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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Lisa Wink Schultz of the Senate Chaplain's Office here in Washington, DC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of all comfort, we thank You that Your steadfast love endures forever. Today, we offer our thanksgiving for Your word that counsels us, for Your Spirit that guides us, and for prayer that sustains us.

Give our Senators grace and wisdom to fix their eyes on You and to meditate on all Your ways, knowing that Your testimonies are better than silver and gold. As we anticipate the end of Advent and look forward to the wondrous beginning of Christmas, we ask You to come light our world.

We pray in Your mighty 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 assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, December 16, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER REAUTHORIZATION ACT—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 5009, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 5009, a bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 3317 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 3318 (to amendment No. 3317), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 3319, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 3320 (to the instructions (amendment No. 3319) of the motion to refer), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 3321 (to amendment No. 3320), to add an effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as is typical this time of year, the Senate's attention is focused squarely on a long list of business, with deadlines fast approaching. Extending government funding by Friday is our top priority. Shutting the government down is a one-way ticket to needless disruption of important functions. It has never been a winning proposition, and this time is no different.

Delivering urgent disaster relief is a nonnegotiable. As communities across the country continue to pick up the pieces from a devastating storm season, they are watching closely for the Senate to deliver on the promise of a much needed helping hand.

And after months of unnecessary delay, the Senate will finally vote on the National Defense Authorization Act. The Armed Services Committee reported this year's NDAA 6 months ago by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. The fact that it has only reached the floor a week before Christmas is really inexcusable; so is the absence of a vote on defense appropriations legislation. And the blame for this neglect will rest squarely on the outgoing Senate majority. Ranking Member WICKER and our colleagues on the committee tried mightily to ensure that the final bill—Congress's main annual opportunity to shape national defense priorities—backs tough talk on growing threats with the tools required to meet them.

But the NDAA, like all major legislation, is a compromise product, and the absence of the Senate-backed increase

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



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to topline investments will go down as a tremendous—tremendous—missed opportunity. Artificial budget restraints mean that major bill provisions, like a pay raise for enlisted servicemembers, will come at the expense of investments in the critical weapons systems and munitions that deter conflict and keep them safe.

For all the talk about growing threats to America's national security, it is past time for an honest conversation about the military requirements to meet those needs. And if this NDAA offers any valuable lesson, it is that we have a tremendous amount of work to do.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BRAUN

Madam President, on an entirely different matter, my earliest participation in politics was wearing an "I like Ike" pin on school picture day. But, last month, the State of Indiana was chanting: "I like MIKE."

MIKE BRAUN's fellow Hoosiers like him so much, in fact, they have decided to steal him back from Washington to be their Governor. And if I know anything about Indiana's junior Senator, he is probably looking forward to trading in the trappings of this institution for a job a lot closer to home. But I would like to say just a few words before he goes.

Years ago, a local reporter asked MIKE BRAUN about his approach to life and work. He told them:

You live like you are going out of business every day, and it makes you healthy.

For a spry, former three-sport athlete like MIKE, that much checks out. But, needless to say, in the process of keeping him young, our colleague's mantra also brought a fair bit of political success.

Sure, a cushy, white-collar gig and a predictable corporate ladder would have been the natural next step for a high achiever fresh out of Harvard Business School. But where is the fun in that? For MIKE, in order to live like you are going out of business, you have to run a business yourself. You have to build a team and take risks. And what better place to do that than in your own hometown.

Most of us are familiar with at least some of what came next for MIKE and his high school sweetheart Maureen. The life and professional lessons of MIKE's dad Amos, a decorated World War II vet; steering a 15-person operation through the aftermath of the 1980s farm crisis and turning it into a national team spread across 38 States; for years, running that success, with sleeves rolled up, from a trailer office; and raising four kids along the way, three of whom have found their own callings in the family business—as I understand it, we have Maureen to thank that this incredible story of hard work and entrepreneurial spirit took a turn into politics in the first place. When friends around Jasper tried drafting her to run for the school board, she offered MIKE instead. And so began two decades and counting of life in politics.

Here in the Senate, MIKE's "going out of business" approach to public service made an early impression. Careful observers ranked him, at one point, the most effective freshman in the Chamber. He dove head first into legislation that mattered to him and to Indiana. He advocated passionately for farmers and for families impacted by rare diseases. He fought for outcomes, and he stood on principle.

But Hoosiers will be proud to know that he still doesn't like dressing up here on the Senate floor. And who can blame him? By MIKE's own admission, most of what he likes to do—tend the farm, fish, and hunt both animals and mushrooms—he can do within 60 miles of Jasper. So it speaks to MIKE's commitment to his neighbors that, even though he is leaving Washington, he is not quite going home just yet, nor will he be able to hang up the coat and the tie.

The trust of the people of Indiana is rightly a great source of pride for our colleague, second only to his pride in the family he and Maureen built, and I know he can't wait to get to work for all of them in Indianapolis.

So I know I speak for our colleagues when I thank MIKE for his service these past 6 years. We wish him all the best in his next chapter.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

BITCOIN ATM FRAUD

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the next time you are checking out at your local grocery or convenience store, take a look around. There is a good chance you will see a kiosk marked with the letter B with two vertical lines running through it. It looks like the form of a dollar sign. It is the symbol for Bitcoin. And what you are looking at is a Bitcoin ATM.

Take a closer look. Is there somebody using the machine? Are they on their phone while they are using the machine? Do they seem stressed? If so, they might just be one of the growing number of victims of Bitcoin ATM fraud.

These scams, which frequently target elderly Americans, start with a phone call. A criminal calls his target and claims he is from their bank, the IRS, or some Federal Agency. He tells his victim that their bank account has been hacked or that they are late paying their taxes and explains that they need to go to their bank immediately and take out money—sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars.

He directs his victim to a local business that hosts a Bitcoin ATM. He might even order them an Uber driver to pick them up. From there, he walks them through, step by step, how to deposit their money into the machine; how to use it to buy Bitcoin; and how to transfer the Bitcoin to a digital wallet controlled by the criminal himself.

In a matter of minutes, the money is gone, lost to the anonymity and irreversibility inherent to cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.

Bitcoin ATM scams like these have exploded in recent years. According to the data released by the Federal Trade Commission, the amount consumers report losing in this form of fraud increased nearly tenfold between 2020 and 2023, from \$12 million to \$114 million. In the first half of this year alone, victims lost a staggering \$65 million.

A disproportionate number of these victims were elderly Americans. In 2023, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center received nearly 2,700 Bitcoin fraud complaints from individuals aged 60 and older—more than all other age groups combined.

Earlier this summer, the Illinois Times reported that a small business owner in my hometown of Springfield, IL, stepped in after he witnessed a Bitcoin ATM in his store repeatedly being used by elderly individuals to deposit large sums of money at the urging of fraudsters. He explained to the Illinois Times:

One hundred percent of the time that we saw somebody at the machine they were being scammed. So I was like, this machine has to go. I'm not going to be a part of that.

He wisely removed the Bitcoin ATM from the store.

In Texas, a good Samaritan called 9-1-1 after she, in her words, "noticed an elderly lady feeding thousands of dollars into the cryptocurrency machine" at the urging of a criminal. She tried to stop the victim from feeding more and more of her money into the machine but was unsuccessful. Only when the responding officer arrived and intervened did the victim finally understand that she had been scammed.

Scenarios like these are playing out all across America. While we should applaud bystanders who step in and stop—or at least limit—the damage caused by these criminals, relying on good Samaritans is not a solution to this growing problem.

That is why I led six of my colleagues in sending letters to the 10 largest Bitcoin ATM operators this last September. We wanted to understand what they were doing, if anything, to prevent fraudulent use of their machines. The responses we received were not reassuring.

While some safeguards, such as warning screens and ID checks, were employed by all responding companies, other commonsense measures, like analyzing transactions and digital wallets to identify and stop fraud, were not.

Other best practices, such as setting maximum transaction sizes, were left to the vagaries of State law, leaving too many Americans at risk in too many States.

That simply isn't good enough. A company should meet certain specific antifraud measures before dropping one of their machines into our communities. That is why I am going to introduce legislation in the next few weeks that establishes a Federal antifraud baseline for Bitcoin ATMs.

And as I start to develop this bill, there are a few things that strike me

as absolutely necessary. First, Bitcoin ATMs should have daily transaction limits, particularly for new customers. As these machines are increasingly used to perpetrate fraud, we should limit potential losses.

Second, any transactions initiated by a new customer should be held for some reasonable period of time before it is processed. This will allow new customers to cancel their transactions—particularly if they learn that they have been victims of fraud.

Minnesota and Connecticut recently passed legislation requiring Bitcoin ATM operators to wait 72 hours before processing a new customer's transaction. This seems like a good place to start.

Third, Bitcoin ATM operators should be required to use analytics to screen for fraudulent or otherwise illicit transactions. Many Bitcoin ATM operators already employ this technology; there is no reason it shouldn't be used across the board.

Fourth, Bitcoin ATMs should be required to provide transaction receipts that include transaction hashes. This will allow law enforcement to more easily trace the transaction, collect evidence of the crime, and maybe even recover the stolen funds.

These are just a few pillars that this legislation will include.

I plan to work with stakeholders to make this the best bill possible. That includes State attorneys general and organizations like AARP, who have been real leaders on this issue.

It also includes Bitcoin ATM operators. In their responses to my letters, many of these companies offered to work with Congress to craft appropriate regulations for the industry. I hope they will come to the table in good faith.

I am not going to stand idly by while thousands of Americans—particularly elderly Americans—are ripped off in Bitcoin ATM scams. My bill will address this problem before it spirals out of control.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

DR. BARRY C. BLACK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, our thoughts and our prayers are with our dear friend Chaplain Barry Black, who was unexpectedly hospitalized Thursday afternoon. We are relieved and thankful that he is expected to make a smooth recovery.

Chaplain Black is one of the most beloved individuals in the entire Senate. Every day we gavel into session, he is

always here to start us off in prayer, delivered with his profound sense of wisdom, grace, and eloquence.

So we pray for the Chaplain and can't wait to see him back very soon.

DRONE SIGHTINGS

Madam President, now on drone sightings, yesterday, I called on Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas to quickly deploy any available drone-detecting tools to help New York and New Jersey deal with the mysterious drone sightings of the past few weeks. This week, I will also come to the floor of the Senate to seek passage of legislation that will give local officials greater authority to swiftly respond to these sightings.

The reports of the past few weeks have ignited immense anxiety and confusion for millions of people across the Northeast. Thankfully, there is no reason to believe these drone sightings pose a national security threat, but even so, they can be disruptive if they fly over restricted airspace, particularly near airports and bases.

While there is no shortage of reports about possible drone activity, we still have very few answers on where some of these drones come from and who may be operating them. The people of New York and New Jersey have a lot of questions and haven't gotten many answers. We know one thing, though: Local officials now don't have the resources nor the authority to get to the bottom of what is happening. This is Federal jurisdiction. But, of course, because drones are so new and there are so many in so many different places, including recreational users, we need to do a lot more.

So to repeat, this week, I will move for the Senate to pass legislation giving local officials the tools and authorities necessary to act quickly and in lockstep with the Department of Homeland Security and other Agencies. Local authorities can do a lot to help answer our questions, but right now, they are not empowered to do so because the Federal Government has total jurisdiction.

In the meantime, I urge DHS to take all necessary action to deploy as many drone-detecting resources as possible. Right now, they have not deployed close to enough, and that is why these questions that so many people have are going unanswered.

Some of the new technology, like the Robin's systems, are 360-degree radar—they can see 360 degrees, not at one beam—and could go a long way to help local officials collect real data about where these drones are coming from. I want to see a flock of Robin-like technology systems deployed across the New York City metropolitan area, so we need the Department of Homeland Security to spring into action.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, Senate business on the NDAA, the CR, WRDA, and noms: The Senate gavels back into session for a very busy week. We must finish our work on the NDAA, and we must keep

the government open, act on the Social Security Fairness Act, act on WRDA and EDA, and confirm more of the President's nominees. It is going to take cooperation from our Republican colleagues to get these things done in a timely fashion.

First, as I said, we must pass our annual Defense authorization bill, the NDAA. This afternoon, we will take the first procedural vote on the NDAA package sent to us last week by the House. If cloture is invoked, I hope we can find a path to passing NDAA as soon as tomorrow.

This year's NDAA is not a perfect bill, but it nonetheless has some good things that Democrats have worked hard for and that will strengthen military families and boost tech innovation here at home—something very important to me and to the Presiding Officer. To be sure, the NDAA has some bad provisions Democrats would not have included, and there are other provisions that were left out of NDAA which we still hope can get done elsewhere.

I want to thank Chairman REED, Ranking Member WICKER, and all the members of the Armed Services Committee for their good work on this year's Defense bill.

Madam President, on another matter, by the end of the week, the Senate must also pass a temporary extension of government funding before December 20 or else the government will shut down right before Christmas.

Democrats have spent weeks working in good faith with our Republican counterparts on crafting a strong CR that will keep the government open while also providing much needed disaster relief for the American people. We kept working through the weekend on finalizing an agreement, but our Republican colleagues are still sorting through disagreements on their end, and there are many.

Democrats will keep working to finish the job on passing a strong and bipartisan CR. We don't want the government to shut down during the holiday season, and I expect that many, if not most, of our Republican colleagues feel the same way. So let's finish the job.

Besides keeping the government open, the Senate will also vote later this week on reauthorizing WRDA and the Economic Development Administration.

Reauthorizing WRDA, the Water Resources Development Act, is vital for strengthening America's ports and waterways, preventing flood damage, protecting our wetlands, and boosting our economy. Reauthorizing the EDA would provide critical investments in infrastructure, workforce, and domestic supply chains that will help the United States outcompete the rest of the world.

The House passed WRDA and EDA with overwhelming bipartisan support last week. We expect it to pass here with equally robust support, and we will work with our Republican colleagues on finding time to hold a floor

vote. I thank them for working with us to get these bills done.

Madam President, finally, before I get to the Social Security Fairness Act, the Senate will also be working on nominations. Later today, I will file cloture on the nominations of Benjamin Cheeks to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of California and Serena Murillo to be U.S. district judge for the Central District of California. Members should be ready to vote on and confirm these outstanding public servants as soon as Wednesday. I will have more to say on our outstanding nominees throughout the week.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Madam President, now on Social Security, this week, the Senate will vote to take up a bipartisan piece of legislation that impacts millions of public retirees and their spouses: the Social Security Fairness Act. I am proud to co-sponsor this bill with my good friend Senator BROWN as a staunch advocate for working Americans, and he is a very staunch advocate as well.

The Senate has a golden opportunity to deliver for our retired firefighters, postal workers, teachers, and other public servants who are retired by passing the Social Security Fairness Act this week.

The bill would ensure no public retiree or spouse is denied their well-deserved Social Security benefits by repealing two widely criticized policies that have eaten away at the benefits of millions of people—the Windfall Elimination Provision, WEP, and Government Pension Offset, GPO. Many of these retirees contributed toward Social Security for years but are being penalized because at one point they worked as a teacher, a firefighter, a postal worker, a police officer, or some other public sector job.

The bill has already won immense support from Democrats and Republicans alike. In fact, the House passed the bill with an overwhelming 327-to-75 vote margin. There is no reason for the outcome to be different in the Senate. Senate Democrats are ready to vote yes on this legislation. We hope our Republican colleagues will join us.

Retirees have been pushing for action on WEP and GPO for decades, and this week the Senate is going to act. We will vote, and every Senator will choose. Where are you? Do you stand on the side of public retirees who deserve their benefits or bungle this golden opportunity by blocking this bill?

NEW YORK COUNTY TOUR

Finally, the 62-county tour. Today is a very special day for me because today you can flip one of my favorite numbers, 62—that is the number of counties in New York—and get another very important number, 26. For the 26th year in a row, I have just completed, earlier this afternoon, my annual tour of all 62 counties in New York State.

It is a promise I never fail to keep, not even after being named majority leader, not even during COVID because

it is the best way I keep up with everything New Yorkers are doing, thinking, and saying.

Just as everyone knows here, you sit at your desk, talk on the telephone, it is not the same as being out there. And the 62-county tour makes sure I am out there week in and week out. I am so, so happy that we have completed the tour, and I can't wait in January to start doing it again for the 27th year.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 849.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Benjamin J. Cheeks, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 849, Benjamin J. Cheeks, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 850.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Serena Raquel Murillo, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 850, Serena Raquel Murillo, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 5009

Mr. SCHUMER. As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 5009 be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

OUTBOUND INVESTMENT TRANSPARENCY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last week, I came to the Senate floor to discuss provisions that would address outbound investment transparency that Congress neglected to put in the National Defense Authorization Act conference report, which we are presently considering.

Well, I am back again, and I wish I had better news to share. As I mentioned last week, no one can claim to be serious about the China threat while turning a blind eye toward outbound investment transparency. Simply put, American investment in Chinese companies is the lifeblood of the Chinese economy. If the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party,

were part of the rules-based international order, it would be one thing, but they are not.

The People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party welcome that foreign investment to build their economy while they modernize their military and rearm their country, threatening peace in the region and beyond.

Quite frankly, I am disappointed the House and the Senate have so far failed to take action on this matter that is of critical importance to our strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party. The House and the Senate will have one last chance this year to address the outbound investment transparency provision I am discussing in the continuing resolution before we leave for the holiday recess.

But consider for a moment, we are awaiting an announcement that this continuing resolution has somehow been agreed to by the leaders here when we are talking about financing the government that we should have done before the end of the fiscal year last September. And now here we are, at the last minute, trying to figure out how to kick the can down the road to March.

But notwithstanding this terrible way to do business and to handle our country's finances—threatening, once again, another government shutdown, a completely unnecessary drama—I would urge my colleagues not to miss this opportunity to include this outbound investment transparency provision in the continuing resolution. We simply cannot wait another year to address this issue.

While Members of the House and Senate hem and haw, China is aggressively building up their defensive and offensive capabilities. The Chinese military continues to conduct joint exercises with Russia, and they continue to engage in provocative and aggressive behavior toward our treaty ally, the Philippines, in the South China Sea.

It is no secret that President Xi has ordered the Chinese military to be ready and capable of taking Taiwan by force by the year 2027, barely 2 years from now. The last thing the United States of America should be doing is financing the very economy and the weapons systems that will be used to try to destroy our allies and, potentially, us.

As we all know, China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea have joined together as the axis of autocracies in opposition to the democracies across the planet. This is a very dangerous alliance which foreshadows the sort of things that led to the runup to World War II.

It is simply foolish for the United States to help China to modernize its military and create this very dangerous scenario by investing in technologies that could be used ultimately to kill American soldiers.

I could care less if American investors want to build another Starbucks or another Burger King in the People's

Republic of China. I do care about dual-use technology and advanced technology that they could use to defeat us in the Indo-Pacific. By some estimates, U.S. investments in Chinese companies total \$2.3 trillion in market value by the end of 2020. This includes, incredibly enough, \$21 billion in semiconductors, \$54 billion in military companies, and a whopping \$221 billion in artificial intelligence. Those are American companies investing in China to build those things.

A recent report from the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission found that more than 90 percent of the total U.S. investment in these sectors is concentrated in the semiconductor industry. When it comes to China's AI industry, the report cites an analysis that found U.S. investors account for 37 percent of the \$110 billion in global financing raised by firms from 2015 to 2021. This is in AI.

To capture this picture from another angle, the report points out that U.S. investors consistently contribute more than double the capital to these sectors compared to all non-U.S. investors combined.

Consider the fact that we passed the Chips and Science Act in 2021 to create programs that would bolster our ability to compete with China and to eliminate vulnerable supply chains when it comes to advanced semiconductors. We made this critical investment in reshoring the manufacturing of advanced semiconductors, but also we made critical investments in quantum computing and AI to ensure that we win the competition with China. And we established guardrails to make sure that these funds could not be used by our adversaries or to fund them.

But how foolish would it be for us to have made this investment and still continue to fund the growth of China's capabilities and these sectors at the exact same time? By turning a blind eye to this reality, we are feeding the hand that is preparing to bite us. And the truth is, addressing outbound investment transparency will only become more painful if we wait.

This is a can that the United States of America cannot afford to kick down the road anymore. As I said, China's President Xi Jinping has made his plans for the People's Liberation Army to be ready to invade Taiwan by 2027. He could not be more clear.

What are we waiting for? And while I know I have painted a rather grim picture—which I unfortunately believe to be completely accurate—I remain optimistic that progress will be made on this critical matter before the end of the year. It has to. We simply cannot put it off. It has to be in the continuing resolution.

And while our political environment is divided, there is one thing that Democrats and Republicans—hawks and doves—alike can agree on, and that is the threat posed by China and the Chinese Communist Party.

I have been working on this matter for a long time now, and I have been amazed at the amount of bipartisan and bicameral agreement that exists on addressing outbound investment transparency.

So what is the delay? Why haven't we done it yet? Minority leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES originally blocked outbound investment transparency provisions from being included in the NDAA last week, but I remain hopeful that he will continue to work in a bipartisan manner with Republicans on including this critical tool in this end-of-year funding package, which must be acted on by the end of this week.

I would like to thank the Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON for his strong commitment to making sure this gets done in a timely fashion. Last year, my amendment to address outbound investment passed the Senate by 91 to 6—91 to 6. But it was not included in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. However, Speaker JOHNSON assured me he would make sure those provisions were included in the end-of-year funding package. Likewise, Senator SCHUMER made the same commitment. And I know they will keep their word.

So I look forward to continuing work with all my colleagues to make sure this critical matter is addressed in this year's funding measure. We simply cannot put it off any longer. We cannot continue to fly blind when it comes to American companies investing in China in industries and areas that can be used not only to build their economy but threatens peace and stability in the region and beyond.

As I said last week, no one can seriously claim to care about the threat posed by China if they support continued U.S. investment in Chinese defense technologies.

China is certainly not waiting around, and neither should we.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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.

The Senator from Minnesota.

RULES COMMITTEE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have been involved in work with the Rules Committee.

I have led that committee as chair for the last 4 years and as ranking member before that.

As we look ahead to the new Congress, I would like to thank our ranking member, Senator FISCHER, for her partnership in the last 2 years and the opportunity to do important work with her. And I look forward to continuing

our work together next month on the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies that I chair.

I also want to express my gratitude to my friend, former Senator Blunt, for our work when we led the committee together and to congratulate our incoming chair, Leader MCCONNELL, and Ranking Member Senator PADILLA.

In addition, I want to thank the Rules Committee members for their service, and I look forward to continuing to serve on the committee. And that would be Senator SCHUMER and Senator WARNER; MERKLEY; Senator PADILLA, of course; Senator OSSOFF; BENNET; WELCH; Senator SCHIFF, who just joined the committee in place of Senator BUTLER—we also thank her; Senator MCCONNELL; Senator CRUZ; Senator CAPITO; Senator WICKER; Senator HYDE-SMITH; Senator HAGERTY; and Senator BRITT, as well as the staff who have supported our work, including my staff director who is here, Elizabeth Farrar, who has been with me for a very long time as my counsel and judiciary and leg director, has done incredible work. I also want to thank former staff director Lizzy Peluso and Lindsey Kerr and the other members of our Rules Committee staff, some of whom are here today, including Steve Spaulding, who has done excellent work on elections; Ben Driscoll; Counsel Kristin Mollet; Allison Hunn; Kulani Jalata; Khalil Lee; and our clerks, Cami Morrison and Kasie Jones, as well as the staff for Senator FISCHER and the nonpartisan staff as well.

The Rules Committee is a little different than some of the other committees, and if we have disagreements, we have tended to work them out. As Senator Blunt used to say: The chair and ranking member of the committee are kind of like the mayors of the Capitol, kind of getting involved in many issues regarding the building itself, regarding the personnel, regarding our Senators, and making sure that this place functions. And that means you don't want to have a lot of public brawls over how to fix things.

We have managed to get a lot done and made a lot of changes that are really positive over the last few years. What may be our committee's lasting contribution to the Senate and the country will be on display next month when we convene to certify the results of the election in line with the significant reforms that we have made to the Electoral Count Act.

Senator Blunt and I shepherded that bill through the Rules Committee and worked on the bill, along with, of course, Senator COLLINS and Senator MANCHIN.

We got a bipartisan vote on our committee of 14 to 1 to significant changes to make sure that the will of the voters prevails and that, in fact, we don't have situations where one Senator or one House Member can block the electoral count or that claims can be made that a Vice President can overcome the will of the people and the like. That

was an old law that needed to be changed; we changed it for generations to come.

We also will see the changes as we see key security improvements that we have made, thanks in large part to Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger, someone who we installed after January 6, and as well as the men and women of the Capitol Police who stand in defense of the Capitol every single day.

We also thank Sergeant At Arms General Karen Gibson for her good work. We had a final hearing of the Rules Committee last week involving Chief Manger. It was our eighth hearing on the Capitol Police, including two hearings that I held with the Homeland Security Committee—major, major joint hearings after January 6 in which our focus was on security failures and how they had to be fixed after January 6.

We also had our first joint hearing of the Capitol Police Board with the House, with Representative STEEL—first hearing since 1945. As the Chief testified at our hearing last week, the Capitol Police have made significant progress in the last 4 years. In that time, the Department has made necessary enhancements impacting all aspects of work, including implementing the bipartisan security report that came out of those major, major hearings that were televised in which we called the former Police Chief of the Capitol Police, the former Sergeant At Arms at the House and the Senate, and major leaders in the FBI and in Homeland Security to figure out what went wrong.

On my mind is always the haunting voice of the officer on the police line that day that went over the police radio saying: Does anyone have a plan, does anyone have a plan; the horror story of 75 percent of the cops not having access to riot gear; that a number of their gears were actually locked on a bus that they couldn't access, with the insurrectionists sometimes having better gear than our police officers had.

Senator Blunt and I then led legislation, which has passed, to allow the Capitol Police to request immediate assistance from the National Guard in an emergency. It was like a phone tree they had to go through that led to significant delays. That legislation has passed and allowed the Police Chief to do that.

The bipartisan security report that Senators Blunt, PETERS, Portman, and I put in the wake of our hearings, those changes have been made, and 103 recommendations from the Department inspector general have been implemented—all 103 recommendations. The way we know that is we had a hearing, and half were done. Then we had another hearing, and more were done. That is accountability. That is the bipartisan job of the U.S. Senate—to oversee these things and make sure they get done for the safety of our po-

lice officers, for the security of the people who work in this Capitol, and not just the Members but the court reporters and the people who are working in the cafeteria and the people who are keeping things clean around here. They need that protection. They were the ones hiding in closets.

(Mr. WELCH assumed the Chair.)

We also passed my bipartisan legislation with Senator FISCHER to improve accountability and empower Congress to appoint and remove the Architect of the Capitol. We learned that day through hearings from the House of Representatives as well as our work in the Senate that the then-Architect of the Capitol didn't even come in that day. He said he was in his mobile van. That person has been terminated, but we found out in the course of all this that we didn't have the ability to terminate the Architect of the Capitol in the House and the Senate, so we passed the legislation that gave us the ownership of it. We hire this person on a bipartisan basis—with the Senate and the House, Republicans and Democrats—who supervises the work of thousands of employees in this Capitol, and we also have the right to terminate that person—not the President; us. As a result, we have our new Architect of the Capitol, Tom Austin, and he was supported with unanimous bipartisan and bicameral support.

With the support of so many service-members, veterans, and military families, our committee passed a resolution that paved the way—I see the Presiding Officer, Senator WELCH, was part of this—to pass a rule that paved the way for an eventually voluntary agreement so that more than 400 military promotions would move forward after months and months of delay.

I thank my Republican colleagues that stood up on this floor to get those nominations through, as well as all the Democrats, and I thank the Democrats on the committee for working with me on this resolution so that we could pass it to change the rules, and that eventually put some pressure on to get this done.

During my time in the committee, thanks to our great members, we have taken on a whole host of issues: reopening the buildings after the pandemic; reforming the outdated process of the reporting and handling of harassment claims on Capitol Hill, which was something I did with former-Senator Blunt as well as Senators SCHUMER and MCCONNELL—they showed great leadership, all of them; making closed captioning available for all Senate committee hearings.

We worked to ensure that the people we venerate in this Capitol more closely reflect the people of this country. It is not just about removing paintings and statues; it is about who you put up there so that when little kids come in, they see them and think, oh, that is someone who looks like me.

We passed my legislation, with Senators MURKOWSKI, COLLINS, and

SINEMA, for two statues of two former, trailblazing Supreme Court Justices—one appointed by a Democratic President and one by a Republican—Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Once those are completed, there will be 21 women finally represented in statues in the Capitol. Of the 209 statues in the Capitol, 192 are men—but, OK, I am not counting—but I changed this one statue at a time. We have added five of those statues of women just in the time I have been chair.

We also dedicated the first rooms in the Senate wing of the Capitol—this was sort of ironic. We had not one room in the Capitol named after a woman when I came in—not one; zero—when we had, in fact, many women leaders in the Congress. We dedicated those first rooms in the Senate wing in honor of women—I am talking about the Senate wing here—former Senators Barbara Mikulski and Margaret Chase Smith.

Margaret Chase Smith was from Maine, and she was the first Republican on the Armed Services Committee and the first major candidate for President on the Republican side.

The bust of Justice Taney, who authored the Dred Scott decision, was removed and will be replaced with one of Justice Thurgood Marshall—that sounds like a pretty good trade to me—the first African American to serve on our Nation's High Court.

When our restaurant workers unionized, we fought to make sure they had a fair contract.

In one of my favorite moments—and this was one of my more fun things we worked on. I work on a lot of kind of detailed things which involve Senators telling me when there is too long of a line of visitors trying to come into the Capitol, sending me pictures, making sure we have people working at those gates, making sure Senators are able to get to and from, that they get offices they need, that they get their hideaways. Some of that isn't fun, but it is still important.

But what was really fun was when Senator Blunt and I worked to update the rules so that Senator DUCKWORTH, who was just presiding over the Senate, and everyone in her wake are able to bring their babies onto the Senate floor. Before that, we only allowed dogs onto the Senate floor.

Senator DUCKWORTH already had a toddler. She said that if there were late-night votes, she would have to bring her baby with her. The House already allowed for this.

What I most remember from that time is that I had to use a Dr. Seuss rhyme, which I am not going to use, about how we had to get this done because she wasn't going to burp the baby in the house; she would be as quiet as a mouse. It was really long. I am not going to go into the whole thing, but it was quite effective.

So out of that, after some of maybe the more senior Members of the Senate didn't want to change the rule and they

didn't want to talk about breastfeeding and things like that—but none of that ever happened. We changed the rule. It is a good thing.

I will never forget the first day TAMMY DUCKWORTH brought her little baby Maile Pearl—now not so little but at the time, all 6 pounds of her—here onto the floor, wheeling her in on her wheelchair, with all the reporters looking down and not really a dry eye in the house, and it was kind of an amazing moment. So things have changed in little ways one thing at a time.

We have done important work, as I note, much of it behind the scenes to help so many of our colleagues with issues that impact their ability to do their work, regardless of party or ideology. We help to support repairs and updates to offices here in Washington. In their home States, we have implemented new security measures. We have made sure that constituents can be hosted and feel welcome in this place.

We strived to make sure the security lines to get in the buildings were moving along—there was some transition after the pandemic—and we literally have worked to make sure the trains in the basement were running smoothly. I got a lot of texts from Members about that.

As we look ahead to the new Congress, we have worked with the Secretary of the Senate, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Sergeant at Arms to welcome our newly elected colleagues on both sides of the aisle to the Senate and make sure they have what they need to run their offices on day one.

We also have worked tirelessly to support the safety of those in the Capitol, which I mentioned, especially the Parliamentarian's office, which was really at risk—as I look at some of my favorite employees in the Senate—that day of January 6, and we take their input and try to make changes whenever we can with those concerns.

We work to support the Agencies in the committee's jurisdiction here in our Nation's Capital. The Library of Congress has expanded public access to its digital collections, and its new David M. Rubenstein Treasures Gallery opened to the public earlier this year, featuring special items from the Library's collection, like a draft of the Gettysburg Address, handwritten by President Lincoln; President James Madison's crystal flute; and the original handwritten lyrics from "The Sound of Music." I thought that was cool.

We celebrated the arrival of the new pandas that will be ready to meet visitors at the National Zoo next month. I got to see them already. They are really cute.

Since two new Smithsonian museums were established with bipartisan support after legislation passed the committee unanimously in 2020, we are at this moment working to get those locations nailed down. The locations have

been chosen, and tens of millions of dollars have been raised for both the Women's Museum and the Latino Museum.

We have 50 Republicans in the House of Representatives on the bill, on the joint bill, and we are doing everything we can to get this done at the end of the year. I really don't understand what people's issue is when this is not a money situation; this is a location situation. So they can raise even more money than they have already to build these museums. The Smithsonian is supportive of this. These will be very positive museums. People want to go see the Women's Museum, they want to see the Latino Museum, and this is our big opportunity to get this done on a bipartisan basis.

Fundraising is now at—private fundraising—\$68 million for each new museum. Directors have been hired and staff working to build the collections because of Congress. Congress gave them the authority to move forward. They have done it, and they have done it incredibly well and found locations that both Senator Blunt and I have signed off on.

These two open sites on the National Mall will look even better to anyone who goes and looks at them and actually looks at it and thinks about it, and the Smithsonian Board of Regents has determined that.

Our work to get the needed waivers to begin construction, as I noted, is ongoing, with over 100 cosponsors, evenly split between the parties, on the House bill, led by Representative NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS of New York, a Republican, and JUDY CHU of California.

As we are nearing the end of this Congress, we have two major challenges—one, getting the two new museums the waivers so they can continue progressing. Our leaders on both sides will decide the fate of the Women's Museum. The four men who are leading our Congress in the Senate and the House will make this decision. Many women have been involved in pushing this issue so we can finally move forward on this, and we appreciate Senator SCHUMER's strong support for this.

Through the past several years, we have not stopped fighting to protect our free and fair elections, the cornerstone of our democracy, which is our second challenge—to continue that work—supporting our State and local election workers on the frontlines, ensuring they have needed resources, and successfully urging the Election Assistance Commission to enable them to use funding to protect against threats. We held our first field hearing in 20 years in Georgia on the Freedom to Vote Act, which we are looking forward to reintroducing next year.

I am very focused on artificial intelligence in our elections and bipartisan work. I have one bill with Senator MURKOWSKI and another with Senator HAWLEY to take this on.

In closing, I want to end my work on the Rules Committee with a story that

Senator Blunt always loved to share with our colleagues. It is a story of a bust that he always had in his office called *The Unknown Cleric*, a statue, and it is a guy that looked very distinguished.

Senator Blunt did a bunch of research, and he could never figure out who this guy was. It was over 100 years ago that they made this beautiful statue of him, and no one could figure who he was except that he is a cleric, because of his collar, so he called him *The Unknown Cleric*.

At the time, they thought this man was so important, but today, as Senator Blunt likes to tell people who came to his office, whether they were Senators or school kids, today, no one even knows who he is.

So what is the message we learn from that? That what we do here is more important than who we are. Most people aren't going to remember who we are 100 years from now—and I like to remind my colleagues of that—but they are going to remember when we do good things that help them, that help their kids, that help their grandkids. They are going to remember, when they walk into that Women's Museum or that Latino Museum, that someone back at this point had the foresight to think, OK, these are pretty important things in American history, and maybe we should honor them. Or maybe they are going to think 100 years from now, I am sure glad we still have our democracy because somewhere back there, they changed an old law and made sure that we reformed our election process or that we protected our democracy or we stood up for democracy, because what we do is more important than who we are.

That is why this committee, which has been run on such a strong bipartisan basis over the last decades under both Democrat and Republican leadership, has been a big part of that.

I look forward to working with our incoming Rules Committee chair, Leader MCCONNELL, and ranking member, Senator PADILLA. I know they are both well suited to do this work. I think maybe Senator MCCONNELL knows a little bit about the Capitol and how it is run. I look forward to working with them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

FARM BILL

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am sorry that I am here at this hour of the day on Monday, the beginning of what we hope to be the last week of this congressional session, as we recess for about a week before returning for the new session of the U.S. Congress.

I am here this evening to hope to express my hope that things that have not happened that have created challenges for farmers and ranchers across Kansas and around the country are addressed in legislation pending before the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

We have made mistakes, errors. We have failed in a couple of significant ways this congressional session in regard to the appropriations process and the consequences that the failure to pass a farm bill has upon farmers across my State and around the country.

First of all, I am saddened that we have not completed the appropriations process, the 12 appropriations bills that should have marched across this Senate floor and across the House and already been sent to the President.

In the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which I am a senior member, we passed all but one of those bills and reported them to the Senate floor with no further action. As a result of that, one of the items that has not occurred is that there is no appropriations bill dealing with agriculture that is ready for the President's signature or that should have been signed by September 30, earlier this year.

Secondly, the Senate Committee on Agriculture has not provided us with a renewed, improved farm bill. We are operating under an extension, and I would expect, before the end of the week, we will extend the farm bill one more time.

As a result, we are combining the effort to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers in this process by which we will pass a continuing resolution funding the Federal Government, presumably, to March; and included in that continuing resolution is what we call disaster assistance.

The disasters that occurred across the country—Helene, Milton; the damage that was done by tropical storms in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee—and the storm damage in many places across the country are to be addressed this week in an addition to the continuing resolution that funds the Federal Government. I support that.

There are significant challenges to people that have occurred through no fault of their own. One of those challenges is to farmers and ranchers, who, through no fault of their own, have no farm bill—therefore, no safety net—and who have no opportunity to address the needs as they go to their bankers—their financial bankers—to plan for the new year—no farm bill in place to provide a safety net and, without passage of disaster assistance, no assistance to help them get through the planting season for agriculture commodities across the country.

So before the end of this week, we need to do serious and significant work. And the point I want to make tonight is that, without the inclusion of assistance to farmers and ranchers in the continuing resolution, I will not vote for the continuing resolution. I despise voting for them regardless, all the time. I have because I so oppose government shutdowns. But in the absence of solving the challenges that farmers and ranchers meet—through disaster assistance, through financial

assistance to those farmers—the CR will not attain my vote.

So the negotiations are ongoing, as I understand it. They were to have been completed, perhaps a long time ago, but they were certainly to have been completed last night and filed. It has not happened yet, and the deadline is December 20, before there is a government shutdown.

The circumstances that we face is no—let me repeat this so I can make it perhaps clearer. Without a farm bill, there is no safety net. The safety net that was present under the old farm bill, even if extended, does not meet today's current challenges that farmers face.

The cost of inputs—fuel, fertilizer, seed, labor, land values, interest rates, in particular—have skyrocketed, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has determined that “on the farm” income will be down more than 43 percent over what it was when we passed the last farm bill, now 6 years ago—no farm bill to meet the needs, no farm policy to meet the needs of the challenges that ranchers and farmers have.

And then, unless we provide the disaster assistance—the natural disaster assistance that is so needed—and, again, I mentioned States that have had hurricanes. I will highlight that, in the State of Kansas, we have been in a drought for the last 4 or 5 years. This is the most severe year yet.

Seventy-nine percent of Kansas agriculture experienced drought across our State, most of it in severe fashion. This past year, Kansas wheat farmers experienced their smallest crop since 1961, largely due to lack of moisture.

So you add these things together—terribly high input costs, low commodity prices, and then if you have no commodity to sell because you couldn't grow anything—one of my staffers told me, when I said: You should be home for harvest earlier this year.

He said: JERRY, we plant wheat; we don't harvest wheat.

And that is exactly what happened across the State this year and, unfortunately, for past years.

Some will say we have crop insurance to deal with this issue. Crop insurance is hugely important to producers around the country, but it doesn't work when there are multiple-year disasters because the average for which you can receive compensation is based on previous years.

So we have never figured out—RMA, the Department of Agriculture have never figured out—a crop insurance product that meets the needs of farmers who, year after year after year, have less production.

The point I want to make is, this is a real circumstance that has huge consequences, not only on the farmers of Kansas and other States across the country but upon the need to meet our hunger needs around the world and the need to meet the nutrition and safety and well-being of Americans across the country.

Again, I ask my colleagues to make certain that the continuing resolution include assistance to agriculture producers and it be done in a way that actually meets their needs. And then, let's make certain we get a farm bill done—again, already late, but can we get it done early in 2025?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote scheduled at 5:30 begin immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill 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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 5009, a bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Martin Heinrich, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Christopher A. Coons, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Duckworth, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 5009, a bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 83, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 324 Ex.]

YEAS—83

Barrasso	Casey	Fischer
Bennet	Collins	Gillibrand
Blackburn	Coons	Graham
Blumenthal	Cornyn	Grassley
Boozman	Cortez Masto	Hagerty
Braun	Cotton	Hassan
Britt	Cramer	Hawley
Brown	Crapo	Heinrich
Budd	Cruz	Hickenlooper
Cantwell	Daines	Hirono
Capito	Duckworth	Hoeben
Cardin	Durbin	Hyde-Smith
Carper	Ernst	Johnson

Kaine	Murphy	Sinema
Kelly	Murray	Smith
Kennedy	Ossoff	Sullivan
Kim	Padilla	Tester
King	Peters	Thune
Klobuchar	Reed	Tillis
Lankford	Ricketts	Tuberville
Lujan	Risch	Van Hollen
Lummis	Rosen	Warner
Manchin	Rounds	Warnock
Marshall	Schmitt	Welch
McConnell	Schumer	Whitehouse
Moran	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Mullin	Scott (SC)	Young
Murkowski	Shaheen	

NAYS—12

Baldwin	Merkley	Schiff
Booker	Paul	Stabenow
Lee	Sanders	Warren
Markey	Schatz	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Romney	Vance
Fetterman	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). On this vote, the yeas are 83, the nays are 12, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the motion to refer and the amendments pending thereto fall.

The senior Senator from Vermont.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, the time is long overdue for Congress to get its priorities right.

And we can begin moving in that direction by rejecting and voting no on a \$900 billion defense bill which is full of waste and fraud and cost overruns.

I find it amusing that anytime we come to the floor and Members point out that we have a housing crisis, that we have some 600 million Americans who are homeless, that we have millions and millions of people in this country spending 40, 50, 60 percent of their limited incomes on housing, and that we need to invest in low-income and affordable housing, what I hear is we don't have the money. We don't have the money to build affordable housing.

When we have 85 million Americans who are uninsured or underinsured—60,000 die each year because they don't get to a doctor on time—well, we don't have the money to invest in primary healthcare. When all over this country, working parents are searching desperately to find quality and affordable childcare, we don't have the money to invest in childcare. Madam President, 25 percent of senior citizens in this country are trying to survive on \$15,000 a year or less. I don't know anybody in America who could survive on \$15,000 or less.

But when we talk about increasing Social Security benefits, well, we just can't afford to do that. We just can't afford to expand Medicare to cover dental, hearing, or vision.

We just cannot afford to make higher education in America affordable. That is what I hear every single day. When there is an effort to improve life for the working class in this country, I hear no, no, no, we can't afford it. But when it comes to the military industrial

complex and their needs, what we hear is yes, yes, yes, with almost no debate.

There is nobody who has studied the Pentagon who does not believe there is massive waste and fraud and cost overruns in that industry. Defense contractors routinely overcharge the Pentagon by 40 percent, and just in October, a few months ago, RTX, formerly Raytheon, was fined \$950 million for inflating bills to the Department of Defense. They lied about labor costs and about material costs, and they were busy paying bribes to secure foreign business. But it is not just Raytheon.

In June, Lockheed Martin was fined \$70 million for overcharging the Navy for aircraft parts, the latest in a long line of similar abuses. Fraud is rampant within the military industrial complex.

The F-35, the most expensive weapons system in history, has run up hundreds of billions of dollars in cost overruns. GAO now estimates it will cost more than \$2 trillion to develop, maintain, and operate that fighter jet through its lifetime.

The simple point that I am making is that when it comes to the needs of the military industrial complex and their lobbyists, and that industry which makes millions in campaign contributions, we give them what they want, despite the overwhelming evidence of waste and fraud and the fact that they have not been able to go through an independent audit for the last 7 years.

They can't account, literally, for trillions of dollars in property and stuff that they own. They have no idea where the money is going, but we give them more and more money.

So my request is simple. I think this week we are going to be voting on a \$900 billion defense budget. I think it is time to tell the military industrial complex that they cannot get everything they want. It is time to pay attention to the needs of working families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Nebraska.

SWANSON AND HUGH BUTLER RESERVOIRS LAND CONVEYANCES ACT

LAHAINA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate en bloc consideration of the following bills, which were received from the House: H.R. 8413 and H.R. 8219.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8413) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 8219) to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess

the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed en bloc, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bills (H.R. 8413 and H.R. 8219) were ordered to a third reading, were read a third time, and passed.

SWANSON AND HUGH BUTLER RESERVOIRS LAND
CONVEYANCES ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, working with the rest of the Nebraska delegation, as well as the Bureau of Reclamation, I have introduced legislation supported by all parties. It transfers ownership of the land from the Federal Government to local officials, benefiting everyone involved.

The residents and their local government officials support this bill. The Energy and Natural Resources Committee supported it, passing it earlier this year by a voice vote. The Bureau of Reclamation, which we worked with through this process, also supports my bill.

Chairman MANCHIN himself has even withdrawn his original concern about this bill's impact on a larger land package. I am grateful to him for understanding how important this issue is to my State.

I appreciate my colleagues for understanding the gravity of this situation. This bill will now be on its way to the President's desk.

I want to thank Representative ADRIAN SMITH and the entire Nebraska congressional delegation for their work over many years. It wouldn't have been possible without their collaboration and their support.

But, most importantly, I want to thank the citizens at Swanson and Red Willow, as well as the other local leaders. The love these Nebraskans have for their communities and their determination to save them, that made all the difference.

I also want to thank my colleague from Hawaii Senator HIRONO for putting forward a bill that will help her constituents and her State as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Hawaii.

LAHAINA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I rise in support of H.R. 8219, the Lahaina National Heritage Study Act. This bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to study the potential for Lahaina to be designated as a national heritage area.

The August 2023 wildfires brought to the forefront how special Lahaina is to Maui, to Hawaii, to our country, and, indeed, the world. So many people responded with their support of the recovery of the people who were impacted by this horrific wildfire.

A national heritage area designation could bring important Federal resources to help to promote and manage the historic, national, and cultural resources that are unique to Lahaina.

And I want to thank Senator FISCHER for her partnership, and I thank my colleagues for joining me in passing this bill, along with her bill today, so that the President can sign them into law and the National Park Service can begin working with the partners—all of our partners—in this effort.

And just to listen to my colleague from Nebraska talk about all of the people that she worked with to get her bill onto this agenda tonight really shows the importance of this bill to her constituents.

And, of course, to the people of Lahaina, to provide this designation is a start in reinforcing how important Lahaina is historically. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii in the past.

So I recognize that a number of my colleagues also have public lands bills that they hoped would be included in an "end of the year" package. It now appears that such a package is not going to happen. And while that is unfortunate, we should not let that doom these two bills, both of which passed the House with broad bipartisan support and have no substantive opposition in the Senate.

Rather than seeing all similarly situated bills fail, we have passed these two bills tonight.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, again, thank you to my colleague from Hawaii. Thank you for my colleagues here in the Senate for passing this unanimous consent tonight. I look forward to our two bills being signed by the President of the United States and having them in law in a few days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The majority leader.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—H.R. 5887

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on September 18, 2024, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs ordered H.R. 5887 to be reported without amendment favorably. I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 686, H.R. 5887, be star printed with the following text that reflects the committee's action.

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

BRIDGING AGENCY DATA GAPS
AND ENSURING SAFETY FOR NATIVE
COMMUNITIES ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 559, S. 465.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 465) to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring Safety for Native Communities Act" or the "BADGES for Native Communities Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—BRIDGING AGENCY DATA GAPS

Sec. 101. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Tribal facilitator.

Sec. 102. Report on Indian country law enforcement personnel resources and need.

TITLE II—ENSURING SAFETY FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Sec. 201. Demonstration program on Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement employment background checks.

Sec. 202. Missing or murdered response coordination grant program.

Sec. 203. GAO study on Federal law enforcement agency evidence collection, handling, and processing.

Sec. 204. Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal law enforcement officer counseling resources interdepartmental coordination.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *DEATH INVESTIGATION.*—The term "death investigation" has the meaning determined by the Attorney General.

(2) *DEATH INVESTIGATION OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.*—The term "death investigation of interest to Indian Tribes" means a case involving—

(A) a death investigation into the death of an Indian; or

(B) a death investigation of a person found on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(3) *DIRECTOR.*—The term "Director" means the Deputy Bureau Director of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(4) *FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.*—The term "Federal law enforcement agency" means the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any other Federal law enforcement agency that—

(A) has jurisdiction over crimes in Indian country; or

(B) investigates missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, or unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes.

(5) *INDIAN.*—The term "Indian" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(6) *INDIAN COUNTRY.*—The term "Indian country" has the meaning given the term in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code.

(7) *INDIAN LAND.*—The term "Indian land" has the meaning given the term "Indian lands" in section 3 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4302).

(8) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(9) **MISSING PERSONS CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “missing persons case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

(A) a missing Indian; or
(B) a missing person whose last known location is believed to be on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(10) **NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION DATABASES.**—The term “national crime information databases” has the meaning given the term in section 534(f)(3) of title 28, United States Code.

(11) **RELEVANT TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “relevant Tribal organization” means, as applicable—

(A) a Tribal organization or an urban Indian organization; and

(B) a national or regional organization that—
(i) represents a substantial Indian constituency; and

(ii) has expertise in the fields of—
(I) human trafficking of Indians;
(II) human trafficking on Indian land or in a Village;

(III) violence against Indians;
(IV) missing or murdered Indigenous persons;

or
(V) Tribal justice systems.

(12) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(13) **SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “sexual violence case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving an allegation of sexual violence (as defined in section 204(a) of Public Law 90–284 (25 U.S.C. 1304(a))).

(14) **TRIBAL JUSTICE OFFICIAL.**—The term “Tribal justice official” has the meaning given the term “tribal justice official” in section 2 of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2801).

(15) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “Tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(16) **UNCLAIMED HUMAN REMAINS CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “unclaimed human remains case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

(A) unclaimed Indian remains identified by Federal, Tribal, State, or local law enforcement; or

(B) unclaimed human remains found on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(17) **UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS CASE OF INTEREST TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—The term “unidentified remains case of interest to Indian Tribes” means a case involving—

(A) unidentified Indian remains; or
(B) unidentified remains found on, in, or adjacent to Indian land or a Village.

(18) **URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.**—The term “urban Indian organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

(19) **VILLAGE.**—The term “Village” means the Alaska Native Village Statistical Area covering all or any portion of a Native village (as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)), as depicted on the applicable Tribal Statistical Area Program Verification Map of the Bureau of the Census.

TITLE I—BRIDGING AGENCY DATA GAPS

SEC. 101. NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM TRIBAL FACILITATOR.

(a) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Attorney General shall appoint 1 or more Tribal facilitators for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

(b) **DUTIES.**—The duties of a Tribal facilitator appointed under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) coordinating the reporting of information relating to missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes;

(2) consulting and coordinating with Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations to address the reporting, documentation, and tracking of missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes;

(3) developing working relationships, and maintaining communication, with Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations;

(4) providing technical assistance and training to Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations, victim service advocates, medical examiners, coroners, and Tribal justice officials regarding—

(A) the gathering and reporting of information to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; and

(B) working with non-Tribal law enforcement agencies to encourage missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes are reported to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System;

(5) coordinating with the Office of Tribal Justice, the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, State law enforcement agencies, and the National Indian Country Training Initiative, as necessary; and

(6) conducting other training, information gathering, and outreach activities to improve resolution of missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes.

(c) **REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY.**—

(1) **ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—During the 3-year-period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Justice, shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual report describing the activities and accomplishments of the Tribal facilitators appointed under subsection (a) during the 1-year period preceding the date of the report.

(2) **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY.**—Annually, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Justice, shall publish on a website publicly accessible information describing the activities and accomplishments of the Tribal facilitators appointed under subsection (a) during the 1-year period preceding the date of the publication.

SEC. 102. REPORT ON INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL RESOURCES AND NEED.

(a) **OFFICE OF JUSTICE SERVICES OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.**—Section 3(c)(16) of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2802(c)(16)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) a list of the unmet—
“(i) staffing needs of law enforcement, corrections, and court personnel, including criminal investigators, medical examiners, coroners, forensic technicians, indigent defense staff, crime victim services staff, and prosecution staff, at Tribal and Bureau justice agencies, including the Missing and Murdered Unit of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau;
“(ii) replacement and repair needs of Tribal and Bureau corrections facilities;
“(iii) infrastructure and capital needs for Tribal police and court facilities, including evidence storage and processing; and
“(iv) public safety and emergency communications and technology needs, including equipment and internet capacity needs; and”.

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—In this subsection,

the term “Department of Justice law enforcement agency” means each of—

(A) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
(B) the Drug Enforcement Administration;
(C) the United States Marshals Service;
(D) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and

(E) the Offices of the United States Attorneys.

(2) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Each fiscal year, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report for that fiscal year that includes—

(A) the number of full-time employees of each Department of Justice law enforcement agency that are assigned to work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(B) the percentage of time the full-time employees, as identified under subparagraph (A), spend specifically working in Indian country;

(C) the turnover rate during the 5-year period preceding the report of full-time employees assigned to work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(D) the average years of experience at the Department of Justice of full-time employees assigned to work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(E) the number of vacant positions with responsibilities for criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country;

(F) an identification of expertise and skills necessary to achieve the strategic goals of the Department of Justice relating to public safety in Indian country;

(G) an estimate of the number of employees needed with specific skills and competencies to fulfill responsibilities assigned for criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country; and

(H) a list of measures identified to indicate whether and how the Department of Justice plans to execute its hiring, retention, and training strategies.

(3) **GAO STUDY AND REPORT.**—

(A) **STUDY.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the first annual report is submitted under paragraph (2), the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of unmet staffing identified by the Department of Justice law enforcement agencies tasked with work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country.

(ii) **REQUIREMENT.**—In conducting the study required under clause (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall take into account the results of the most recent report, as of the date of enactment of this Act, relating to Indian country investigations and prosecutions prepared by the Attorney General pursuant to section 10(b) of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2809(b)).

(B) **REPORT.**—On completion of the review under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the study, including, as appropriate, proposals for methods by which the Department of Justice can better measure its unmet staffing and other needs for Department of Justice law enforcement agencies tasked with work on criminal investigations and prosecutions in Indian country.

TITLE II—ENSURING SAFETY FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES

SEC. 201. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall establish a demonstration program for the purpose of conducting or adjudicating, in coordination with the Director, personnel background investigations for applicants for law enforcement positions in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(2) *BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND SECURITY CLEARANCE DETERMINATIONS.*—

(A) *BIA INVESTIGATIONS.*—As part of the demonstration program established under paragraph (1), the Secretary may carry out a background investigation, security clearance determination, or both a background investigation and a security clearance determination for an applicant for a law enforcement position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(B) *AGREEMENTS.*—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of agreement with a State or local government, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization to develop steps to expedite the process of receiving and obtaining access to information pertinent to background investigation and security clearance determinations for use in the demonstration program.

(3) *SUNSET.*—The demonstration program established under paragraph (1) shall terminate 5 years after the date of the commencement of the demonstration program.

(b) *SUFFICIENCY.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a background investigation conducted or adjudicated by the Secretary pursuant to the demonstration program established under subsection (a)(1) that results in the granting of a security clearance to an applicant for a law enforcement position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall be sufficient to meet the applicable requirements of the Office of Personnel Management or other Federal agency for such investigations.

(c) *REPORT.*—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the demonstration program is established under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the demonstration program, which shall include a description of—

(1) the demonstration program and any recommended changes or updates to the demonstration program, including whether the demonstration program should be reauthorized;

(2) the number of background investigations carried out under the demonstration program;

(3) the costs, including any cost savings, associated with the investigation and adjudication process under the demonstration program;

(4) the processing times for the investigation and adjudication processes under the demonstration program; and

(5) any other information that the Secretary determines to be relevant.

SEC. 202. MISSING OR MURDERED RESPONSE COORDINATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.*—The Attorney General shall establish within the Office of Justice Programs a grant program under which the Attorney General shall make grants to eligible entities described in subsection (b) to carry out eligible activities described in subsection (c).

(b) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—To be eligible to receive a grant under the grant program established under subsection (a) an entity shall be—

(A) an Indian Tribe;

(B) a relevant Tribal organization;

(C) subject to paragraph (2), a State, in consortium with—

(i) 1 or more Indian Tribes; and

(ii) relevant Tribal organizations, if any;

(D) a consortium of 2 or more Indian Tribes or relevant Tribal organizations; or

(E) subject to paragraph (2), a consortium of 2 or more States in consortium with—

(i) 1 or more Indian Tribes; and

(ii) relevant Tribal organizations, if any.

(2) *STATE ELIGIBILITY.*—To be eligible under subparagraph (C) or (E) of paragraph (1), a State shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the State—

(A)(i) reports missing persons cases in the State to the national crime information databases; or

(ii) if not, has a plan to do so using a grant received under the grant program established under subsection (a); and

(B) if data sharing between the State and the Indian Tribes and relevant Tribal organizations with which the State is in consortium is part of the intended use of the grant received under the grant program established under subsection (a), has entered into a memorandum of understanding with each applicable Indian Tribe and relevant Tribal organization.

(c) *ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.*—An eligible entity receiving a grant under the grant program established under subsection (a) may use the grant—

(1) to establish a statewide or regional center—

(A) to document and track—

(i) missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes;

(ii) sexual violence cases of interest to Indian Tribes; and

(iii) death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes; and

(B) to input information regarding missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, unclaimed human remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and unidentified remains cases of interest to Indian Tribes into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and the Missing Persons File in the National Crime Information Center;

(2) to establish a State or regional commission to respond to, and to improve coordination between Federal law enforcement agencies, and Tribal, State, and local law enforcement agencies of the investigation of, missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, sexual violence cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes; and

(3) to document, develop, and disseminate resources for the coordination and improvement of the investigation of missing persons cases of interest to Indian Tribes, sexual violence cases of interest to Indian Tribes, and death investigations of interest to Indian Tribes, including to develop local or statewide rapid notification or communication systems for alerts and other information relating to those cases.

(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the grant program established under subsection (a)(1) \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

SEC. 203. GAO STUDY ON FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY EVIDENCE COLLECTION, HANDLING, AND PROCESSING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study—

(1) on the evidence collection, handling, response times, and processing procedures and practices of the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in exercising jurisdiction over crimes involving Indians or committed in Indian country;

(2) on barriers to evidence collection, handling, response times, and processing identified by the agencies referred to in paragraph (1);

(3) on the views of law enforcement officials at the agencies referred to in paragraph (1) and their counterparts within the Offices of the United States Attorneys concerning any relationship between—

(A) the barriers identified under paragraph (2); and

(B) United States Attorneys declination rates due to insufficient evidence; and

(4) that includes a description of barriers to evidence collection, handling, response times, and processing identified and faced by—

(A) Tribal law enforcement agencies; and
(B) State and local law enforcement agencies that exercise jurisdiction over Indian country.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 204. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER COUNSELING RESOURCES INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General shall coordinate with the Director—

(1) to ensure that Federal training materials and culturally appropriate mental health and wellness programs are locally or regionally available to law enforcement officers working for the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or an Indian Tribe; and

(2) to determine whether law enforcement agencies operated by the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Tribes are eligible to receive services under—

(A) the Law Enforcement Assistance Program of Federal Occupational Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; or

(B) any other law enforcement assistance program targeted to meet the needs of law enforcement officers working for law enforcement agencies operated by the Federal Government or an Indian Tribe.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 465), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DHS BORDER SERVICES CONTRACTS REVIEW ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 658, H.R. 4467.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4467) to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table.

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

The bill (H.R. 4467) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONTAMINATED WELLS RELOCATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 5300 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5300) to authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to reimburse the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for costs directly associated with the removal and replacement of certain drinking water wells.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 5300) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5300

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 "Contaminated Wells Relocation Act".

SEC. 2. DRINKING WATER WELL REPLACEMENT FOR CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration may enter into an agreement, as appropriate, with the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for a period of up to five years, for reimbursement of the Town of Chincoteague's costs directly associated with—

(1) the development of a plan for removal of drinking water wells currently situated on property administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(2) the establishment of alternative drinking water wells on property under the administrative control, through lease, ownership, or easement, of the Town of Chincoteague.

(b) ELEMENTS.—An agreement under subsection (a) shall include, to the extent practicable—

(1) a provision for the removal and relocation of the three remaining wells described in that subsection;

(2) a description of the location of the site to which such wells will be relocated or are planned to be relocated; and

(3) a current estimated cost of such relocation, including for the purchase, lease, or use of additional property, engineering, design, permitting, and construction.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in coordination with the heads or other appropriate representatives of relevant entities, shall submit to the appropriate commit-

tees of Congress any agreement entered into under subsection (a).

FAIR CREDIT FOR AMERICAN HOSTAGES ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5543, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5543) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports containing adverse items of information about a consumer that resulted from that consumer being unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 5543) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5543

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 "Fair Credit for American Hostages Act".

SEC. 2. ADVERSE INFORMATION ABOUT CONSUMERS UNLAWFULLY OR WRONGFULLY DETAINED ABROAD OR HELD HOSTAGE ABROAD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 605C the following:

"§ 605D. Adverse information about consumers unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED CONSUMER.—The term 'covered consumer' means an individual who has been—

"(A) a United States national unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, as determined under section 302(a) of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741(a)); or

"(B) a United States national taken hostage abroad, as determined by the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell established by section 304 that Act (22 U.S.C. 1741b).

"(2) DETENTION OR HOSTAGE DOCUMENTATION.—The term 'detention or hostage documentation' means documentation that—

"(A) certifies a consumer is a covered consumer under this section;

"(B) identifies the time period during which the covered consumer was unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad; and

"(C) is authenticated by—

"(i) the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs established by section 303 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741a); or

"(ii) the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell established by section 304 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 1741b).

"(b) ADVERSE INFORMATION.—If a consumer reporting agency described in section 603(p)

is able to authenticate detention or hostage documentation provided by a covered consumer, the consumer reporting agency may not furnish a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about the covered consumer dating during the time period the covered consumer was unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 605C the following:

"605D. Adverse information about consumers unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad."

GSA TECHNOLOGY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 688, H.R. 7524.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7524) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the submission of reports on certain information technology services funds to Congress before expenditures may be made, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 7524) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CLARIFYING WHERE COURT MAY BE HELD FOR CERTAIN DISTRICT COURTS IN TEXAS AND CALI- FORNIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 5465 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5465) to clarify where court may be held for certain district courts in Texas and California.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 5465) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5465

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

SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 124(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by inserting “and College Station” before the period at the end.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 84(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and El Centro” after “at San Diego”.

AMENDING TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CONSOLIDATE CERTAIN DIVISIONS IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from the further consideration of H.R. 7177 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7177) to amend title 28, United States Code, to consolidate certain divisions in the Northern District of Alabama.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 7177) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO NAN SHERIDAN-MANN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor a member of my staff Nan Sheridan-Mann on the occasion of her retirement. Nan is retiring after over 5 and a half years as my western Maryland regional director and will be sorely missed.

Coming to my team from the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, Nan has been instrumental in engaging with small businesses, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and constituents alike throughout western Maryland. The daughter of a World War II veteran, she has been a champion for the veterans' community, serving as the cochair for Serving Together's Western Region Veteran Collaborative, an executive member of the Frederick County Community Veterans Engagement Board, and a member of the Veterans Advisory Council of

Frederick County. Nan is tireless and always willing to lend a hand; Nan has not only been a community outreach resource but has worked to tackle individual cases for constituents across the State. Indeed, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped to resolve over 1000 unemployment insurance cases and bring families security and peace of mind.

A Midwesterner by birth, we are grateful to call Nan Sheridan-Mann a Marylander and emeritus member of Team Van Hollen. We have treasured her good humor, abundant generosity, authenticity, and buoyant spirit. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Nan for her outstanding service to Maryland and the U.S. Senate and wish her the best for a well-deserved and fulfilling retirement.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 1253. A bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry (Rept. No. 118-290).

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

S. 4495. A bill to enable safe, responsible, and agile procurement, development, and use of artificial intelligence by the Federal Government, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-291).

S. 4679. A bill to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-292).

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

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 (Rept. No. 118-293).

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

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 (Rept. No. 118-294).

S. 5099. A bill to prescribe requirements relating to the management of the Federal property commonly known as Plum Island, New York, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-295).

S. 5310. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to make changes with respect to the Federal Acquisition Security Council, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-296).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 255. An act to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-297).

H.R. 272. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize transportation for Government astronauts returning from space between their residence and various locations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-298).

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. LEE:

S. 5533. A bill to repeal the Impoundment Control Act of 1974; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5534. A bill to authorize a grant program for educational institutions to analyze, digitize, and map historic records relating to housing discrimination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 5535. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for group health plans and health insurance issuers for practices that violate balance billing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 5536. A bill to prohibit United States Government assistance to the Government of the People's Republic of China and affiliated entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 5537. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to establish and carry out a pilot program to expedite the examination of applications for certain patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 5538. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to amend certain regulations to permit certain children to accompany their parents or legal guardians

through Global Entry airport lanes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 5539. A bill to require systematic review of artificial intelligence systems before deployment by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 5540. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 5541. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 5542. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to remove the border wall or to dispose of materials previously acquired by the Federal Government to construct the border wall; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 5543. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports containing adverse items of information about a consumer that resulted from that consumer being unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Res. 927. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. KIM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, supra.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

S. 2454

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2454, a bill to require reports on

and investments in pharmaceutical supply chain resiliency to reduce reliance on the People's Republic of China for finished pharmaceutical products and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

S. 2975

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2975, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve payment and processing of payments or allowances for beneficiary travel, and for other purposes.

S. 3661

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3661, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to periodically assess cybersecurity threats to, and vulnerabilities in, the agriculture and food critical infrastructure sector and to provide recommendations to enhance their security and resilience, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an annual cross-sector simulation exercise relating to a food-related emergency or disruption, and for other purposes.

S. 3815

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3815, a bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate rules with respect to the electronic delivery of certain required disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 4057

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4057, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 4280

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4280, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities to permit essential caregivers access during any period in which regular visitation is restricted.

S. 4365

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4365, a bill to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 4510

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4510, a bill to amend the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to delay implementation of the inclusion of oral-only ESRD-related drugs in the Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.

S. 4619

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

S. 5148

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5148, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain family caregivers to contribute to a Roth IRA.

S. 5329

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5329, a bill to amend section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to enhance transparency with respect to shipments seeking an administrative exemption from duties for low-value entries, and for other purposes.

S. 5391

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5391, a bill to establish a National STEM Week to promote American innovation and enhance STEM education pathways for all students, including those in rural, urban, and underserved communities.

S. 5408

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 5408, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 927—COMMEMORATING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 927

Whereas, as of the end of 2023, an estimated 39,900,000 people were living with human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this preamble as "HIV") or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this preamble as "AIDS"), including 1,400,000 children;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 790,000 people with AIDS have died since the

beginning of the HIV epidemic, including over 19,000 deaths among people with diagnosed HIV in 2022, with the disease disproportionately affecting communities of color;

Whereas, in 2022, over 37,000 people became newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, while all races and ethnicities are affected by HIV in the United States, communities of color are disproportionately impacted;

Whereas, in order to address the HIV epidemic in the United States, on August 18, 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101-381; 104 Stat. 576) (commonly referred to as the “Ryan White CARE Act”) to provide primary medical care and essential support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured;

Whereas the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides services and support for over half of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, to further focus attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998, the Minority AIDS Initiative was established to provide funds to State and local institutions and organizations to best serve the health care costs and support the needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV;

Whereas the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals established a global target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030;

Whereas, in order to further address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2003, Congress and the Administration of President George W. Bush, with bi-partisan support, created the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this preamble as “PEPFAR”), which, for more than 2 decades, has served as the primary policy instrument of the United States to address HIV/AIDS in the developing world;

Whereas the United States PEPFAR program remains the largest commitment in history by any country to combat a single disease;

Whereas 25,000,000 lives have been saved through PEPFAR;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2023, PEPFAR has supported treatment for more than 20,000,000 people, and has enabled 5,500,000 infants of mothers living with HIV to be born HIV-free;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2023, PEPFAR directly supported HIV testing and counseling for 71,100,000 people;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was launched in 2002, and, as of 2023, has helped provide antiretroviral therapy to approximately 25,000,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and to 695,000 pregnant women to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS to their children, saving an estimated 65,000,000 lives;

Whereas the United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and every \$1 contributed by the United States leverages an additional \$2 from other donors, as required by law;

Whereas considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including a nearly 40-percent reduction in new HIV infections, a 60-percent reduction in new HIV infections among children, and a 50-percent reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths between 2010 and 2023;

Whereas approximately 30,700,000 people had access to antiretroviral therapy in 2023, compared to only 7,800,000 people who had access to such therapy in 2010;

Whereas research funded by the National Institutes of Health found that HIV treat-

ment not only saves the lives of people living with HIV, but people living with HIV on effective antiretroviral therapy and who are durably virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit HIV, proving that HIV treatment is prevention;

Whereas it is estimated that, without treatment, half of all infants living with HIV will die before their second birthday;

Whereas, despite the remarkable progress in combating HIV, significant challenges remain;

Whereas there were approximately 1,300,000 new HIV infections in 2023 globally, structural barriers continue to make testing and treatment programs inaccessible to highly vulnerable populations, and an estimated 5,400,000 people living with HIV globally still do not know their HIV status;

Whereas children living with HIV are significantly less likely than adults to know their HIV status, and, as a result, are prevented from accessing life-saving treatment;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over 37,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2022, and 13 percent of the 1,200,000 people in the United States living with HIV are not aware of their HIV status;

Whereas men who have sex with men (referred to in this preamble as “MSM”), particularly young MSM of color, are the population most affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas southern States bear the greatest burden of HIV in the United States, accounting for 49 percent of new infections in 2022;

Whereas people living with HIV are frequently susceptible to other infections, such as hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis;

Whereas the opioid and heroin epidemics have led to increased numbers of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs, and the crisis has disproportionately affected nonurban areas, where HIV prevalence rates have been low historically and have limited services for HIV prevention and treatment and substance use disorder treatment;

Whereas December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as “World AIDS Day”; and

Whereas, in 2024, commemorations for World AIDS Day will recognize the essential role of community and collective action to sustain and accelerate HIV progress in the global HIV/AIDS response: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day, including the goal to achieve zero new human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this resolution as “HIV”) infections, zero discrimination, and zero acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this resolution as “AIDS”)–related deaths;

(2) commends achievements in combating HIV/AIDS through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101-381; 104 Stat. 576), the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-87; 123 Stat. 2885), the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of Minority Health, and the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(3) commends achievements in combating HIV/AIDS made by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

(4) supports efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States and around the world by 2030;

(5) supports continued funding for prevention, care, and treatment services, and research programs for communities impacted by HIV and people living with HIV in the United States and globally;

(6) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free generation is achievable, rapid action by all countries toward further expansion and scale-up of testing and antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts to reduce growing disparities and improve access for children to life-saving medications;

(7) encourages the scaling up of comprehensive prevention services, including biomedical and structural interventions, to ensure inclusive access to programs and appropriate protections for all people at risk of contracting HIV, especially in communities disproportionately impacted;

(8) calls for greater focus on the HIV-related vulnerabilities of women and girls, including women and girls at risk for or who have survived violence or faced discrimination as a result of the disease;

(9) supports continued leadership by the United States in domestic, bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to fight HIV;

(10) encourages input from civil society in the development and implementation of domestic and global HIV policies and programs that guide the response;

(11) encourages and supports greater degrees of ownership and shared responsibility by developing countries in order to ensure the sustainability of the domestic responses to HIV/AIDS by those countries; and

(12) urges other members of the international community to sustain and scale up their support for and financial contributions to efforts around the world to combat HIV.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3331. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3332. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KIM, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HENRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 333. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 4 and insert the following:

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date on which the condition described in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) is met and shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) for months beginning on or after such date.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO OFFSET GPO AND WEP REPEAL.—

(1)IN GENERAL.—The condition described in this paragraph is that there are enacted into law such changes to the Social Security program under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) (or to any other provision of law) as are necessary to fully offset any negative impacts on the actuarial balance of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust established under such title that would result from the amendments made by this Act.

(2)DETERMINATION THAT CONDITION IS MET.—For purposes of subsection (a), the Board of Trustees of the Trust Funds established under section 201(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(c)) shall determine the date on which the condition described in paragraph (1) is met.

(c)RECOMPUTATION OF PRIMARY INSURANCE AMOUNTS FOLLOWING REPEAL OF WEP.—Notwithstanding section 215(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(f)), the Commissioner of Social Security shall adjust primary insurance amounts to the extent necessary to take into account the amendments made by section 3.

SA 3332. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KIM, Ms. WARREN, Ms.

HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 708.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 17, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17; 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 resume

consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 5009, postcloture, and that all time during recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture; and, further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

ANTON GEORGE HAJJAR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2029, VICE DONALD LEE MOAK, TERM EXPIRED.