

during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until August 19, 2022: Sarah Ryan, Caleb Waters, Caroline Decker, Sean Keating, Brett Logsdon, Katie Rock, Chip Wyatt, Garrison Danzer, Addison Scherler, Spencer Woodall, Katie Elliott, and Caleb Webb.

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

ACCESS TO BABY FORMULA ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7791, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7791) to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to establish waiver authority to address certain emergencies, disasters, and supply chain disruptions, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 7791) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate has just passed legislation to help ease the terrible nightmare parents are facing trying to find baby formula for their kids.

It is rare that we have unanimity in the Senate on important measures, and I wish we had more, but this is one of these important issues, and I am glad we are acting with one voice.

It is the stuff of nightmares for parents to race to the grocery store or the

drugstore only to find the shelves empty of baby formula or, even worse, maybe causing more anguish because there is formula on the shelf, but they can't buy it because WIC didn't allow them to. This shortage of baby formula is causing unimaginable stress, unimaginable anguish for parents, and immense harm on America's young kids.

There is already such a strain on parents of newborn children, especially in the times of COVID. The last thing parents and caregivers need is for it to be even harder to feed their children. The step we are taking today is going to add flexibility and relief to WIC beneficiaries, and almost half of all baby formula consumed in the United States is by WIC beneficiaries. Now millions of parents will have an easier time finding the baby formula they need.

I want to thank Senator STABENOW. She has been amazing in shepherding this through. She got it through the House. She came up with the idea. And now we are here to pass it in the Senate and send to the President's desk. She had a great partner in Senator BOOZMAN who stepped up to the plate as well. I thank them for championing this legislation.

As I mentioned, it already passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I am glad it is passing the Senate.

Yesterday, President Biden invoked the DPA, Defense Production Act, to respond to the shortage of baby formula that is hurting parents and caretakers of newborns across the country. The President and Democrats in Congress are taking this issue seriously, and invoking the DPA was exactly the right response.

To the parents and caregivers of America, we hear you. We know this is an unacceptable crisis. The Senate is taking action. President Biden has taken action to increase imports of safe baby formula and to increase production of formula in our country. The House has taken action, and now the Senate is. We must keep going because there is more to do.

I yield to Senator STABENOW who, as I mentioned, did an amazingly great job on this issue.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to thank our leader who has been right there every moment giving us the opportunity to be able to move this through quickly.

I am very pleased to say the Access to Baby Formula Act, after Senator SCHUMER's actions, will be going to the President for his signature. This is really important as part of what we need to do to deal with an immediate crisis. The reality is that right this minute, moms and dads are trying to figure out what they are going to be able to do to give safe baby formula to their children. Is it on the shelf? Where will they have to go to get it? How many days, hours are we going to have to wait to do this? It is an incredible—incredible—emergency.

What I so appreciate is that we came together—House, Senate, Democrats and Republicans—and acted, frankly, I think faster than I anticipated from writing the bill in the beginning of the week to Thursday having it pass the House and now the Senate to go to the President.

I don't think we should be giving ourselves too many kudos here because I wish this hadn't happened in the very beginning. We shouldn't have seen what happened at the Abbott plant. In my mind, the FDA should have moved more quickly to respond to it. But when we became aware of all of this, we came together very quickly to do what we could.

The reality is that half of the baby formula in this country goes to moms and babies who are on a very important program that is called the Women, Infants, and Children's Program. We know that we have to do everything humanly possible to take away any barrier for them to be able to get this important food for children—to get baby formula for children—and that is what we have done to make sure that the USDA can act quickly.

I want to thank Secretary Vilsack, who in fact has acted quickly and who has worked with us on this legislation.

We also want to make sure that every manufacturer of baby formula going forward is required to participate in WIC to have a comprehensive plan of what to do in an emergency, what to do if their supply chain breaks down or something else that stops our moms and babies from getting what is essential daily nutrients for them to be healthy. This is an important program that has worked for a long, long time.

I am so pleased to have my friend and ranking member Senator BOOZMAN working with me. We came together very quickly. I want to thank our staffs for doing that as well.

This is not the only thing that needs to happen, but it is really important that we move forward and make it clear that if you are on WIC and you go to the grocery store and the formula that you are supposed to buy by grant is not available, but there is something else available, you can buy it. You can get it. We are not going to put any barriers up for your getting safe baby formula. This is an important piece.

I want to thank President Biden for acting as well, reaching out to our partners in the European Union to be able to import safe baby formula as fast as possible. There are other producers, manufacturers in the country increasing their production right now.

But the most important thing is that we let families know that we are going to do everything possible to make sure that their babies get what they need as soon as possible and that we understand—I certainly understand as a mom; I understand as a grandma—that this is a horror for families with babies.

And I am very appreciative that the U.S. Senate came together as quickly

and as in a bipartisan way as we have done to do our part—those of us on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee—to make sure that those moms and babies whom we are responsible for through WIC are getting all the support that they can to make sure they can sleep easy at night, except when the baby is crying, of course—to be able to sleep easy at night and know that somebody is going to work as hard as possible to make sure they have the baby formula they need.

I would defer to my friend and partner, Senator BOOZMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Again, I want to compliment Senator STABENOW for her leadership in this area and, as she said, getting this done in a record amount of time. We are facing an infant formula shortage across the country, as we all know. Moms and dads in the most prosperous country on earth should never have to worry about their ability to obtain something as vital as baby formula.

One of the most vital nutrition programs, the WIC program provides formula to families in need across the country. These shortages have disproportionately impacted these families as it makes it more difficult to find formula on the shelves.

This legislation will benefit every American family by ensuring that formula manufacturers and regulators are always prepared to respond to any shortages or supply disruptions and by providing more flexibilities to USDA and States in helping parents meet their children's nutritional needs.

Our bill has the support of the National WIC Association and more than 250 other groups across the country and, most importantly, the support of 100 Senators, which we are very proud of.

I want to, again, give a special shout-out, a special thanks to Senator STABENOW and her staff and my staff, who worked very hard to get this done, and then also to the majority leader Senator SCHUMER for, again, pushing this through.

As Senator STABENOW said, I think this truly is a record amount of time and great collaboration amongst the House and the Senate and really is a very, very good example as to how we need to collaborate more.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MR. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor police week and recognize the service and sacrifice law enforcement officers make every day to protect communities across my State of Missouri and my hometown of Springfield, right here in the Capitol that you and I benefit from every day, and all across the country.

When I came to the Senate 11 years ago with Senator COONS, we founded

the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, and I have had the privilege of working closely with many of Missouri's police officers, sheriff's departments, local, State, and county-level police officials, and Missouri Highway Patrol. And, frankly, in the Rules Committee work, I have worked closely with the Capitol Police here, and it is something I am pleased to be able to do.

The men and women that serve us really do put their lives on the line, and I am going to talk about that a little bit today. They made the choice to put the safety of their communities first, and I, like many others, are grateful to all of those who wear the badge and stand in front of danger for us.

Tragically, in the last year, five of Missouri's officers lost their lives in the line of duty.

Officer Blaize Madrid-Evans of the Independence Police Department was killed by a violent suspect evading arrest. Officer Madrid-Evans was just 22 years old, engaged to be married. He graduated from the academy 2 months earlier.

His mother Shannon said he could charm anyone he met growing up. One of the staff members at Smithville High School remembered him as a young man who spent time serving his community. She said:

He wouldn't hesitate to help a fellow student or another person. He was a wonderful leader and a wonderful friend. I have no doubt his impact would have been far-reaching in the years to come.

Indeed, it will be, as it turned out, because the selfless person that he was, he made a decision to be an organ donor and save the lives of others. One of the people being helped by his decision is Springfield, MO, Police Officer Mark Priebe, who was severely injured in the line of duty in 2020.

Officer Priebe received a donated kidney and after successful surgery said he hoped to honor Officer Madrid-Evans and his family by the way he lives his life. The ability that these two families—two law enforcement families—had to come together and find a purpose in tragedy is a statement to the power of faith and an inspiration, I think, to all of us.

Officer Madrid-Evans is survived by his fiancée Victoria Atkinson, his mother Shannon Evans, his step-mom Sharon Braley, his mother Michelle Madrid, his sister Jordyn Evans, along with his grandparents, uncles, an aunt, and a cousin.

Detective Antonio Valentine of the St. Louis County Police Department was killed during a vehicular pursuit. Detective Valentine was a 14-year veteran of the department, had served in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Iraq, and was recently retired from the U.S. Air Force.

His Uncle Scott, a fellow law enforcement officer with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department remembered him as a man who always put his family first. When he was a child, accord-

ing to his uncle, things were hard. His uncle said: "There is nothing like having to fight a roach for a cracker." But no matter what little the family had, Detective Valentine went without to be sure his siblings had what they needed.

As an adult, he often asked his uncle to make sure his kids, Jaylan, Alesha, Antonio, Jr., and Victoria were taken care of if something happened to him. I hope they will find strength in knowing how completely devoted their dad was to them and to all who benefited from his life of service.

Police Officer Lane Burns of Bonne Terre, MO, of that police department, was killed while responding to a violent disturbance. He was a 5-year veteran of the department. His fiancée Shannon Chasteen would often listen to the police radio while he was on duty, and she heard the call the night he lost his life that he responded to.

It is really a tragic reminder of how hard it is for families who never know when or where their loved one will be challenged and be in danger. And so those families are basically in danger all the time at someone's work, and they are wondering what that person may be facing at any moment.

Officer Burns is survived by Shannon and by his children Ivy Claire and Raiden Michael Burns, his parents Joe and Julie Burns, brothers Scott and Steve Burns, and his grandmother.

Officer Jake Reed and Corporal Benjamin Cooper, both of the Joplin Police Department, were fatally wounded responding to a disturbance. Officer Reed was a 5-year veteran of the department. Joplin Police Chief Sloan Rowland said: "Jake was the epitome of selfless service and sacrifice."

Like Officer Madrid-Evans, Officer Reed was also an organ donor, and he will continue to impact the lives of countless recipients and their loved ones who—thanks to his selflessness—will have more time together and a better quality of life.

Chief Rowland said of Officer Reed his "fervent hope is that some day those individuals will learn of this remarkable man and honor him with a life well lived. A life full of love and compassion, caring, and humor, just like Jake lived."

It completes the chief's quote about Jake but obviously doesn't complete his interest in Jake or the lives he saved or the people that Jake cared about, and that included his wife Bayley, with whom he would have celebrated his first anniversary earlier this month, as well as his parents, Robert and Melissa Reed, his brother Sam Reed, his in-laws, and a nephew.

CPL Benjamin Cooper was a U.S. Army veteran. He initially joined the Joplin Police Department in 2003 and returned in 2013 after spending time as a K-9 officer in Colorado.

His funeral brought together former colleagues from all over the country. His friend and former colleague, Rev. Brian Henderson, remembered him as an officer who didn't pull any punches