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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, inspire us today to give You our best. Help us to focus on serving You and bringing honor to Your Name.

Lord, guide our lawmakers in their challenging work. Open their minds and hearts to be ready to do Your bidding. Use them as instruments of Your purposes, shining Your light through them to dispel the shadows in our Nation and world. Help them to live to please You, demonstrating conclusively with actions that they follow You. Give them the wisdom to encourage and help each other in the important work of guarding our freedom.

We pray in Your magnificent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is Estonian Independence Day.

On this day in 1918, the Estonians declared their independence from the Russian Empire. They had to fight a war against both Germans and the Army of Soviet Russia to secure their independence in a treaty in 1920. In that treaty, Russia renounced any claim to Estonian territory and recognized the independence and sovereignty of Estonia forever. Forever lasted only 20 years because the Soviet Union illegally occupied Estonia as well as Latvia and Lithuania for the next 50 years. Ten percent of the population of the Baltic countries was deported or sent to labor camps.

The United States always saw the occupation of the Baltics as illegitimate and recognized their sovereignty throughout the entire Cold War. In the depths of the Cold War, it was hard to imagine that the Baltics would ever, ever regain their independence. Today, to the contrary, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are vibrant, prosperous, and free. Of course, that irritates Putin, the KGB dictator of Russia.

UKRAINE

Today, Mr. President, is also the 3-year anniversary of Russia's brutal, all-out invasion of Ukraine. Three years ago, Russian tanks were rolling toward Kyiv, and we all thought a total takeover of Ukraine by Russia was inevitable. As we know, instead, Ukrain-

ians, fighting for their homeland, stopped, then pushed back the Russians, taking back 50 percent of the territory the Russians initially occupied.

Today, Russia continues to gradually capture Ukrainian territory by force. With the help of North Korean soldiers, the Russian military is making small territorial gains but at an incredible cost in Russian lives and equipment. According to defense calculations, at the rate Russia is advancing in Ukraine today, it would take 83 years to reach Kyiv.

Three years ago, we thought Ukraine didn't stand a chance against the mighty Russian military. Everyone assumed Russia would conquer all of Ukraine and do it very quickly. Three years in, the Russian military can't even conquer the territories in the east of Ukraine that Putin claims to have already annexed. In the areas that Russia has occupied, churches have been closed and evangelicals persecuted for their faith. Civilians have been tortured, killed, and tossed into mass graves. Children have been kidnapped—at least 20,000—and are being brainwashed to forget who they are and to adopt a Russian identity, where they now live.

The Ukrainian people want peace desperately, and I hope it comes soon. The Ukrainian people want this peace because that is best for them as it is for the entire globe. But just like their Baltic friends before them, Ukrainians will never concede their sovereignty, and they will never give up on their countrymen who are currently under brutal occupation.

The question is, What will make KGB Putin give up his imperial dreams of reestablishing the Soviet Empire?

As we think about how we end this war in Ukraine, there is a lot going on right now. I don't think we want to forget that Putin has said very definitely, over the last 20 years in speeches, he wants to reestablish the Soviet Empire.

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



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I think this citizen of the United States, this Senator, ought to consider that sometimes we get driven by ideological waves in that we tend to think we have got all the answers. We can remember that there were a lot of conservative Republicans during the 1930s who thought Hitler was on the right track to bring peace to the world. Then we had a lot of liberals at that time, even through World War II, who thought that Joseph Stalin's murderous regime was the answer to all of our questions and all of the problems that this world had.

Now we have people who think Russia is somehow a good nation. They have institutionalized corruption in that country. They have murdered their political opponents. They imprison citizens for giving mild criticism to the country. They hold American citizens hostage—and hundreds of thousands of their people have been killed in this useless war.

Conservatives imagine that Russia doesn't exist today as I just described, so they are willing to sit down with people who have no political liberties, no political opposition. And it seems to me this is something that this Senator would not do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, early Friday morning, the Senate passed a budget resolution to lay the groundwork for border, energy, and national security legislation. We considered a lot of amendments from my Democratic colleagues, not one of which, interestingly enough, was centered on border security and very few of which addressed either national security or energy security. But that was, I have to say, not terribly surprising. After all, the Democratic leader seemed to think, to the very end, that this budget resolution had something to do with tax cuts for billionaires, even though it has absolutely and exactly nothing to do with tax cuts of any kind. I am not sure if he was honestly confused or merely felt that he could achieve something messaging-wise by pretending this bill had something to do with billionaires.

But for the record, let me review what this bill was about. As everyone here knows, whether they want to acknowledge it or not, the chaos that President Biden allowed to rage at our southern border left a gaping hole in our national security. That is a hole that President Trump and Republicans are determined to close. And since day one of his administration, President

Trump has been fulfilling his campaign promise to crack down on illegal immigration and secure our border.

In addition to surging support to the southern border, his administration has been focused on arresting and deporting criminal aliens—from rapists and murderers to child sex predators and dangerous gang members—and they have made a lot of progress already.

But as the President's border czar made clear to Republican Senators 2 weeks ago, these efforts cannot continue without additional funding from Congress. So Republicans are moving forward on legislation to fund continued efforts to deport criminal aliens as well as provide other necessary resources to secure our border, discourage illegal immigration, and restore respect for the rule of law. That was what Friday's budget resolution was about.

And it is too bad that my Democratic colleagues aren't interested in joining us on border security legislation, but I will tell you, with or without Democrats, Republicans are moving full speed ahead. We owe the American people a secure border, and we intend to give it to them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

VLADIMIR PUTIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 3 years ago, Vladimir Putin brought war and destruction to the free people of Ukraine. Three years ago, a powerful, hungry autocrat broke the peace in Europe, violated the sovereignty of an independent democracy, and rolled tanks and weapons and troops across the Ukrainian borders without provocation or justification.

Vladimir Putin has sealed his place in history as an enemy to democracy, to freedom, and to peace. He has killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians. His rockets have destroyed homes and churches and schools and hospitals—deliberately, in many cases.

A year ago, I was there. I saw the destruction. I saw parking lots being turned into mass graves. I spoke with soldiers near the border trying to defend their homes. And I felt the deep resolve of the Ukrainian people. I felt the value of America's leadership and the international struggle to push back against Putin's evil aggression.

Today, we remember Bucha, we remember the atrocities in Mariupol, and we remember everywhere where Putin's horrors have touched. We honor the lives lost at the hands of Russia's war of aggression, and we will

not let Vladimir Putin and his thugs off the hook.

For 3 years, the United States has been clear on where we stand. We have stood on the side of democracy, the inviolability of borders, and the freedom of nations—and against Vladimir Putin.

We passed in this Chamber robust, bipartisan security assistance. The United States united the leaders of the West, and for years we succeeded in turning Putin into a pariah.

But today, on this third anniversary of Putin's war, Donald Trump is turning his back on the values that America stands for of democracy, of security, and of liberty. Instead of standing up to Putin, Donald Trump is siding with him and against our own allies. Instead of condemning Putin's lies, Donald Trump is parroting Russian misinformation and propaganda, in defiance of all evidence, without regard to any facts, and with utter contempt for the truth.

Today, President Trump met with President Macron. President Macron is advising Donald Trump not to show weakness—not to show weakness—to Putin at this pivotal moment. Donald Trump should heed President Macron's warning, or else Putin is going to eat his lunch, and America is going to suffer in the long term.

American support of a pro-Western democracy under attack is not charity. It is about our own long-term security. For Donald Trump to show weakness to Putin is to endanger America's security tomorrow.

If history tells us one thing about autocrats, it is that their hunger is never satiated. It is never enough. They will keep going one way or another until they are halted.

What are Poland and Latvia and Lithuania and Estonia supposed to think about Putin's belligerence next door to them? What is NATO supposed to make of Donald Trump's eagerness to deal with autocrats instead of our own allies?

If Donald Trump sells out democracy in Europe today, what will Donald Trump sell out tomorrow? Democracy in America? Our national security, which he is already starting to do?

The way Donald Trump is engaging with Vladimir Putin right now is not going to make America any safer in the long run. This all goes back to a pattern we have seen from Donald Trump from the very beginning. He has always admired autocrats, strongmen, and bullies; always shown contempt for the rule of law, for truth, for accountability, for facts—because his ultimate goal is to skew things in favor of the wealthy and corrupt few at the expense of everybody else.

Just like his push for taxes, just like his empowering DOGE, Donald Trump's modus operandi is to trample on safeguards and basic accountability—values central to any free democracy—in order to allow corrupt billionaires, the wealthy few, and cronies to fill in the void.

This is exactly the world Vladimir Putin wants, and little by little, Donald Trump is helping him make it happen.

BUDGET

Mr. President, on the Republican budget, last week, Senate Republicans passed their budget resolution, clearing the way to massive tax giveaways for Donald Trump's billionaire buddies. From the moment Donald Trump was sworn in, everything Republicans have done can be boiled down to this: Billionaires win; American families lose. That is the Republican agenda in a nutshell.

This week, it is House Republican's turn. Today, I want to say this about the Republican plan in the House: It doesn't matter which path Republicans ultimately go with—one bill, two bills, 50 bills. At the end of the day, Republicans are very clear: They want to cut taxes for billionaires and have the American people pay the cost.

Republicans want to perhaps push the biggest cuts to Medicaid ever so billionaires can have another tax break. That is morally corrupt and politically bankrupt.

With a government shutdown just a few weeks away, what are Republicans doing? They are spending precious time trying to cater to the wishes of the absolutely richest people in America, instead of working to avoid a disastrous halt of services that help tens of millions of middle-class American families. Their priorities are utterly skewed and upside down.

If House Republicans proceed this week, the backlash, "upsetness," and anger House Republicans saw in their townhalls last week is only going to get far more thunderous.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

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

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

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL HARRY STEWART, JR.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, earlier this month, the United States of America lost a legend: Harry Stewart, Jr., one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen, died at the age of 100.

Lieutenant Colonel Stewart's legacy is one of excellence. He grew up watching planes come in and out of LaGuardia Airport, dreaming of one day flying himself.

At just 18 years old, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart joined a new initiative launched in Alabama; a first of its kind training program for Black pilots established after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

He flew 43 missions from late 1944 to the spring of 1945 with the 332nd Fighter Group; earning the Distinguished

Flying Cross after downing three German planes in a dogfight just before the Allied victory in Europe.

Lieutenant Colonel Stewart didn't recognize the gravity of what he was doing at the time, he said in an interview just last year. He just wanted to serve his country, and serve his country he did.

But let's stop for a moment and think about what that means. Lieutenant Colonel Stewart and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen signed up to fight for a country that did not allow them the same rights as White citizens. They put their lives on the line to fight for a country that treated them as second class.

They could not live, work, eat, or drink alongside White countrymen or women. It was a world where people who looked like them could be met with violent attacks just because of the color of their skin. Consider what that means—that Lieutenant Colonel Stewart and the Tuskegee Airmen dealt with all kinds of discrimination, and yet still decided to risk everything to serve this Nation.

They faced almost inconceivable injustices, but they also believed in the promise of America, even though that promise wasn't being met. They fought for that promise against the Nazis in Europe and in doing so, blazed a trail for countless others to follow.

After the war, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart and three of his fellow Tuskegee Airmen won the U.S. Air Force's inaugural TOPGUN competition, an accomplishment that wasn't acknowledged, though, until decades later.

Unfortunately, that was a common theme for Lieutenant Colonel Stewart after the war. After aspiring to become an airline pilot his whole life and even after serving heroically and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, he was prevented from flying commercial jets because of his race.

Instead, he earned a mechanical engineering degree from New York University and remained in the Air Force Reserve. He taught the next generations of pilots until being recalled for duty during the Korean war. It wasn't until 2007 that the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal for their valor.

The legacies of Harry Stewart, Jr., and the rest of the pilots who made history, should be recognized as central to America's story.

In his first term, President Trump promoted Airman Charles McGee to brigadier general and pinned his stars in the Oval Office.

In his second term, Secretary Hegseth has reaffirmed that the Trump administration will continue to honor these heroes, and the Tuskegee Airmen will remain role models not only for the next generation of American servicemembers but for all Americans.

Lt. Col. Harry Stewart, Jr., and the pilots he flew with represent the best of America. Their courage and selfless-

ness in the face of adversity both at home and at war are inspirational.

And their legacies—those of greatness and unquestionable merit—deserve to be celebrated amongst the rest of our country's heroes, not just during Black History Month but all throughout the year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Democratic whip.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 91 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the Driscoll nomination, the Senate vote immediately on the motion to invoke cloture on the Greer nomination; further, if cloture is invoked on the Greer nomination, all time be expired on the Driscoll and Greer nominations and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Tuesday, February 25, with respect to the Driscoll nomination and Wednesday, February 26, with respect to the Greer nomination; finally, if the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

WAIVING OF QUORUM CALLS

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Driscoll and Greer nominations.

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

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote commence at this time.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 21, Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Tommy

Tuberville, Jim Justice, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Ted Budd, Mike Lee.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Banks	Gallego	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Bennet	Hagerty	Mullin
Blackburn	Hassan	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Heinrich	Peters
Britt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Justice	Schmitt
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cruz	Lankford	Sheehy
Curtis	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Durbin	Marshall	Tillis
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville
Fetterman	McCormick	Warner
Fischer	Moody	Wicker

NAYS—28

Alsobrooks	King	Schiff
Baldwin	Lujan	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Slotkin
Booker	Merkley	Smith
Cantwell	Murphy	Van Hollen
Coons	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hirono	Sanders	
Kim	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—6

Cramer	Kaine	Whitehouse
Graham	Warnock	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The yeas are 66, the nays are 28.

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 22, Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Tommy Tuberville, Mike Rounds, Jim Justice, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Ted Budd, Mike Lee.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 89 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Bennet	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Whitehouse
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fetterman	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	King	Schiff
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Markey	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Smith
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Gallego	Ossoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Kaine	Young
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

U.S. SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 20, 2025, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the rules of procedure of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AS ADOPTED

(February 20, 2025)

1. No public hearing connected with an investigation may be held without the approval of either the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or a Majority of the Members of the Subcommittee. In all cases, notification to all Subcommittee Members of the intent to hold hearings must be given at least 7 days in advance to the date of the hearing. The Ranking Minority Member should be kept fully apprised of preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings. Preliminary inquiries may be initiated by the Subcommittee Majority staff upon the approval of the Chair and notice of such approval to the Ranking Minority Member, Minority Staff Director, or the Minority Chief Counsel. Preliminary inquiries may be undertaken by the Minority staff upon the approval of the Ranking Minority Member and notice of such approval to the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel. Investigations may be undertaken upon the approval of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member

with notice of such approval to all Members of the Subcommittee.

No public hearing shall be held if the Minority Members of the Subcommittee unanimously object, unless the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (the "Committee") approves of such public hearing by a majority vote.

Senate Rules will govern all closed sessions convened by the Subcommittee (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(b), Standing Rules of the Senate).

2. Subpoenas for witnesses, as well as documents and records, may be authorized and issued by the Chair, or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by the Chair, with notice to the Ranking Minority Member. A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, or staff officers designated by them, by the Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee waive the 48 hour waiting period or unless the Chair certifies in writing to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee that, in the Chair's opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

3. The Chair shall have the authority to call meetings of the Subcommittee. This authority may be delegated by the Chair to any other Member of the Subcommittee when necessary.

4. If at least three Members of the Subcommittee desire the Chair to call a special meeting, they may file, in the office of the Subcommittee, a written request therefor, addressed to the Chair. Immediately thereafter, the clerk of the Subcommittee shall notify the Chair of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chair fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of such request, a majority of the Subcommittee Members may file in the office of the Subcommittee their written notice that a special Subcommittee meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the Subcommittee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Subcommittee clerk shall notify all Subcommittee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour. If the Chair is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside.

5. For public or executive sessions, one Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony in any given case or subject matter.

One-third of the Members of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Subcommittee business other than the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony, provided that at least one member of the minority is present.

6. All witnesses at public or executive hearings who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn.

7. If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, witness counsel, or any spectator conducts themselves in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing, the Chair or presiding Member of the Subcommittee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, a representative of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

8. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of such witness at any public or executive hearing and to advise such witness while the witness is testifying of the witness's legal rights; provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chair may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association, or by counsel representing another witness, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during interrogation by Subcommittee staff or during testimony before the Subcommittee by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association, or by personal counsel not representing another witness. This rule shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event witness counsel is ejected for conduct preventing, impeding, disrupting, obstructing, or interfering with the orderly administration of the hearings; nor shall this rule be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse such witness from complying with a subpoena or deposition notice.

9. Depositions

9.1 Notice. Notices for the taking of depositions in an investigation authorized by the Subcommittee shall be authorized and issued by the Chair. The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee shall be kept fully apprised of the authorization for the taking of depositions. Such notices shall specify a time and place of examination, and the name of the Subcommittee Member or Members or staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. The deposition shall be in private. The Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness's failure to appear unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a Subcommittee subpoena.

9.2 Counsel. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their legal rights, subject to the provisions of Rule 8.

9.3 Procedure. Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by Subcommittee Members or staff. Objections by the witness as to the form of questions shall be noted for the record. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify on the basis of relevance or privilege, the Subcommittee Members or staff may proceed with the deposition, or may, at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from the Chair or such Subcommittee Member as designated by the Chair. If the Chair or designated Member overrules the objection, these Members may refer the matter to the Subcommittee or may order and direct the witness to answer the question, but the Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify after being ordered and directed to answer by the Chair or designated Member.

9.4 Filing. The Subcommittee staff shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded. If it is transcribed, the witness shall be furnished with a copy for review pursuant to the provisions of Rule 12. The individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in the individual's presence, the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall then be filed with the

Subcommittee clerk. Subcommittee staff may stipulate with the witness to changes in this procedure; deviations from this procedure which do not substantially impair the reliability of the record shall not relieve the witness from the obligation to testify truthfully.

10. Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearings shall file a copy of such statement with the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel 48 hours in advance of the hearings at which the statement is to be presented unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement. The Subcommittee shall determine whether such statement may be read or placed in the record of the hearing.

11. A witness may request, on grounds of distraction, harassment, personal safety, or physical discomfort, that during testimony, television, motion picture, and other cameras and lights, shall not be directed at the witness. Such requests shall be ruled on by the Subcommittee Members present at the hearing.

12. An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings. The record of a witness's own testimony, whether in public or executive session, shall be made available for inspection by the witness or witness counsel under Subcommittee supervision; a copy of any testimony given in public session or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be made available to any witness at the witness's expense if requested.

13. Interrogation of witnesses at Subcommittee hearings shall be conducted on behalf of the Subcommittee by Subcommittee Members and authorized Subcommittee staff personnel only.

14. Any person who is the subject of an investigation in public hearings may submit to the Chair questions in writing for the cross-examination of other witnesses called by the Subcommittee. With the consent of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee present and voting, these questions, or paraphrased versions of them, shall be put to the witness by the Chair, by a Member of the Subcommittee, or by counsel of the Subcommittee.

15. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified, and who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or comment made by a Subcommittee Member or counsel, tends to defame the person or otherwise adversely affect the person's reputation, may (a) request to appear personally before the Subcommittee to testify, or, in the alternative, (b) file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony or other evidence or comment complained of. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Subcommittee for its consideration and action.

If a person requests to appear personally before the Subcommittee pursuant to alternative (a) referred to herein, said request shall be considered untimely if it is not received by the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel in writing on or before thirty (30) days subsequent to the day on which said person's name was mentioned or otherwise specifically identified during a public hearing held before the Subcommittee, unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement.

If a person requests to file a sworn statement pursuant to alternative (b) referred to herein, the Subcommittee may condition the filing of said sworn statement upon said person agreeing to appear personally before the

Subcommittee and to testify concerning the matters contained in the person's sworn statement, as well as any other matters related to the subject of the investigation before the Subcommittee.

16. All testimony taken in executive session shall be kept secret and will not be released for public information without the approval of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee.

17. No Subcommittee report shall be released to the public unless approved by a majority of the Subcommittee and after no less than 10 days' notice and opportunity for comment by the Members of the Subcommittee unless the need for such notice and opportunity to comment has been waived in writing by a majority of the Minority Members of the Subcommittee.

18. The Ranking Minority Member may select for appointment to the Subcommittee staff a Chief Counsel for the Minority and such other professional staff and clerical assistants as the Ranking Minority Member deems advisable. The total compensation allocated to such Minority staff shall be not less than one-third the total amount allocated for all Subcommittee staff salaries during any given year. The Minority staff shall work under the direction and supervision of the Ranking Minority Member. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Chief Counsel shall be kept fully informed as to preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings, and shall have access to all material in the files of the Subcommittee.

19. When it is determined by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, or by a majority of the Subcommittee, that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of law may have occurred, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member by letter, or the Subcommittee by resolution, are authorized to report such violation to the proper State, local and/or Federal authorities. Such letter or report may recite the basis for the determination of reasonable cause. This rule is not authority for release of documents or testimony.

REMEMBERING BEVERLY BYRON

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and service of the late Congresswoman Beverly Byron. For over a decade, Congresswoman Byron served western Maryland. She fought to advance the interests of her constituents and was a strong advocate for our national security. Congresswoman Byron has left a lasting legacy for the people of Maryland and our Nation.

When Congresswoman Byron was elected in 1978, she was one of only 16 women elected to the House of Representatives that year. She became a trailblazer, especially for women in the national security arena. A strong supporter of a robust national defense, she became the first woman to chair a subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee.

Congresswoman Byron also advanced opportunities for women serving in our armed forces. She sponsored legislation to reorganize the military child care system, open combat roles, and fight against gender-based restrictions. Through the 1991 Byron amendment to the Defense Authorization Act, women gained the right to fly combat missions in the Marines, Navy, Air Force, and the Army.

After serving in Congress, Congresswoman Byron continued to work to protect our Nation. She served on the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission and continued to offer her guidance on women in the armed forces.

Throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman Byron has been a role model for many. When I sought public office and served in the House and Senate, I always valued her unvarnished advice. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation and gratitude to the late Congresswoman Beverly Byron and her family for all she has done for the people of Maryland and our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRITZ WETHERBEE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Fritz Wetherbee, a New Hampshire icon who is retiring after six remarkable decades of bringing our State's rich history to life.

For generations of Granite Staters, Fritz has been the trusted voice and friendly face of New Hampshire history. He has recorded more than 5,000 segments of "*Fritz Wetherbee's New Hampshire*" for WMUR's "*New Hampshire Chronicle*," traveling to every corner of the State to uncover and share the fascinating historical accounts that make the Granite State unique. His iconic voice and witty personality have made our State's history accessible and entertaining for audiences of all ages. Just hearing his voice on a Chronicle segment—especially after a long week away from New Hampshire—is its own unique and comforting "welcome home."

A native of New Hampshire, Fritz returned home after serving in the U.S. Army and built a career in media, including various roles for local radio stations, reporting for the Monadnock Ledger, joining New Hampshire Public Television for educational programming, and eventually launching his namesake segment in 2001 on WMUR. He also shared his expertise with the next generation by teaching journalism at Keene State University. His work has garnered both critical acclaim and academic recognition, including five Emmy Awards and honorary degrees from the University of New Hampshire and Rivier College. Fritz's career exemplifies a genuine commitment to preserving and sharing our State's heritage, setting the standard for excellence in New Hampshire journalism.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fritz Wetherbee for his decades of service to New Hampshire and to wish him well in his well-deserved retirement. His work has not only educated and entertained us but also strengthened the bonds that tie our communities together through shared history and traditions.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas, Mr. ESTES of Kansas, Mr. SMUCKER of Pennsylvania, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS of New York, Mrs. SPARTZ of Indiana, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Mr. MIN of California.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

John Kennedy, Rand Paul, David McCormick, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Lindsey Graham, Joni Ernst, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pete Ricketts, Deb Fischer, John Thune, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Katie Boyd Britt, James Lankford, Tom Cotton, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Roger Marshall, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ashley Moody, Jon Husted, Ron Johnson, Eric Schmitt, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

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

S.J. Res. 11. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-421. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Bacillus Thuringiensis Cry1B.34 Protein; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL-12514-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-422. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Bacillus Thuringiensis Strain EX 297512 in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the

Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL-12526-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-423. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification entitled “Support for United States Nationals Unlawfully or Wrongfully Detained Abroad and Their Family Members” received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Foreign Relations.

EC-424. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-425. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 3.78 Rev 0, ‘Acceptable ASME Section XI Inservice Inspection Code Cases for 10 CFR Part 72’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-426. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.238 Rev 0, ‘Criteria for The Production of Safety-Related (Class 1E) Power Systems and Equipment for Production and Utilization Facilities’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-427. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.32 Rev 4, ‘Criteria for Power Systems for Nuclear Power Plants’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-428. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Withdrawal of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.41, ‘Preoperational Testing of Redundant On-Site Electric Power Systems To Verify Proper Load Group Assignments Change Revision Number to “W”’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-429. A communication from the Acting Division Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Pillar Coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*) From Threatened to Endangered” (RIN0648-XR126) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-430. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Utah: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule” (FRL No. 12226-03-R8) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-431. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “West Virginia Underground Injection Control Program; Class VI Primacy” (FRL No. 12000-02-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-432. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Changes in accounting periods and in methods of accounting” (Rev. Proc. 2025-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-433. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notice: Temporary Relief Under Section 1.1012-1(j)(3)(ii)” (Notice 2025-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-434. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-096); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-435. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-086); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-436. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to various countries in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-083); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-437. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed agreement amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Singapore in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-074); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-438. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-062); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-439. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an action entitled “California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Advanced Clean Cars II; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision” (FRL No. 11010-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-440. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an action entitled “California State Motor Vehicle and Engine and Nonroad Engine Pollution Control Standards; the ‘Omnibus’ Low NOX Regulations; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision” (FRL No. 9902-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-441. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an action entitled “California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision” (FRL No. 9900-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 90. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. PETERS (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 683. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand eligibility for incentives under the Medicare health professional shortage area bonus program to practitioners furnishing mental health and substance use disorder services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 684. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the period of time for making S corporation elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 685. A bill to ensure State and local law enforcement officers are permitted to cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 686. A bill to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to permit certain grants to be used for accessory dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 687. A bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding inmates who give birth in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 688. A bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 689. A bill to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 690. A bill to combat the fentanyl crisis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BANKS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MORENO)):

S. 691. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 692. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the clean fuel production credit to provide a special rate for sustainable vessel fuel; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 693. A bill to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 694. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a phase-in for plasma-derived products under the manufacturer discount program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 695. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the exclusion for gain from qualified small business stock; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 696. A bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 697. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for air traffic control training improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 698. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and

with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 699. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with the provision of purchased/referred care services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RISCH:

S. Res. 90. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 91. A resolution acknowledging the third anniversary of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine and expressing support for the people of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 92. A resolution designating February 16, 2025, as "National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 121

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 121, a bill to extend the statute of limitations for violations relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 167, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 199

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

269, a bill to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

S. 300

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 300, a bill to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for current year inclusion of net CFC tested income, and for other purposes.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 421

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 421, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 502, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to prohibit certain discrimination against athletes on the basis of sex by State athletic associations, intercollegiate athletic associations, and covered institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 592

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify Reid Vapor Pressure requirements and to provide for the return of certain retired credits, and for other purposes.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States national who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 656

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, 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.

S. 659

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, a bill to establish a grant program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to States that require the recording of all child welfare interviews with children and adults, and for other purposes.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to prohibit funding for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change until China is no longer defined as a developing country.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources".

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 689. A bill to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to reintroduce the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025. This legislation would finalize this multidecade effort by the Tule River Tribe to provide clean drinking water to their people and uphold the Federal Government's trust and treaty responsibilities.

The Tule River people are descendants of the Yokuts Indians, a large group of Native Americans who occupied what is now known as the San Joaquin Valley in California for thousands of years prior to contact with settlers.

In 1856, the Federal Government established their reservation in Tulare County, with the specific goal of providing the Tribe with arable farmland

and the water resources necessary to establish self-sufficiency. However, their land was fraudulently stolen from them, and in 1873, President Grant issued an Executive order to create a new reservation for the Tribe. This land—which is the Tribe's current reservation—is comprised of mostly mountainous lands that do not provide sufficient irrigation opportunities or water storage facilities. Today, the Tule River Tribe struggles to provide clean drinking water to their people, and Tule Tribal citizens suffer from a low standard of living as a result.

Since 1971, the Tribe has worked to establish its federally reserved water rights to create the viable homeland they were promised and to ensure that their citizens have enough water to meet their current and future water needs. For decades, the Tribe has worked with the Departments of the Interior and Justice as well as downstream water users to advance a settlement agreement, thereby avoiding costly litigation for both the Tribe and the U.S. Government.

I am proud to introduce this legislation to quantify the Tribe's water right of 5,828 acre-feet per year of surface water and fund \$568 million towards the construction of a water storage project. My legislation would also codify what is known as the 2007 Agreement with downstream water users, who support this legislation. Finally, the legislation would transfer approximately 9,000 acres of Federal land currently in the Sequoia National Monument to allow the Tribe to protect the watershed headwaters and 800 acres of grazing land to the north and south of the reservation boundary.

It is long past time for the Federal Government to live up to its trust and treaty responsibilities to the Tule River Tribe. We must codify this water settlement and settle the Tule River Tribe's claims against the United States. Access to clean drinking water now and in the future is essential to the continued strength of Tribal nations and to ensuring the sustainability and viability of future generations.

Water is a sacred and necessary resource for Tribal nations and for all people. As California and the West continue to experience a historic megadrought, enactment of our legislation would provide water security to Tule River citizens now and into the future.

I thank Senator SCHIFF for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate. I would also like to thank the Tule River Tribe for their decades of hard work to finalize this settlement and the downstream water users, including the Tule River Association and the South Tule Independent Ditch Company, for working with the Tribe to settle this issue and avoid litigation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025 as quickly as possible.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, AND MR. WELCH):

S. 696. A bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 696

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 “Protecting Our Guests During Hostilities in Ukraine Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in this Act that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) ELIGIBLE ALIEN.—The term “eligible alien” means an alien who was paroled under the Uniting for Ukraine parole process announced on April 21, 2022.

(3) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY UKRAINIAN GUEST STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible alien shall be considered to be admitted to the United States in Ukrainian guest status as of the date on which the eligible alien was first paroled into the United States.

(b) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—An alien in Ukrainian guest status under this section is authorized to be employed in the United States incident to and for the duration of such status.

(c) EXPIRATION.—Ukrainian guest status under this section shall expire on the date that is 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of State determines that—

(1) hostilities in Ukraine have ceased; and

(2) conditions in Ukraine allow for the safe and reasonable return of civilians to Ukraine.

(d) REVOCATION.—The Ukrainian guest status of an alien may be revoked if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the alien is described in section 241(b)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3)(B)).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 90—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. RISCH submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Foreign Relations which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 90

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the

Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,068,289, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this resolution shall not exceed \$10,402,781, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,334,492, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025;

(2) for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

SENATE RESOLUTION 91—ACKNOWLEDGING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S FURTHER INVASION OF UKRAINE AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 91

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale, unprovoked, and illegal invasion of Ukraine, which followed Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its illegal occupation of parts of the Donbas region in 2014;

Whereas the international community recognizes the sovereignty and full territorial integrity of Ukraine within the 1991 borders; and

Whereas the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the people of Ukraine have demonstrated a determined resistance that has prevented Russia from taking control of their country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses continued solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condolences for the loss of tens of thousands of Ukrainian people to Russian aggression;

(2) rejects Russia's attempts to militarily seize sovereign territory in Ukraine and elsewhere in Europe;

(3) reaffirms the support of the United States for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(4) commends NATO, the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, and the international community for their continued efforts to support Ukraine's defense and the protection of human rights on its territory;

(5) supports Ukraine's aspirations to integrate into Euro-Atlantic structures;

(6) recognizes Ukraine's efforts to strengthen its democracy during wartime;

(7) encourages the transatlantic community to continue to denounce Russia's illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine and counter Russian aggression; and

(8) emphasizes that Ukraine must be a participant in discussions with the Russian Federation about Ukraine's future.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was nearly 40 years ago President Ronald Reagan went to the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, and he said to the Soviets, “Tear down this wall.” Ronald

Reagan understood all too well what the Soviet regime was all about: It was a regime that had seized Eastern Europe and condemned millions of individuals to live under a cruel and repressive communist dictatorship.

My mother's family originally came from Lithuania, once an independent country, then a republic of the Soviet Union, now an independent democratic country again. That country meant a lot, and still does, to my family. I certainly recall the stories of my grandparents leaving the Russian domination and coming to America.

Until recently, Americans across the political spectrum, including Republican Presidents and Members of Congress, saw Russian tyranny for what it was—until now.

Today, we see President Trump doing the bidding of Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin. That is right: The President of the United States of America is using talking points that sound like they were whispered in his ear by the Kremlin, all while denigrating and bullying our true allies in the region.

If you don't believe me, listen to these quotes and try to guess whether Vladimir Putin or Donald Trump said them.

First, outrageously claiming Ukraine started the war with Russia:

It's they who have started the war.

Or:

You've been there for three years. You should have ended it. You should have never started it.

How about attacking the legitimacy of heroic wartime Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelenskyy, who was democratically elected in a free and fair election—something that has never taken place in Russia.

The legitimacy of the incumbent head of state of Ukraine is over.

Or calling him “a dictator without elections.”

In each of these stunning examples, one was spoken by Putin, the other by Trump. It is impossible to guess which is which, but you would be hard-pressed to figure it out because they are both using the same Kremlin propaganda.

It gets worse, with Donald Trump having negotiated away in public the key concessions to Russia to end the war, including appeasement of Ukraine's sovereign borders or possible future NATO membership.

Trump, with not even a phone call, gave those away without even negotiating and certainly didn't involve the Ukrainians, who have lost 46,000 brave Ukrainians who have died because of Putin's invasion.

Today, in a stunning, shameful move, the United States voted with Russia, North Korea, Belarus, and a handful of other dictatorships at the United Nations against a resolution condemning Russian aggression in Ukraine.

I want to repeat that because it is so historic and so mind-boggling. There was a resolution before the United Na-

tions condemning Russia on the third anniversary of their invasion of Ukraine, and the United States' representative voted against it, joined in that effort by Russia, itself, North Korea, Belarus, and a handful of other dictatorships.

What in the world is going on here? Former Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said of this tragic and unbelievable state of affairs that it sounded like there was a hand-out prepared by the Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov from which the Trump administration was reading.

He warned if Trump continues to back Russia:

Threats to Ukrainian security will grow immensely. Putin will get braver. Meaning, there will be more war, more invasion, more death in Moldova, the Baltics, Georgia, maybe even Poland.

President Trump's affinity for autocrats like Putin and selling out or bullying our allies isn't going to make America stronger or our world safer. Nor will his petulant and bumbling weekend gutting of our top military officers—a troubling act that raises serious questions about politicizing our proud, professional fighting force in America.

Let me be clear: We cannot let President Trump rewrite history or upend proven alliances with decades of bipartisan support. Because of the NATO alliance, we have avoided a third world war for more than 75 years. That is a fact.

Ultimately, only the Ukrainian people can decide Ukraine's future. For the United States to be party to any other scheme or conspiracy is just unacceptable.

Doing the bidding of foreign dictators and playing politics with our own military only undermine America's ability to be safe.

Today is the third-year anniversary of Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine. I am glad to join Senators SHAHEEN, TILLIS, WICKER, and others in leading a simple resolution that expresses continued solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condolences for the loss of thousands of lives to Russian aggression. I would think that every Senator of both political parties would sign on, but fortunately we do have a few, and it is bipartisan.

The resolution goes on to reject Russia's attempts to militarily seize sovereign Ukraine territory. It reaffirms U.S. support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. That used to be so obvious and so easy, no one would enter a resolution into the RECORD, but because of the new statements by President Trump and Vice President VANCE, it is necessary to state unequivocally that Ukraine must be at the table for negotiations over its future.

Think of that—46,000 people in Ukraine died to stop Putin's advance and invasion of Ukraine—46,000—and there was a suggestion that the negotiations for peace in the country would

take place without Ukraine seated at the table. How can that be possible?

This resolution is straightforward. It expresses what would have—before this current administration—been seen as a cut-and-dried statement of American values when standing up to bullies and tyrants like Vladimir Putin, a known war criminal.

I am also introducing a bill to grant Ukrainians who fled the war and are already legally present in the United States with temporary guest status. Oh, I know, it is immigration. It is an explosive issue. How in the world could we consider it? Let me tell you what happened in the city of Chicago.

The Governor of Texas sent 50,000 migrants in buses—800 buses—to the city of Chicago to dump these migrants into a situation where there was no place for them to stay, no provision for their food. It was an emergency situation. We did the humane thing. We did our best to take care of them and the children—50,000 from Texas. It was a controversial issue, and there were some who said “Don't spend a penny on them; spend it just on American citizens” and others who said “We have an obligation that goes beyond simple citizenship. It is a human obligation, a moral obligation,” and we did it.

At the same time that took place, there were 50,000 Ukrainians coming into the city of Chicago as well—different circumstances. They had to have a host family that would stand by them as they settled down in the city of Chicago, and they had to find jobs.

Do you know how much controversy there was about those 50,000 Ukrainians? None. They were assimilated into the economy and have become an important part of the city and our State, and I am proud that they are there.

So now what happens to them? The uncertainty of the continuing war in Ukraine, the embracing of Putin by President Trump—what is going to happen? With this United Nations resolution today, where we were just asked to acknowledge the war of 3 years and to stand by the Ukrainians, the United States voted no. The United States voted with Russia, with North Korea, and with Belarus.

We have to do something to help these Ukrainians who are here, who escaped the invasion of Putin and found peace and security in our country.

When the war started, across the country, Republicans opened their arms and hearts and communities to these desperate Ukrainians, even actively petitioning President Biden to protect them from deportation. So far, not a single Republican has cosponsored my bill. It is a new day in Washington. But I urge them to join this simple act of American compassion. Standing up to dictators and speaking out for victims of war should never be a partisan issue.

I want to end with a photo.

The year was 2014 when the late Senator John McCain and I led a bipartisan delegation to Ukraine that included current colleagues from Rhode

Island, Wyoming, and North Dakota. At the time, Russia had begun its attempts to seize Crimea and capture additional territory in the eastern part of Ukraine. Ukrainians had just bravely stood up for their own democracy, many paying with their lives in Maidan Square—an aspiration for freedom and democracy that frightened Putin and confirmed my belief in the strength of the human spirit.

You see here in this photo we are laying flowers on the makeshift shrines to those Ukrainians who were killed in the earliest days of their heroic effort to save their nation.

We should show no less courage here today on a bipartisan basis in making sure Ukraine's sovereignty and future are secure and not giving in, in appeasement to Putin—a move that could cost us dearly in the future.

It is personal to me. I mentioned to you earlier that my mother was born in the Baltic nation of Lithuania. It has been my good fortune to visit it during Soviet times and see the terrible impact of communism on the freedom of those people and to be standing by their side when they fought to have the day when they could have their own democracy and their own elections.

They survived. They prospered. They are great nations—Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia—and I know that their future is at stake by this decision by President Trump.

You cannot embrace Vladimir Putin and ignore the obvious. He is a thug. He has sent his invading troops in and killed 46,000 Ukrainians. Well, they say he has lost 800,000 of his own. Well, I am sorry that happened in a way, but he asked for it. He invaded Ukraine—don't make any mistake. It didn't happen the other way around. The Ukrainians didn't invade themselves. What kind of nonsense was that being spoken by the President?

We have to stand by the people of Ukraine and for the people of the Baltics, Moldova, and other states, like Poland, that are vulnerable to attack by Vladimir Putin. This is not a political charade. It is not a political game. It is the life-and-death reality of this dangerous world we live in.

Once again, the United States should be leading in democratic values and certainly not embracing the war criminal Vladimir Putin.

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 16, 2025, AS “NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY”

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 92

Whereas Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, was a member of the Lukaax.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of Kaaxgal.aat (referred to in this preamble as “Elizabeth”) who fought

for social equality, civil liberties, and respect for Alaska Native and Native American communities;

Whereas Elizabeth, who was born in 1911 in Petersburg, Alaska, experienced discrimination as a Tlingit woman, and dedicated her life to creating a better future for Alaska Natives;

Whereas more than 6,000 patriotic Alaska Natives protected the United States alongside non-Native Servicemen and women during World War II, despite suffering from unjust discrimination;

Whereas, in 1941, Elizabeth and her husband, Roy Peratrovich, moved to Juneau, the capital city of Alaska, to campaign tirelessly for the passage of the anti-discrimination legislation of Ernest Gruening, the Governor of Alaska, which would later result in the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945;

Whereas, in campaigning for the passage of anti-discrimination legislation, Elizabeth persevered for several years traveling across the Alaska Territory enabling, rallying, and uniting Alaska Natives to fight for recognition that they are created equal to others and equally endowed with “unalienable Rights”;

Whereas Elizabeth was a powerful orator who envisioned unity and then spoke it into existence through community advocacy and the support of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood;

Whereas Elizabeth testified strongly before the Alaska Territorial legislature vote on the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, passionately asking the legislature, “Have you eliminated larceny or murder by passing a law against it? No law will eliminate crimes but, at least you as legislators, can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination.”;

Whereas the Alaska Territorial Legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 on February 16, 1945, which was the first anti-discrimination law enacted in the history of the United States;

Whereas Elizabeth dedicated the rest of her life to creating a better Alaska for future generations;

Whereas Elizabeth tragically died of cancer in 1958, but her legacy has not been forgotten;

Whereas, beginning in 1988, the State of Alaska has recognized February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day; and

Whereas, in 2020, the United States Mint released the Elizabeth Peratrovich \$1 coin to commemorate the significant impact that Elizabeth had on advancing equality under the law in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 16, 2025, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day by remembering the work of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich and other civil rights leaders; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States and Members of Congress to commemorate the life and civil rights advocacy of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich by continuing the important work of ensuring equality for Alaska Natives and Native Americans.

NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 92, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 92) designating February 16, 2025, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”.

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

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25; 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 21, Daniel Driscoll, to be the Secretary of the Army; further, that at 11:15 a.m., the Senate execute the order of February 24 with respect to the Driscoll nomination and that following disposition of the Driscoll nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and the majority leader be recognized; finally, if a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11, is made, that following the vote on that motion, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings, and that if the motion is agreed to, all time during recess count equally between proponents and opponents.

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

Mr. MORENO. For the information of all Senators, Senators should expect a vote to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11, Senator KENNEDY's CRA, at approximately 12 noon tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.