earth orbit and nearby orbits in outer space have become increasingly endangered by a growing amount of orbital debris.

(2) Exploration and scientific research missions and commercial space services of critical importance to the United States rely on continued and secure access to outer space.

(3) Efforts by nongovernmental space entities to apply lessons learned through standards and best practices will benefit from government support for implementation both domestically and internationally.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that to preserve the sustainability of operations in space, the United States Government should—

(1) to the extent practicable, develop and carry out programs, establish or update regulations, and commence initiatives to minimize orbital debris, including initiatives to demonstrate active debris remediation of orbital debris generated by the United States Government or other entities under the jurisdiction of the United States;

(2) lead international efforts to encourage other spacefaring countries to mitigate and remediate orbital debris under their jurisdiction and control; and

(3) encourage space system operators to continue implementing best practices for space safety when deploying satellites and constellations of satellites, such as transparent data sharing and designing for system reliability, so as to limit the generation of future orbital debris.

SEC. 1553. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ACTIVE DEBRIS REMEDIATION.—The term ''active debris remediation''—

(A) means the deliberate process of facilitating the de-orbit, repurposing, or other disposal of orbital debris, which may include moving orbital debris to a safe position, using an object or technique that is external or internal to the orbital debris; and

(B) does not include de-orbit, repurposing, or other disposal of orbital debris by passive means.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(4) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term ''demonstration project'' means the active orbital debris remediation demonstration project carried out under section 1554(b).

(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a United States-based—

(i) non-Federal, commercial entity;

(ii) institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))); or

(iii) nonprofit organization;

(B) any other United States-based entity the Administrator considers appropriate; and

(C) a partnership of entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(6) ORBITAL DEBRIS.—The term ''orbital debris'' means any human-made space object orbiting Earth that—

(A) no longer serves an intended purpose; and

(B)(i) has reached the end of its mission; or

(ii) is incapable of safe maneuver or operation.

(7) PROJECT.—The term ''project'' means a specific investment with defined requirements, a life-cycle cost, a period of duration with a beginning and an end, and a management structure that may interface with other projects, agencies, and international partners to yield new or revised technologies addressing strategic goals.

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(9) SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.—The term ''space traffic coordination'' means the planning, coordination, and on-orbit synchronization of activities to enhance the safety and sustainability of operations in the space environment.

SEC. 1554. ACTIVE DEBRIS REMEDIATION.

(a) PRIORITIZATION OF ORBITAL DEBRIS.—

(1) LIST.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the National Space Council, and representatives of the commercial space

industry, academia, and nonprofit organizations, shall publish a list of select identified orbital debris that may be remediated to improve the safety and sustainability of orbiting satellites and on-orbit activities.

(2) CONTENTS.—The list required under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be developed using appropriate sources of data and information derived from governmental and nongovernmental sources, including space situational awareness data obtained by the Office of Space Commerce, to the extent practicable;

(B) shall include, to the extent practicable—

(i) a description of the approximate age, location in orbit, size, mass, tumbling state, post-mission passivation actions taken, and national jurisdiction of each orbital debris identified; and

(ii) data required to inform decisions regarding potential risk and feasibility of safe remediation;

(C) may include orbital debris that poses a significant risk to terrestrial people and assets, including risk resulting from potential environmental impacts from the uncontrolled reentry of the orbital debris identified; and

(D) may include collections of small debris that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, are untracked.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; PERIODIC UPDATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the list required under paragraph (1) shall be published in unclassified form on a publicly accessible internet website of the Department of Commerce.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The Secretary may not include on the list published under subparagraph (A) data acquired from nonpublic sources.

(C) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Such list shall be updated periodically.

(4) ACQUISITION, ACCESS, USE, AND HANDLING OF DATA OR INFORMATION.—In carrying out the activities under this subsection, the Secretary—

(A) shall acquire, access, use, and handle data or information in a manner consistent with applicable provisions of law and policy, including laws and policies providing for the protection of privacy and civil liberties, and subject to any restrictions required by the source of the information;

(B) shall have access, upon written request, to all information, data, or reports of any executive agency that the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the activities under this subsection, provided that such access is—

(i) conducted in a manner consistent with applicable provisions of law and policy of the originating agency, including laws and policies providing for the protection of privacy and civil liberties; and

(ii) consistent with due regard for the protection from unauthorized disclosure of classified information relating to sensitive intelligence sources and methods or other exceptionally sensitive matters; and

(C) may obtain commercially available information that may not be publicly available.

(b) ACTIVE ORBITAL DEBRIS REMEDIATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator, in consultation with the head of each relevant Federal department or agency, shall establish a demonstration project to make competitive awards for the research, development, and demonstration of technologies leading to the remediation of selected orbital debris identified under subsection (a)(1).

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the demonstration project shall be to enable eligible entities to pursue the phased development and demonstration of technologies and processes required for active debris remediation.

(3) PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA.—In establishing the demonstration project, the Administrator shall—

(A) establish—

(i) eligibility criteria for participation; and

(ii) a process for soliciting proposals from eligible entities;

(iii) criteria for the contents of such proposals;

(iv) project compliance and evaluation metrics; and

(v) project phases and milestones;

(B) identify government-furnished data or equipment;

(C) develop a plan for National Aeronautics and Space Administration participation, as appropriate, in technology development and intellectual property rights that—

(i) leverages National Aeronautics and Space Administration Centers that have demonstrated expertise and historical knowledge in measuring, modeling, characterizing, and describing the current and future orbital debris environment; and

(ii) develops the technical consensus for adopting mitigation measures for such participation; and

(D)(i) assign a project manager to oversee the demonstration project and carry out project activities under this subsection; and

(ii) in assigning such project manager, leverage National Aeronautics and Space Administration Centers and the personnel of National Aeronautics and Space Administration Centers, as practicable.

(4) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PHASE.—With respect to orbital debris identified under paragraph (1) of subsection (a), the Administrator shall, to the extent practicable and subject to the availability of appropriations, carry out the additional research and development activities necessary to mature technologies, in partnership with eligible entities, with the intent to close commercial capability gaps and enable potential future remediation missions for such orbital debris, with a preference for technologies that are capable of remediating orbital debris that have a broad range of characteristics described in paragraph (2)(B)(i) of that subsection.

(5) DEMONSTRATION MISSION PHASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall evaluate proposals for a demonstration mission, and select and enter into a partnership with an eligible entity, subject to the availability of appropriations, with the intent to demonstrate technologies determined by the Administrator to meet a level of technology readiness sufficient to carry out on-orbit remediation of select orbital debris.

(B) EVALUATION.—In evaluating proposals for the demonstration project, the Administrator shall—

(i) consider the safety, feasibility, cost, benefit, and maturity of the proposed technology;

(ii) consider the potential for the proposed demonstration to successfully remediate orbital debris and to advance the commercial state of the art with respect to active debris remediation;

(iii) carry out a risk analysis of the proposed technology that takes into consideration the potential casualty risk to humans in space or on the Earth's surface;

(iv) in an appropriate setting, conduct thorough testing and evaluation of the proposed technology and each component of such technology or system of technologies; and

(v) consider the technical and financial feasibility of using the proposed technology to conduct multiple remediation missions.

(C) CONSULTATION.—The Administrator shall consult with the head of each relevant Federal department or agency before carrying out any demonstration mission under this paragraph.

(D) ACTIVE DEBRIS REMEDIATION DEMONSTRATION MISSION.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should consider maximizing competition for, and use best practices to engage commercial entities in, an active debris remediation demonstration mission.

(6) BRIEFING AND REPORTS.—

(A) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the establishment of the demonstration project under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on the details of the demonstration project.

(B) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the initial briefing under subparagraph (A), and annually thereafter until the conclusion of the 1 or more demonstration missions, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a status report on—

(i) the technology developed under the demonstration project;

(ii) progress toward the accomplishment of the 1 or more demonstration missions; and

(iii) any duplicative efforts carried out or supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or the Department of Defense.

(C) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the first demonstration mission is carried out under this subsection, the Administrator, in consultation with the head of each relevant Federal department or agency, shall submit to Congress a report that provides legislative, regulatory, and policy recommendations to improve active debris remediation missions, as applicable.

(D) TECHNICAL ANALYSIS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To inform decisions regarding the acquisition of active debris remediation services by the Federal Government, not later than 1 year after the date on which an award is made under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that—

(I) summarizes the cost-effectiveness, and provides a technical analysis of, technologies developed under the demonstration project;

(II) identifies any technology gaps addressed by the demonstration project and any remaining technology gaps; and

(III) provides, as applicable, any further legislative, regulatory, and policy recommendations to enable active debris remediation missions.

(ii) AVAILABILITY.—The Administration shall make the report submitted under clause (i) available to the Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, and other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Administrator.

(7) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—It is the sense of Congress that, in carrying out the demonstration project, it is critical that the Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of State and in consultation with the National Space Council, cooperate with one or more partner countries to enable the remediation of orbital debris that is under their respective jurisdictions.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section $150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to grant the

Administrator the authority to issue any regulation relating to activities under subsection (b) or related space activities under title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 1555. ACTIVE DEBRIS REMEDIATION SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To foster the competitive development, operation, improvement, and commercial availability of active debris remediation services, and in consideration of the economic analysis required by subsection (b) and the briefing and reports under section 1554(b)(6), the Administrator and the head of each relevant Federal department or agency may acquire services for the remediation of orbital debris, whenever practicable, through fair and open competition for contracts that are well-defined, milestone-based, and in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) ECONOMIC ANALYSIS.—Based on the results of the demonstration project, the Secretary, acting through the Office of Space Commerce, shall publish an assessment of the estimated Federal Government and private sector demand for orbital debris remediation services for the 10-year period beginning in 2026.

SEC. 1556. UNIFORM ORBITAL DEBRIS STANDARD PRACTICES FOR UNITED STATES SPACE ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Space Council, in coordination with the Secretary, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Administrator, shall initiate an update to the Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices that—

(1) considers planned space systems, including satellite constellations; and

(2) addresses—

(A) collision risk;

(B) explosion risk;

(C) casualty probability;

(D) post-mission disposal of space systems;

(E) time to disposal or de-orbit;

(F) spacecraft collision avoidance and automated identification capability; and

(G) the ability to track orbital debris of decreasing size.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the update under subsection (a), the National Space Council, or a designee of the National Space Council, shall seek advice and input on commercial standards and best practices from representatives of the commercial space industry, academia, and nonprofit organizations, including through workshops and, as appropriate, advance public notice and comment processes under chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, such update shall be published in the Federal Register and posted to the relevant Federal Government internet websites.

(d) REGULATIONS.—To promote uniformity and avoid duplication in the regulation of space activity, including licensing by the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission, such update, after publication, shall be used to inform the further development and promulgation of Federal regulations relating to orbital debris.

(e) INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION.—To encourage effective and nondiscriminatory standards, best practices, rules, and regulations implemented by other countries, such update shall inform bilateral and multilateral discussions focused on the authorization and continuing supervision of nongovernmental space activities.

(f) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than every 5 years, the Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices referred to in subsection (a) shall be assessed and, if necessary, updated, used, and promulgated in a manner consistent with this section.

SEC. 1557. STANDARD PRACTICES FOR SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and members of the National Space Council and the Federal Communications Commission, shall facilitate the development of standard practices for on-orbit space traffic coordination based on existing guidelines and best practices used by Government and commercial space industry operators.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In facilitating the development of standard practices under subsection (a), the Secretary, through the Office of Space Commerce, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall engage in frequent and routine consultation with representatives of the commercial space industry, academia, and nonprofit organizations.

(c) PROMOTION OF STANDARD PRACTICES.—On completion of such standard practices, the Secretary, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator, and the Secretary of Defense shall promote the adoption and use of the standard practices for domestic and international space missions.

SA 3211. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. CORNYN) 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 F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1067. REPORT ON WILDFIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN HAWAII.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the wildfire fighting and mitigation capabilities of the Department of Defense necessary to protect military installations in Hawaii, including any shortfalls in firefighting equipment, facilities, training, plans, personnel, fuel breaks, water storage, or suppression access;

(2) an identification of any additional authorities or resources required to integrate the capabilities of Federal, State, and local emergency responders with the capabilities of the Department for the protection of military installations from wildfires; and

(3) an identification of any memoranda or other agreements between the Department and Federal, State, and local or other disaster response organizations regarding wildland fire mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery.

SA 3212. Mr. BROWN 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. ATTRACTING HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS TO BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY.

Part III of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1783. ATTRACTING HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS TO BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security (in this section referred to as the 'Under Secretary') may carry out a program using the authority provided in subsection (b) in order to attract to the Bureau of Industry and Security highly qualified experts in needed occupations, as determined by the Under Secretary.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—Under the program under this section, the Under Secretary may—

''(1) appoint personnel from outside the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code) to positions in the Bureau of Industry and Security without regard to any provision of title 5, United States Code, governing the appointment of employees to positions in the Bureau; and

''(2) prescribe the rates of basic pay for positions to which employees are appointed under paragraph (1) at rates not in excess of the maximum rate of basic pay authorized for senior-level positions under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, as increased by locality-based comparability payments under section 5304 of that title, notwithstanding any provision of that title governing the rates of pay or classification of employees in the executive branch.

''(c) LIMITATION ON TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the service of an employee under an appointment made pursuant to this section may not exceed 5 years.

''(2) EXTENSIONS.—The Under Secretary may, in the case of a particular employee, extend the period to which service is limited under paragraph (1) by up to 1 additional year if the Under Secretary determines that such action is necessary to promote the national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives of the United States.

''(d) LIMITATION ON TOTAL ANNUAL COMPENSATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection or of section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, no additional payments may be paid to an employee under this section in any calendar year if, or to the extent that, the employee's total annual compensation will exceed the maximum amount of total annual compensation payable at the salary set in accordance with section 104 of title 3, United States Code.

''(e) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS.—The number of highly qualified experts appointed and retained by the Under Secretary under subsection (b)(1) shall not exceed 25 at any time.

''(f) REPORT REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (2) a report that includes—

''(A) the number of individuals appointed to the Bureau of Industry and Security under the authority provided by this section during the period specified in paragraph (3);

''(B) a description of the qualifications of such individuals and their responsibilities during that period; and

''(C) a description of the impact of such individuals on carrying out the mission of the Bureau of Industry and Security.

''(2) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this paragraph are—

''(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

''(3) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this paragraph is—

''(A) in the case of the first report required by paragraph (1), the 180-day period preceding submission of the report; and

''(B) in the case of any subsequent report required by paragraph (1), the one-year period preceding submission of the report.

''(g) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—In the event that the Under Secretary terminates the program under this section, in the case of an employee who, on the day before the termination of the program, is serving in a position pursuant to an appointment under this section—

''(1) the termination of the program does not terminate the employee's employment in that position before the expiration of the lesser of—

''(A) the period for which the employee was appointed; or

''(B) the period to which the employee's service is limited under subsection (c), including any extension made under this section before the termination of the program; and

''(2) the rate of basic pay prescribed for the position under this section may not be reduced as long as the employee continues to serve in the position without a break in service.

''(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to waive any requirements regarding background checks or qualifications of applicants to positions with the Bureau of Industry and Security.

''(i) TERMINATION.—The authority provided by this section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this section.''.

SA 3213. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. RISCH) 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. HARDROCK MINING MILL SITES.

(a) MULTIPLE MILL SITES.—Section 2337 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 42) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) ADDITIONAL MILL SITES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) MILL SITE.—The term 'mill site' means a location of public land that is reasonably necessary for waste rock or tailings disposal or other operations reasonably incident to mineral development on, or production from land included in a plan of operations.

''(B) OPERATIONS; OPERATOR.—The terms 'operations' and 'operator' have the meanings given those terms in section 3809.5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection).

''(C) PLAN OF OPERATIONS.—The term 'plan of operations' means a plan of operations that an operator must submit and the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, must approve before an operator may begin operations, in accordance with, as applicable—

''(i) subpart 3809 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations establishing application and approval requirements); and

''(ii) part 228 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations establishing application and approval requirements).

''(D) PUBLIC LAND.—The term 'public land' means land owned by the United States that is open to location under sections 2319 through 2344 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.), including—

''(i) land that is mineral-in-character (as defined in section 3830.5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection));

''(ii) nonmineral land (as defined in section 3830.5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection)); and

''(iii) land where the mineral character has not been determined.

''(2) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), where public land is needed by the proprietor of a lode or placer claim for operations in connection with any lode or placer claim within the proposed plan of operations, the proprietor may—

''(A) locate and include within the plan of operations as many mill site claims under this subsection as are reasonably necessary for its operations; and

''(B) use or occupy public land in accordance with an approved plan of operations.

''(3) MILL SITES CONVEY NO MINERAL RIGHTS.—A mill site under this subsection does not convey mineral rights to the locator.

''(4) SIZE OF MILL SITES.—A location of a single mill site under this subsection shall not exceed 5 acres.

''(5) MILL SITE AND LODE OR PLACER CLAIMS ON SAME TRACTS OF PUBLIC LAND.—A mill site may be located under this subsection on a tract of public land on which the claimant or operator maintains a previously located lode or placer claim.

''(6) EFFECT ON MINING CLAIMS.—The location of a mill site under this subsection shall not affect the validity of any lode or placer claim, or any rights associated with such a claim.

''(7) PATENTING.—A mill site under this section shall not be eligible for patenting.

''(8) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Nothing in this subsection—

''(A) diminishes any right (including a right of entry, use, or occupancy) of a claimant;

''(B) creates or increases any right (including a right of exploration, entry, use, or occupancy) of a claimant on land that is not open to location under the general mining laws;

''(C) modifies any provision of law or any prior administrative action withdrawing land from location or entry;

''(D) limits the right of the Federal Government to regulate mining and mining-related activities (including requiring claim validity examinations to establish the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit) in areas withdrawn from mining, including under—

''(i) the general mining laws;

''(ii) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

''(iii) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

''(iv) sections 100731 through 100737 of title 54, United States Code;

''(v) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

''(vi) division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'National Historic Preservation Act'); or

''(vii) section 4 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (commonly known as the 'Surface Resources Act of 1955') (69 Stat. 368, chapter 375; 30 U.S.C. 612);

''(E) restores any right (including a right of entry, use, or occupancy, or right to conduct operations) of a claimant that—

''(i) existed prior to the date on which the land was closed to, or withdrawn from, location under the general mining laws; and

''(ii) that has been extinguished by such closure or withdrawal; or

''(F) modifies section 404 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42).''.

(b) ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a separate account, to be known as the ''Abandoned Hardrock Mine Fund'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Fund'').

(2) SOURCE OF DEPOSITS.—Any amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the claim maintenance fee under section 10101(a)(1) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (30 U.S.C. 28f(a)(1)) on mill sites located under subsection (c) of section 2337 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 42) shall be deposited into the Fund.

(3) USE.—The Secretary of the Interior may make expenditures from amounts available in the Fund, without further appropriations, only to carry out section 40704 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (30 U.S.C. 1245).

(4) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available under paragraph (3)—

(A) shall be allocated in accordance with section 40704(e)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (30 U.S.C. 1245(e)(1)); and

(B) may be transferred in accordance with section 40704(e)(2) of that Act (30 U.S.C. 1245(e)(2)).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (30 U.S.C. 28f) is amended—

(1) by striking ''the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 28–28e)'' each place it appears and inserting ''sections 2319 through 2344 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.)'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking ''Such claim maintenance fee'' and inserting the following:

''(B) FEE.—The claim maintenance fee under subparagraph (A)''; and

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking ''The holder of'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The holder of''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking ''Such claim maintenance fee'' and inserting the following:

''(B) FEE.—The claim maintenance fee under subparagraph (A)''; and

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking ''The holder of'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The holder of''; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking ''The location fee'' and inserting the following:

''(2) FEE.—The location fee''; and

(B) in the first sentence, by striking ''The claim main tenance fee'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The claim maintenance fee''.

SA 3214. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7024, to make

improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 106. INCREASE IN ELIGIBILITY FOR PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 36B(c)(1) is amended by striking ''but does not exceed 400 percent''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 36B(c) is amended by striking subparagraph (E).

(b) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 36B(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(A) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—The applicable percentage for any taxable year shall be the percentage such that the applicable percentage for any taxpayer whose household income is within an income tier specified in the following table shall increase, on a sliding scale in a linear manner, from the initial premium percentage to the final premium percentage specified in such table for such income tier:

''In the case of household income (expressed as a percent of poverty line) within the following income tier:	The initial premium percentage is—	The final premium percentage is—
Up to 150 percent	0	0
150 percent up to 200 percent	0	2.0
200 percent up to 250 percent	2.0	4.0
250 percent up to 300 percent	4.0	6.0
300 percent up to 400 percent	6.0	8.5
400 percent and up	8.5	8.5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO AFFORDABILITY OF COVERAGE.—

(A) Subparagraph (C) of section 36B(c)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (iv).

(B) Paragraph (4) of section 36B(c) of such Code is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

(c) LIMITATION ON RECAPTURE.—Clause (i) of section 36B(f)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''400 percent'' and inserting ''800 percent'';

(2) by striking the period at the end of the last row of the table; and

(3) by adding at the end of the table the following new rows:

''At least 400 percent but less than 600 percent	$3,500
At least 600 percent but less than 800 percent	$4,500.''.

(d) PREMIUM COST STANDARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking ''silver'' each place it appears and inserting ''gold'':

(A) Paragraphs (2)(B)(i), (3)(B), and (3)(C) of subsection (b).

(B) The heading of subparagraph (B) of subsection (b)(3).

(C) Subsection (c)(4)(C)(i)(I).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO REDUCED COST-SHARING.—Section 1402(b)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''silver'' and inserting ''gold''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

SEC. 107. ENHANCEMENTS FOR REDUCED COST-SHARING.

(a) MODIFICATION OF AMOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1402(c)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''150 percent'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting ''200 percent'',

(B) by striking ''94 percent'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting ''95 percent'',

(C) by striking ''150 percent but not more than 200 percent'' in subparagraph (B) and inserting ''200 percent but not more than 300 percent'',

(D) by striking ''87 percent'' in subparagraph (B) and inserting ''90 percent'',

(E) by striking ''200 percent'' in subparagraph (C) and inserting ''300 percent'',

(F) by striking ''250 percent'' in subparagraph (C) and inserting ''400 percent'', and

(G) by striking ''73 percent'' in subparagraph (C) and inserting ''85 percent''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Clause (i) of section 1402(c)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18071(c)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure the reduction under this paragraph shall not result in an increase in the plan's share of the total allowed costs of benefits provided under the plan above—

''(I) 95 percent in the case of an eligible insured described in paragraph (2)(A);

''(II) 90 percent in the case of an eligible insured described in paragraph (2)(B); and

''(III) 85 percent in the case of an eligible insured described in paragraph (2)(C).''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2024.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary for payments under this section.''.

SA 3215. Mr. WELCH (for Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. RISCH)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2781, to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes; as follows:

In section 4(s)(2)(A), strike ''Energy'' and insert ''Agriculture''.

In section 5(b)(4), insert ''and'' after the semicolon.

In section 5(b), strike paragraphs (5) and (6).

In section 5(b), redesignate paragraph (7) as paragraph (5).

In section 5, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

(c) UNUSED FUNDS.—Amounts in each Fund not currently needed to carry out this Act shall be maintained as readily available or on deposit.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I have nine 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 Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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 Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 2 p.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 Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Janice Lepore, a fellow in our office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Ellen Urheim of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's proceedings.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following people, who are my colleagues from my office for the summer, be granted floor privileges until August 2, 2024, and I am going to read their names. They are Kelly Weinstock, Zane Jones, Grayson Noles, Thomas Rhymes, Brooklyn Hemphill, Camryn Runyan, and Tim Breslin.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 1; 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 Shea nomination, postcloture; further, that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that upon disposition of the Shea nomination, the Senate resume legislative session to resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024; that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed ripen at 1:45 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:41 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

THOMAS. B. CHAPMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2028. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LISA M. RE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, VICE PEGGY E. GUSTAFSON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANGELA M. KERWIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.

THE JUDICIARY

JAMES GRAHAM LAKE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE JENNIFER M. ANDERSON, RETIRED.

NICHOLAS GEORGE MIRANDA, 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, VICE RUPA RANGA PUTTAGUNTA, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

KRISTI ZULEIKA LANE SCOTT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, VICE ROBERT P. STORCH, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

ANTHONY J. BRINDISI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE DAVID N. HURD, RETIRING.

TIFFANY RENE JOHNSON, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE STEVE C. JONES, RETIRING.

KELI MARIE NEARY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER, RETIRING.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. CUSHING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JONATHAN C. TAYLOR

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHELSEY D. MCMASTERS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

ERIK C. ALFSEN
TAIWO A. AROWOSEGBE
JON R. BAILEY
DEXTER J. BROCK
JORGE H. BUDEZ
DAVID CHRISTENSEN
ROBERT ELKOWITZ
LUDOVIC O. FOYOU
JOHN B. GABRIEL
ROBERT GINSBURG
BRIAN T. HARGIS
OYEDEJI IDOWU
MICHAEL J. JOHNSON
CARSON M. JUMP
RAJA KANDANADA
MICHAEL J. KROG
JONATHAN C. LEE
JESSE MCCULLOUGH
JONATHAN R. MCPHERSON
MATTHEW T. MILLER
HOCHANG MIN
PATRICIA G. NICHOLS
MARK E. NIKONT
JUSTIN G. PICKERING
THEODORE F. RANDALL
HANS C. RUSKA
FRANTZO SAINT–VAL
RUBEN G. SALDANA
MATTHEW F. SHENTON
PETER P. STONE
STEPHEN C. TAYLOR
KEVIN W. TRIMBLE
KIRBY L. VIDRINE
MATTHEW W. WEATHERS
MARK D. WORRELL
JOSHUA J. ZIEGLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

SIDNEY B. AARON
FORTUNE I. AISABOKHAE
JACQUES ALBERTYN
ANDREW H. ALTERMAN
ANDREW S. AMES
RALPH M. ANDERSON
DANNY R. BLACK
PHILIP S. BOOTH
TAMMY T. BRIGGS
SCOTT L. BRITTON
MARCIN J. BULINSKI
KEVIN CALMES
JUAN C. CASTROBUITRAGO
JOHN S. COCHRAN
TRAVIS J. DALSIS
MARCUS R. DAVEE
MARC A. DELUCA
NICHOLAS J. GONZALEZ
JOHN T. HANNAH
KENNETH R. HARRISON
KURT E. HARTLEY
RYAN E. HICKS
BENJAMIN D. HOEMANN
OLEKSANDR S. ISHCHUK
SIMON M. JACKSON
STEPHEN G. JIMENEZ
MICHAEL D. KAYLE
GREGORY J. LASKOWSKI
NHAN A. LE
KISKAMA D. LEMOR
VICTOR A. MATOS
DALE D. MCKEE
SHAKEER A. MCNAIR
COURTNEY J. MERCHANT
GERALD D. MILLER
HAROLD W. MORRIS
BENJAMIN J. NEWLAND
DUNG V. NGUYEN
BOBBY G. NIEMTSCHK
KIMBERLY M. NORRIS
OPEYEMI S. OLUWAFISOYE
JOSEPH H. PARK
PHILLIP T. PERSING
SEAN M. POST
DANIEL PRUITT
PETER K. PYO
DAVID J. RHEE
JAMES D. ROLAND
MATTHEW S. RUNALS
BRANDON L. SCHLECHT
ANDREW P. SCHMITZ
JEFFREY P. SHAMESS
DAVID J. SISCO, SR.
GREGORY M. SOLBERG
ANTOINETTE M. STEWART
PHILIP P. TAH
SEONG B. TAK
DAWN B. TAYLOR
KYLE L. WARD
JEREMI C. WODECKI
MATTHEW L. WORSTELL
CALEB W. WRIGHT
0002755788

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 605 AND 7064:

To be colonel

NATHANIEL H. BABB
JEREMY A. HAUGH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

ALICE S. BLIZMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

NATHAN M. ARNOLD
ANGELA M. ARNTZ
DAVID T. AYER
CHRISTOPHER S. BARANYK
WILLIAM A. BARNETTE
MICHAEL A. BENINATO
DAVID F. BLACKMON
CHARLES L. BRUEHL
ROBERT J. BUSH
GABRIEL E. CAMINERO
PAUL R. CAREY
MICHAEL J. CARL
FONGKUEI F. CHENG
BRIAN B. CHOI
KEVIN L. CLEMONS
TRESSA D. COCHRAN
JENNIFER R. COOPER
SCOTT S. DAVIS
BRADLEY X. DEMARK
DOUGLAS N. DOUGLAS
THOMAS J. DUNN III
MARK T. EVANS
LESLIE B. FARRELL
RAFAEL M. GARCIA
CHRISTOPHER J. GOOKIN
AMANDA M. GRAVES
CHRISTOPHER L. HANSEN
JOSHUA J. HARDMAN
BRIAN P. HARRITY
SCOTT R. HENRICKSON
SUSAN C. HORVATH
TIMOTHY D. JAYNE, JR.
PATRICK G. JOHNSON
STEPHEN G. KAY
REN M. KINOSHITA
MICHELLE L. KLINE

URLIN D. MATHEWS II
JEFFREY P. MCAULEY
BRYAN L. MUNSCH
STEVEN P. OGDEN
SEAN T. OMARA
FLORA M. PHIPPS
AMANDA J. RANNEY
VINCENT J. REED
MARK O. SCOTT
DAVID J. SEIFFERLY
ALIREZA SHAYANZAKARIA
PHYLLIS R. SHERIFFWHITE
NATHAN W. SHIRES
DARREN J. SOMMER
RACHEL L. SORENSON
SUSAN C. STAHL
CHRISTOPHER M. STANG
LEN J. SULLIVAN
MARLEEN H. TARUSANLEGASPI
BILL S. TIDWELL
CHRISTOPHER TREVINO
ROBERT D. VANESSEN
MELINDA K. WELLER
TIMOTHY J. WILLIAMS
TINA L. WILLIAMS
ROLAND J. WILLIBY, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROGER A. BEAULIEU
RITHA CHAO
JOAO F. DASILVA
STEVEN R. FORD
MICHAEL L. MCCRAY II
ANDREW P. PARISE
LATONYA M. WILLIAMS
SCOTT A. ZECHMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRYAN E. APPLEGATE
GLENNA A. BERGLAND
TERENCE J. BURROWS
ALBERT Y. CHIN
ELWOOD CONAWAY
WILLIAM H. CRAIG
MARIA C. ESPIRITU
MARGARET A. FACENDAMCNEILL
COLBY A. FERNELIUS
DAVID M. FERRARO
WARREN E. FLAUTT, JR.
TIMOTHY J. FOUNTAINE
MARCIE L. FULFORD
LYNN M. GIARRIZZO
FRANKLIN R. HOGUE
JENIFER G. HOPE
JOSEPHINE P. HORITA
CHRISTOPHER M. HUSING
HANS JEANBAPTISTE
MICHAEL S. KAUFFMAN
BRIANNA L. KLUCKMAN
KURTIS L. KOWALSKI
BRIAN P. KURUC
ANDREW M. KUSIENSKI
LAKEESHA L. LOCKETT
REX K. MONIF
BRIAN K. MOORE
ANDREW D. MOSIER
WILLIAM J. NUMMY
KEVIN B. PONDER
KELLY M. QUINN
STACEY RODRIGUEZ
GERALDINE L. SHEETZ
REGINA S. STEPHAN
BENJAMIN D. TABAK
SAMIRA F. THOMPSON
ERIC P. TORRADO
ALI A. TURABI
DAVID M. WARD
CHRISTINA C. ZAIS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ENLISTED MEMBER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

MATTHEW R. HARTUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JEFFERY C. JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be lieutenant commander

CHET M. KORENSKY

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DIDIER JORDAN AHIMERA, OF VIRGINIA
CALEB CULLEN BALLARD, OF VIRGINIA
RICHARD YOUNG BECKMAN, OF VIRGINIA
KERRY W. BELL, OF VIRGINIA
NICOLE LOUISE BERMUDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA
MARQUES M. BIGELOW, OF VIRGINIA
RAUSAN BORUJERDI, OF NEW YORK
JENNIFER LEE BRODIE, OF VIRGINIA
NATALIE BRONSON, OF VIRGINIA
NANCY HESS BUCKHEIT, OF NEVADA
TIINA BURGIN, OF VIRGINIA
ANASTASIA G. BURNETT, OF NORTH CAROLINA
TANYA CARRIE, OF VIRGINIA
DWIGHT M. CHAMBERS, OF VIRGINIA
JULIE A. CHAMBERS, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW GALBRAITH CHATZKY, OF NEW JERSEY
ERIC CHU, OF MINNESOTA
JOMO A. CLAIBORNE, OF VIRGINIA
WILLIAM PETER CLARK, OF TEXAS
WADE CONRAD CLELAND, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFER RUTH CLEMENTE, OF FLORIDA
JUSTIN JAMES COBURN, OF FLORIDA
JENNIFER ELIZABETH COLE, OF WISCONSIN
CLAYTON A. COOK, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID CLAYTON COVEY, OF VIRGINIA
BRITTANI MAE DIPAOLO, OF FLORIDA
TAILOR S. DORTONA, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
AFAF ELAFFAS, OF VIRGINIA
LUKE ALAN FALKENBURG, OF VIRGINIA
KITE S. FAULKNER, OF VIRGINIA
KEVIN MICHAEL FECHSER, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH KIELY FOLKESTAD, OF VIRGINIA
HANNAH MURPHY FOWLER, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC S. FRENKIL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BLAINE IAN FROGGET, OF VIRGINIA
ADAM JOHN FRYE, OF VIRGINIA
ADAM JOHN GALLAGHER, OF CALIFORNIA
ALEXANDRA GIACALONE, OF VIRGINIA
TIMOTHY J. GIANGARLO, OF VIRGINIA
GLORIA M. GLAUBMAN, OF VIRGINIA
MACKENZIE W. GUIDO, OF VIRGINIA
LINDSAY MARIE HEEBNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHARLES HAINES HEILMAN, OF TEXAS
CARA LON IAVARONE, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN HOUSTON JACKSON, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTINA LUCIA JAMES, OF ILLINOIS
ASHLEY D. JONES–QUAIDOO, OF FLORIDA
BENJAMIN SCOTT KING, OF ARIZONA
ETHAN N. KINNEY, OF ALABAMA
ELIZABETH ANN KOKEMOOR, OF VIRGINIA
MARK C. KONOLD, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL LAMBERT, OF VIRGINIA
CAROLINE VIRGINIA LANFORD–MEEK, OF MISSISSIPPI
JASON TAEHEE LEE, OF CALIFORNIA
JAKOB JOHANNES LENGACHER, OF CALIFORNIA
CECIL R. MACPHERSON, OF ARIZONA
SEAN R. MADDEN, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL B. MALLOY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
DANIELLE C. MARRERO, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER ALAN MARSH, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JAZMIN LAIR MCGHEE, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN R. MCINTOSH, OF FLORIDA
MARCOS L. MERCADO, OF VIRGINIA
SOPHIA D. MEULENBERG, OF IDAHO
ALLISON M. MILLER, OF FLORIDA
SEAN K. MILLER, OF NEW JERSEY
LIANA V. MITLYNG DAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARY LYNN MONTGOMERY, OF MINNESOTA
AGNEE WHITNEY NADLE, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW P. NAVARRA, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL RENE O'QUINN, OF FLORIDA
BRIANA MARIE OLSON, OF WISCONSIN
LYDIA PACHECO, OF VIRGINIA
ANTHONY PALMER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LANCE ERICH PETERSON, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID STEWART POAGE, OF TEXAS
MATTHEW BRUCE POULSEN, OF VIRGINIA
SERGIO RAMIREZ, OF VIRGINIA
DEBORAH J. REPASS, OF VIRGINIA
RIANNE L. RUSTIN, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN M. SABIN, OF VIRGINIA
BARBARA KRISTINE SALVADOR, OF VIRGINIA
RODRIGO HERNAN SANCHEZ–YEVENES, OF WASHINGTON
ALEKSANDRA MARIA SANDSTROM, OF VIRGINIA
HANNAH PATRICIA SAPERSTEIN, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN SCARBOROUGH, OF VIRGINIA
HIDAYET SCHWARTZ, OF VIRGINIA
JARED MICHAEL SEIFTER, OF VIRGINIA
MANNA SELASSIE, OF PENNSYLVANIA
SUSAN A. SHELTON, OF VIRGINIA
HAINER E. SIBRIAN, OF TENNESSEE
MICHAEL JOSEPH SIEJA, OF VIRGINIA
DEANDRE D. SMITH, OF MARYLAND
CHARLES SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
RACHEL SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL DAVID STEFANTZ, OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDRA BETH STEIN, OF FLORIDA
KEVIN MICHAEL SZCZEPANSKI, OF VIRGINIA
OWEN L. THOMAS, OF VIRGINIA
ASHLEY R. TIKKANEN, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN H. TROUPE, OF PENNSYLVANIA
SUSAN M. VALANT, OF VIRGINIA
SEAN DAVID VARNER, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN STANLEY VROLYK, OF VIRGINIA
GRAYSON M. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA
SARA ELIZABETH WARYNOVICH, OF VIRGINIA
JEFFREY WHITING, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH MARIA WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
JUWAN A. WOODS, OF TEXAS
JUSTIN CARDALEEN YOUNG, OF CALIFORNIA
YANG QIU ZHOU, OF NEW YORK

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2024:

JEFFREY J. ANDERSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR:

JAYNE A. HOWELL, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DAVID MUNIZ, OF OREGON
GEORGE A. NOLL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
THAD OSTERHOUT, OF VIRGINIA
NICOLE DAWN THERIOT, OF LOUISIANA
FRANK J. WIERICHS, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2024:

DAVID W. HOWELL, OF FLORIDA
NICOLAS P. KEEFE, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW J. PERLMAN, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, EFFECTIVE MAY 4, 2023:

MICHELLE MARIE YERKIN, OF MARYLAND

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 31, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

JOSEPH FRANCIS SAPORITO, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MEREDITH A. VACCA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN J. DEGOES

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRIAN S. EIFLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF ARMY RESERVE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7038:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT D. HARTER

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK H. LANDES

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL T. STANTON

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MATTHEW W. MCFARLANE

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID J. FRANCIS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEVEN G. BEHMER
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM D. BETTS
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH L. CAMPO
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL E. CONLEY
BRIG. GEN. COLIN J. CONNOR
BRIG. GEN. LUKE C.G. CROPSEY
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT D. DAVIS
BRIG. GEN. GERALD A. DONOHUE

BRIG. GEN. LYLE K. DREW
BRIG. GEN. RUSSELL D. DRIGGERS
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. DROWLEY
BRIG. GEN. DAVID S. EAGLIN
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY KREUDER
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH D. KUNKEL
BRIG. GEN. JEFFERSON J. O'DONNELL
BRIG. GEN. DEREK J. O'MALLEY
BRIG. GEN. NEIL R. RICHARDSON
BRIG. GEN. FRANK R. VERDUGO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN M. SCHUTTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. LUCAS J. TEEL

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JUSTIN W. OSBERG

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH A. RYAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

To be lieutenant general

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN M. STUBBS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF ENGINEERS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7036:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM H. GRAHAM, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ANDREE G. CARTER
BRIG. GEN. KELLY M. DICKERSON
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. DOUGHERTY
BRIG. GEN. JAKE S. KWON
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT S. POWELL, JR.
BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. SAMUELSEN
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW S. WARNE
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL L. YOST

To be brigadier general

COL. CLINT A. BARNES
COL. MANU L. DAVIS
COL. DAWN M. JOHNSON
COL. KYSON M. JOHNSON
COL. CRAIG C. MCFARLAND
COL. SHAUN P. MILLER
COL. CHRISTOPHER R. PILAND
COL. MITCHELL J. WISNIEWSKI III

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KEVIN D. ADMIRAL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN R. ABRAHAM
COL. BRION J. ADERMAN
COL. DIANE M. ARMBRUSTER
COL. ANDREW W. BALLENGER
COL. GLORIA A. BERLANGA
COL. DONALD C. BREWER III
COL. MATTHEW M. BROWN
COL. MAC B. CARTER
COL. CATHERINE L. CHERRY
COL. BRETT D. COMPSTON
COL. MATTHEW W. COOPER
COL. KEVIN P. CRAWFORD
COL. STEVEN M. DAVENPORT
COL. ROBERT B. DEATON
COL. PHILIP R. DEMONTIGNY
COL. MATTHEW O. DINENNA
COL. WILLIAM L. DIONNE
COL. WILLIAM M. DIPROFIO
COL. MICHAEL G. DYKES
COL. CATHLEEN A. EAKEN
COL. PAUL D. GAPINSKI
COL. WILLIAM B. GENTLE
COL. RONALD C. GUERNSEY II
COL. MATTHEW R. HANDY
COL. JAMES H. HANKINS, JR.
COL. DAVID R. HATCHER II
COL. JEFFREY A. HEATON
COL. VANCE R. HOLLAND
COL. PAUL W. HOLLENACK
COL. MATTHEW R. JAMES
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON
COL. FRANKLIN L. JONES
COL. MATTHEW J. JONKEY
COL. MARK G. KAPPELMANN
COL. CHARLES H. LAMPE
COL. JASON C. LEFTON
COL. NATALIE L. LEWELLEN
COL. DANIAL LISTER
COL. JOEL F. LYNCH
COL. CHRIS M. MABIS
COL. JOHN S. MACDONALD
COL. MICHAEL P. MARCINIAK
COL. KRIS J. MARSHALL
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. MARTINDALE
COL. BRADLEY O. MARTSCHING
COL. TANYA S. MCGONEGAL
COL. FRANK J. MCGOVERN IV
COL. FRANCIS R. MONTGOMERY
COL. DAVID A. MOORE
COL. JOE E. MURDOCK
COL. DERALD R. NEUGEBAUER
COL. TIMOTHY J. NEWMAN
COL. KEVIN P. O'BRIEN
COL. RICHARD F. OBERMAN
COL. JASON D. OBERTON
COL. JAMES K. PERRIN, JR.
COL. MARK D. PHILLIPS
COL. JOHN P. PLUNKETT
COL. LEONARD J. POIRIER
COL. MATTHEW N. PORTER
COL. RYAN S. PRICE
COL. CREGG M. PUCKETT
COL. JAMES B. RICHMOND
COL. STEVEN T. RIVERA
COL. DENNIS M. ROHLER
COL. SCOTT J. ROHWEDER
COL. ARTHUR C. ROSCOE, JR.
COL. CHAD M. ROUDEBUSH
COL. DAVID P. SANTOS, JR.
COL. STEVEN J. SIEMONSMA
COL. BARRY B. SIMMONS
COL. MICHAEL J. SIPPLES
COL. BENJAMIN J. SPROUSE
COL. BARBARA P. TUCKER
COL. MARK C. TURNER
COL. ANSEL M. TYNDALL II
COL. GABRIEL V. VARGAS
COL. ROBERT H. WALTER, JR.
COL. ERIC C. WIELAND
COL. CARLIN G. WILLIAMS
COL. LEONARD A. WILLIAMS
COL. ROGER B. ZEIGLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 156:

To be brigadier general

COL. ERIC W. WIDMAR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TROY E. ARMSTRONG
BRIG. GEN. JOHN B. BOWLIN
BRIG. GEN. SEAN T. BOYETTE
BRIG. GEN. FELICIA BROKAW
BRIG. GEN. MARTIN M. CLAY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH A. HOPKINS III
BRIG. GEN. KIPLING V. KAHLER
BRIG. GEN. HALDANE B. LAMBERTON
BRIG. GEN. DEREK N. LIPSON
BRIG. GEN. LAURA A. MCHUGH
BRIG. GEN. JASON P. NELSON
BRIG. GEN. JOHN R. PIPPY
BRIG. GEN. DAVID K. PRITCHETT
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL L. PULVERMACHER
BRIG. GEN. BREN D. ROGERS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES P. SCHREFFLER
BRIG. GEN. LELAND T. SHEPHERD
BRIG. GEN. ROBIN B. STILWELL
BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN M. STUBBS
BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. WALLACE
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. WHOLEY
BRIG. GEN. TERI D. WILLIAMS

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DANIEL W. DWYER

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

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. MICHAEL E. BOYLE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEPHANIE R. AHERN
BRIG. GEN. GUILLAUME N. BEAURPERE
BRIG. GEN. FREDERICK L. CRIST
BRIG. GEN. SEAN P. DAVIS
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. ELLIS
BRIG. GEN. JASPER JEFFERS III
BRIG. GEN. NIAVE F. KNELL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL B. LALOR
BRIG. GEN. FRANCISCO J. LOZANO
BRIG. GEN. CONSTANTIN E. NICOLET
BRIG. GEN. KIMBERLY A. PEEPLES
BRIG. GEN. PHILIP J. RYAN
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER D. SCHNEIDER
BRIG. GEN. JASON C. SLIDER
BRIG. GEN. JAMES D. TURINETTI IV
BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY A. VANANTWERP

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. EDWARD H. EVANS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. GENT WELSH, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DANIEL R. MCDONOUGH

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. NATHAN P. AYSTA
COL. JERRY B. BANCROFT, JR.
COL. DIANA M. BROWN
COL. JASON K. BRUGMAN
COL. MARCIA L. COLE
COL. JOE A. DESSENBERGER
COL. MICHAEL S. DUNKIN
COL. AMANDA B. EVANS
COL. ROBERT C. GELLNER
COL. ASHLEY E. GROVES
COL. MATTHEW M. GROVES
COL. DARREN E. HAMILTON
COL. TODD A. HOFFORD
COL. ANTHONY A. LUJAN
COL. MATTHEW R. MCDONOUGH
COL. BYRON B. NEWELL
COL. NELSON E. PERRON
COL. JON M. TAYLOR
COL. JAMIELYN G. THOMPSON
COL. KURT D. TONGREN
COL. JOSHUA C. WAGGONER
COL. DAVID R. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID R. CHAUVIN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN D. BLACKBURN
COL. YVONNE L. MAYS
COL. MICHAEL B. MEASON

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. MATTHEW F. BLUE
COL. SCOTT A. BLUM
COL. LAURA P. CAPUTO
COL. MICHAEL A. FERRARIO
COL. CORY J. KESTEL
COL. JASON O. KLUMB
COL. ADAM E. ROGGE
COL. SKY W. SMITH
COL. STUART M. SOLOMON

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. PATRICK D. CHARD

COL. DANIEL P. FINNEGAN
COL. BRIAN R. JUSSEAUME
COL. THOMAS G. OLANDER, JR.
COL. STEVEN B. RICE
COL. MARTIN E. TIMKO
COL. TRENTON N. TWEDT
COL. ADAM G. WIGGINS
COL. ADRIA P. ZUCCARO

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL W. BANK
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW A. BARKER
BRIG. GEN. KIMBERLY A. BAUMANN
BRIG. GEN. BRADFORD R. EVERMAN
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER K. FAUROT
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. GOODWILL
BRIG. GEN. HENRY U. HARDER, JR.
BRIG. GEN. ERIK A. PETERSON
BRIG. GEN. FRANK W. ROY
BRIG. GEN. KIMBRA L. STERR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. VENERDI

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. AKSHAI M. GANDHI
BRIG. GEN. ROLF E. MAMMEN
BRIG. GEN. JORI A. ROBINSON
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL D. STOHLER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PETER G. BAILEY
BRIG. GEN. DONALD R. BEVIS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. MICHELE L. KIGORE
BRIG. GEN. VICTOR R. MACIAS
BRIG. GEN. BRYONY A. TERRELL

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. KEVIN V. DOYLE
BRIG. GEN. CASSANDRA D. HOWARD
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT I. KINNEY
BRIG. GEN. SUE ELLEN SCHUERMAN
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. SHEPPARD

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

To be general

LT. GEN. JOHN D. LAMONTAGNE

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL L. AHMANN

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL L. DOWNS

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. EVAN L. PETTUS

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. REBECCA J. SONKISS

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOEL B. VOWELL

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CURTIS A. BUZZARD

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. EDMOND M. BROWN

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. PETER A. GARVIN

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MATTHEW J. VARGAS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL .

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF SCOTT D. HOPKINS, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH B. MATHIAS, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MATTHEW I. HORNER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COLTON T. CASH, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRADLEY J. MARRON, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRAVIS P. ABEITA AND ENDING WITH ERIC T. YERLY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW KYLE BALDWIN AND ENDING WITH DESBAH ROSE YAZZIE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ELENA A. AMSPACHER AND ENDING WITH KRISTINA M. ZUCCARELLI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDISON I. ABEYTA AND ENDING WITH MIKE B. YOUN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SAMORY AHMIR ABDULRAHEEM AND ENDING WITH ANDREW K. ZIMMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NEILS J. ABDERHALDEN AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW A. ZIMMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHASTINE R. ABUEG AND ENDING WITH MASON T. WORKMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSHUA A. KING, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW F. FOUQUIER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VEGAS V. COLEMAN AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW A. DUGARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HANNAH E. CHOI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN P. PERRY, JR. AND ENDING WITH REBECCA D. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROY A. GEORGE AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY J. SMITHHART II, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GARY LEVY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF 0003824486, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSE J. ADAMSON AND ENDING WITH HEUNG S. YOO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW D. ATKINS AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER W. WALLACE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH T. CONLEY III AND ENDING WITH RODNEY P. KELLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD T. HILL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY J. LEONE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RAMON R. GONZALEZ FIGUEROA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF IVAN J. SERPAPEREZ, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM R. MANN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CODY S. FOISTER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL L. ABLE AND ENDING WITH RYAN J. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS S. RANDALL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EDWIN RODRIGUEZ, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT L. WOOTEN III, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JASON P. HAGGARD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARK T. MOORE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN A. TEMME, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN M. AGUILAR, JR. AND ENDING WITH ERIC T. PELOSI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEWEE S. DEBUSK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KYLE Y. TOBARA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL E. BALL AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER E. POWERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 23, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHANNON D. HUNTLEY AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM D. VANPOOL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 23, 2024.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JULIE N. MAREK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL .

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF JUAN J. BARBA-JAUME, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF RICCARDO S. HICKS, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NATHAN K. MAGARE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES E. BARCLAY AND ENDING WITH JUSTUS E. STECKMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM M. BARONI AND ENDING WITH LOUDON A. WESTGARD III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DENNIS J. CRUMP AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW S. MAUPIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH M. FEDERICO AND ENDING WITH BRYAN J. KAUFFMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER M. ANDREWS AND ENDING WITH ANDREW C. WYMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAFAL B. BANEK AND ENDING WITH JAMEY R. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS P. BYRNES AND ENDING WITH RAY L. WOLCOTT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANCIS A. GOIRAN AND ENDING WITH SARAH D. THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN F. LANDIS AND ENDING WITH RYAN MURPHY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH E. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH ELLIOT M. ROSS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID F. BELL AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH R. TULLIS III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FREDERICK J. AUTH AND ENDING WITH BRETT M. WOODARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KWADWO S. AGYEPONG AND ENDING WITH RYAN D. ZACHAR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY W. AGHA AND ENDING WITH AMY L. YOUNGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICHOLAS H. ABELEIN AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY J. ZAKRISKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GARRETT L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH IRIS P. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDON M. BECKLER AND ENDING WITH JAMES M. ZWEIFEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL C. BECKER II AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM N. ZINICOLALAPIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES K. BROWN AND ENDING WITH DAVID K. ZIVNUSKA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID M. GARDNER AND ENDING WITH LAUREN M. SPAZIANO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TYLER L. BRANHAM AND ENDING WITH LEE R. THACKSTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC A. GARDNER AND ENDING WITH JEREMY S. TALMADGE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHAN BAIK AND ENDING WITH DANIEL A. SORENSEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD A. BARKLEY AND ENDING WITH RICHARD B. WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER C. CADY AND ENDING WITH ROEL ROSALEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MILTON G. CASASOLA AND ENDING WITH PAUL S. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JAMES F. SULLIVAN IV, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER R. NAPOLI, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROSS C. HUDDLESTON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF RAMON L. DEJESUSMUNOZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BLAINE C. PITKIN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KALISTA M. MING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KEVIN S. MCCORMICK, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JAMES J. CULLEN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF STEVEN C. MCGHAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALLEN M. AGOR AND ENDING WITH JONATHAN A. YUEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 23, 2024.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF LUCAS M. MALABAD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVIN MAO AND ENDING WITH DANIEL S. TEEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF BRENDA L. BEEGLE, TO BE MAJOR.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CLIFFORD V. SULHAM AND ENDING WITH STEPHANIE L. WEXLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.