

and dedication in serving individuals with disabilities who are in need of finding the proper assistive technology to meet their individual needs; and

(B) professional organizations and researchers dedicated to facilitating the access and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and older adults in need of assistive technology devices.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 593—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF KANEASTER HODGES, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 593

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was born in Newport, Arkansas, attended the public schools of Arkansas, and then attended Princeton University, Southern Methodist University, Boston University, and the University of Arkansas School of Law;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served as a pastor at the Acushnet Wesley Methodist Church and the Long Plain United Methodist Church in Massachusetts in 1963, and served as a chaplain at Rikers Island Correctional Institution in New York City in 1964;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., returned to Arkansas in 1964 to attend the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he was named editor-in-chief of the Arkansas Law Review;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., joined his father and brother in Newport, Arkansas at the Hodges, Hodges, and Hodges law firm;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served his beloved State of Arkansas as the Newport City Attorney and the Jackson County Dep-

uty Prosecuting Attorney from 1967 to 1974, was appointed as legislative secretary to Governor Pryor in 1975, was instrumental in forming the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and served as chairman from 1974 to 1975, and served as a member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission from 1976 to 1977;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was appointed to serve as a United States Senator for the State of Arkansas by Governor Pryor in 1977 for the remainder of the term of the late United States Senator John L. McClellan;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served the State of Arkansas while in the Senate through his work on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was known by his colleagues in the Senate for his humility, diligence, and cooperation; and

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., returned to Arkansas at the end of his Senate appointment and continued his career in public service by serving as a trustee of Arkansas College, now Lyon College, as a trustee and past chairman at the University of Arkansas, as a trustee of Arkansas State University Newport Campus, and as president of the Arkansas State University-Newport Charitable Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former member of the Senate;

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 5023. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5024. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes

SA 5025. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CORNYN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3823, to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes.

SA 5026. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes.

SA 5027. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. KAINE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 533, celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

SA 5023. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Flor-

ida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF GENERAL LICENSE NO. 8A OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL; APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO CERTAIN RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) General License No. 8A of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury shall have no force or effect; and

(2) sanctions imposed under Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation) shall apply with respect to each entity specified in General License No. 8A.

SA 5024. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021”.

**SEC. 2. TESTIMONIAL SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1)(A) In addition to the authority otherwise provided by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, the Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this section, may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as necessary in the performance of the functions assigned to the Inspector General by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and this section, which in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, such subpoena shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate district court of the United States.

“(B) The Inspector General may not require by subpoena the attendance and testimony under subparagraph (A) of—

“(i) any current Federal employee; or

“(ii) any witness as part of any criminal proceeding.

“(2) The authority to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1) may not be delegated.

“(3)(A) The Inspector General shall notify the Attorney General of the intent to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1).

“(B) Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Attorney General is notified pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Attorney General may object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena if the subpoena will interfere with an ongoing investigation and, if the Attorney General makes such an objection, the Inspector General may not issue the subpoena.

“(C) If the Attorney General does not object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena during the 10-day period described in subparagraph (B), the Inspector General may issue the subpoena.

“(4) Before requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony

of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the degree practicable—

“(A) notify the witness of the intent of the Inspector General to issue the subpoena; and  
“(B) provide the witness an opportunity to attend and testify voluntarily.

“(5) Whenever requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the greatest extent practicable, travel to residence of the witness, the principal place of business of the witness, or other similar location that is in proximity to the residence of the witness.

“(6)(A) Along with each semiannual report submitted by the Inspector General pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5(b)), the Inspector General shall include a report on the exercise of the authority provided by paragraph (1).

“(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, for the most recently completed six-month period, the following:

“(i) The number of testimonial subpoenas issued and the number of individuals interviewed pursuant to such subpoenas.

“(ii) The number of proposed testimonial subpoenas with respect to which the Attorney General objected under paragraph (3)(B).

“(iii) A discussion of any challenges or concerns that the Inspector General has encountered exercising the authority provided by paragraph (1).

“(iv) Such other matters as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

“(7)(A) The authority provided by paragraph (1)(A) shall terminate on May 31, 2025.

“(B) The termination of authority by subparagraph (A) shall not affect the enforceability of a subpoena issued under paragraph (1)(A) before the date of such termination.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Paragraph (6) of subsection (d) of such section, as so added, shall apply beginning on the date that is seven months after the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 5025.** Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CORNYN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3823, to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act”.

#### SEC. 2. BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEBTOR.—Section 101(51D)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting “under this title” after “affiliated debtors”; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking “an issuer” and all that follows and inserting “a corporation described in clause (ii).”.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—Section 104 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “1182(1),” after “707(b).”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “1182(1),” after “707(b).”.

(c) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section 109 of title 11, United States

Code is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) Only an individual with regular income that owes, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts of less than \$2,750,000 or an individual with regular income and such individual’s spouse, except a stockbroker or a commodity broker, that owe, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts that aggregate less than \$2,750,000 may be a debtor under chapter 13 of this title.”.

(d) DEFINITION OF DEBTOR.—Section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) DEBTOR.—The term ‘debtor’—

“(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a person engaged in commercial or business activities (including any affiliate of such person that is also a debtor under this title and excluding a person whose primary activity is the business of owning single asset real estate) that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts as of the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the order for relief in an amount not more than \$7,500,000 (excluding debts owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders) not less than 50 percent of which arose from the commercial or business activities of the debtor; and  
“(B) does not include—  
“(i) any member of a group of affiliated debtors under this title that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts in an amount greater than \$7,500,000 (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders);  
“(ii) any debtor that is a corporation subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); or  
“(iii) any debtor that is an affiliate of a corporation described in clause (ii).”.

(e) TRUSTEE.—Section 1183(b)(5) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “possession, perform” and inserting “possession—

“(A) perform”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated—

(A) by striking “, including operating the business of the debtor”; and

(B) by adding “and” at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) be authorized to operate the business of the debtor”.

(f) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1191(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3)(A) The debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; or

“(B)(i) there is a reasonable likelihood that the debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; and

“(ii) the plan provides appropriate remedies, which may include the liquidation of nonexempt assets, to protect the holders of claims or interests in the event that the payments are not made.”.

(g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (f)”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)(5)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “needed to offset the amount” after “amounts”.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (b) and (c) and the amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) shall apply with respect to any case that—

(A) is commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after March 27, 2020; and

(B) with respect to a case that was commenced on or after March 27, 2020 and before the date of enactment of this Act, is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO BAIA.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2021.

(i) SUNSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code is amended to read as such subsection read on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) DEBTOR.—The term ‘debtor’ means a small business debtor.”.

(2) AMOUNTS.—For purposes of applying subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1)(A), the amounts specified in such subsection shall be the amounts that were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 5026.** Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Emergency Care Claims Parity Act”.

#### SEC. 2. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT FURNISHED TO VETERANS.

(a) TREATMENT FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1725 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections (f) and (g):

“(f) SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS FOR DIRECT PAYMENT.—An individual or entity seeking payment under subsection (a)(2) for treatment provided to a veteran in lieu of reimbursement to the veteran shall submit a claim for such payment not later than 180 days after the latest date on which such treatment was provided.

“(g) HOLD HARMLESS.—No veteran described in subsection (b) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

“(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (f); and

“(2) such claim was submitted after the deadline established by such subsection due to—

“(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency, under the wrong reimbursement authority (such as section 1723 of this title), or submission of the claim after the deadline; or  
“(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a

paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.”.

(b) TREATMENT FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 1728 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) No veteran described in subsection (a) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

“(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (b)(2); and

“(2) such claim was submitted after a deadline established by the Secretary for purposes of this section due to—

“(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

“(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is amended—

(1) in section 1705A(d), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”;

(2) in section 1725(b)(3)(B), by striking “subsection (f)(2)(B) or (f)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (h)(2)(B) or (h)(2)(C)”;

(3) in section 1728(d), as redesignated by subsection (b)(4), by striking “section 1725(f)(1)” and inserting “section 1725(h)(1)”;

(4) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”;

and

(5) in section 1787(b)(3), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”.

### SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF CLARIFYING INFORMATION FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on one or more publicly available internet websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the main internet website regarding emergency care authorization for non-Department providers, the following information:

(1) A summary table or similar resource that provides a list of all authorities of the Department to authorize emergency care from non-Department providers and, for each such authority, the corresponding deadline for submission of claims.

(2) An illustrated summary of steps, such as a process map, with a checklist for the submission of clean claims that non-Department providers can follow to assure compliance with the claims-filing process of the Department.

(3) Contact information for the appropriate office or service line of the Department to address process questions from non-Department providers.

(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 180 days, the Secretary shall review the information published under subsection (a) to ensure that such information is current.

(c) CLEAN CLAIMS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “clean claims” means clean electronic claims and clean paper claims (as those terms are defined in section 1703D(i) of title 38, United States Code).

**SA 5027.** Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. KAINE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 533, celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers; as follows:

In the preamble, in the fourth whereas clause, strike “have been the preeminent

power projection platform for the Navy and”.

### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022, THROUGH MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, finally, I would ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times and that, following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session. Those dates would be Monday, April 11, at 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, April 14, at 11 a.m.; Monday, April 18, at 4 p.m.; and Thursday, April 21, at 12 noon.

I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 21, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, April 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Brainard nomination; further, that

the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

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

### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 593, following the remarks of Senator CORNYN.

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

The Senator from Texas.

### USICA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, watching the wrapup by our friend from Connecticut and the Presiding Officer, I don’t know anybody who could argue that the Senate is incapable of getting a lot done in a short period of time, given the will. That was pretty remarkable.

Mr. President, nearly 10 months after the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to fund the CHIPS Act, we are finally inching closer to the finish line. The House and the Senate are moving forward to a formal conference process to supply the CHIPS Program with \$52 billion and make other investments in our competitiveness.

Yesterday afternoon, Members of the Senate and the House heard from administration officials about how important this legislation is. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo spoke about the economic risks of a weak semiconductor supply chain.

I might just pause here for a minute in case people are wondering why semiconductors are so important. Well, the fact of the matter is that semiconductors are essential to run everything from your cell phone to the most advanced stealth fighters made by the U.S. Government, the F-35, and everything in between. And during the pandemic and the mitigation efforts that we undertook, with kids studying remotely on their laptops, that would not be possible, nor would the Wi-Fi connections be possible without access to semiconductors. So these microcircuits have become absolutely essential to our way of life.

Over the last couple of years, manufacturers have had to halt production of the various products that they make, shift their offerings, or even lay off workers because of a shortage of these semiconductors, these microcircuit chips. Now, at the micro level, this disruption is having a big impact on consumers: empty car lots, backordered electronics, higher prices on home appliances. But at the 30,000-foot level, the macro level, this is terribly damaging to our national economy.

The semiconductor shortage has shaved an estimated \$240 billion off of our gross domestic product last year—