

TESTER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4562. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to increase the basic allowance for housing inside the United States for members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4563. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to take certain actions regarding the housing shortage for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TESTER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4564. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to report on the basic allowance for housing for members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 4565. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the copayment requirement for recipients of Department of Veterans Affairs payments or allowances for beneficiary travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4566. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a regional clean energy innovation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4567. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 4568. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote the increased use of renewable natural gas, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful transportation-related emissions that contribute to poor air quality, and to increase job creation and economic opportunity throughout the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4569. A bill to prohibit the provision of Federal funds to certain entities subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4570. A bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4571. A bill to reaffirm that the President of the United States lacks the authority to stop oil and gas leasing on Federal public land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4572. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expand the use of non-intrusive inspection systems at land ports of entry; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COONS, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 4573. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 4574. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase penalties for crimes against Federally protected activities relating to voting and the conduct of elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 4575. A bill to clarify that the Federal Right to Try law applies to schedule I substances for which a phase I clinical trial has been completed and to provide access for eligible patients to such substances pursuant to the Federal Right to Try law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4576. A bill to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## 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 (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 713. A resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 714. A resolution recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home

and community living for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 204

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 634

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 634, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 1273

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small employers for covering military spouses under retirement plans.

S. 1321

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1321, a bill to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 1436

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1436, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to amend the mission statement of the Food and Drug Administration.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1625, a bill to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1663

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1663, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2512, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 2874

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program.

S. 3021

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to provide non-medical counseling services for military families.

S. 3189

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3189, a bill to amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide a pathway to health careers through health profession opportunity grants.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3909, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 4069

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4069, a bill to amend the National Firearms Act to provide an exception for stabilizing braces, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4169

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4169, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4223

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4223, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2022, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4227

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4227, a bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes.

S. 4416

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4416, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 4430

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4430, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an inter-agency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes.

S. 4467

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4467, a bill to preserve access to abortion medications.

S. 4499

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4499, a bill to prohibit any requirement that a member of the National Guard receive a vaccination against COVID-19.

S. 4507

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4507, a bill to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 4509

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4509, a bill to provide for security in the Black Sea region, and for other purposes.

S. 4515

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4515, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to stipulate, as a condition on the sale at auction of any crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that the crude oil not be exported to certain countries, and for other purposes.

S. 4516

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4516, a bill to require the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to develop governmentwide procurement policy and guidance to mitigate organizational conflict of interests relating to national security and foreign policy, and for other purposes.

S. 4550

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4550, a bill to provide enhanced funding for family planning services.

S. 4556

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4556, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 4557

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 4557, a bill to protect a person's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime.

S.J. RES. 56

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 56, a joint resolution directing the removal of United

States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 589

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 589, a resolution recognizing, honoring, and commending the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine.

S. RES. 712

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 712, a resolution recognizing the need for greater access to rural and agricultural media programming.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COONS, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 4573. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 4574. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase penalties for crimes against Federally protected activities relating to voting and the conduct of elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the months of bipartisan hard work that have gone into two bills that we are filing today: the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act—I repeat—the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act—and the Enhanced Election Security and Protection Act.

I would like to commend my dear friend Senator SUSAN COLLINS for her leadership throughout this process. She has been shepherding this through and working diligently, as only she can do, and she does it so well.

We started these discussions back in January, when partisanship around

here was at a fever pitch, a toxic environment that was absolutely not conducive to things that needed to be done. But for those who may not remember, we were in the middle of a heated debate over voting rights with both sides—Democrats and Republicans—equally dug in on their positions, and it was kind of hard to move people off of that.

The insurrection January 6 and the situation that has been going on since 1887 and should have been corrected and had not been—but no one ever felt that we would have what we had. So now, we needed to take care of it. And everyone stepped to the plate.

By January 19, my Democratic colleagues were so frustrated that they forced a vote on repealing the filibuster to allow that bill to pass with a simple majority, along party lines. It appeared to many, both inside and outside of Washington, DC, that the Senate was fundamentally broken. But Senator COLLINS and I have worked together for a long time, and we never gave up. We were not convinced it was broken, and you just have to work a little bit harder.

They call us the most deliberative body. Well, to deliberate means to talk, to converse; and when that fails, then, basically, the deliberative body is no longer the deliberative body. And we were not going to let that happen to us.

We asked our colleagues and friends to come together to start trying to see if we could work together and find a pathway and find common ground. Well—guess what—they did. So I am here to thank those who sat down: Senator PORTMAN, ROB PORTMAN; we had Senator MURPHY; we had Senator ROMNEY, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator WARREN, Senator TILLIS, Senator SINEMA, Senator CAPITO, Senator CARDIN, Senator YOUNG, Senator COONS, Senator SASSE, and Senator GRAHAM.

Now, that was truly a team effort when you think about it. And this has gone on for quite some time.

What we learned through those discussions was that there was bipartisan support for some important, commonsense reforms that would help restore Americans' faith in our democracy and how we basically apply our democracy, how do we select our representative form of government. Specifically, most of our group felt that we could and that we should:

Reform the Electoral Count Act to remove the ambiguity that we saw weaponized after the last election. We were all in agreement.

Enhance the protections for local election officials who were facing unprecedented threats and intimidations. These are people who volunteer, most basically. And it is basically a family handing down generation after generation, people who always believe that their civic duty is to be able to perform during election times.

We wanted to establish best practices for the U.S. Postal Service to improve

the handling of mail-in ballots. Mail-in ballots have been so convenient to older people, shut-ins. And in the situation where we had this pandemic, my goodness, it was the only way that people could vote.

So reauthorize the Election Assistance Commission to help States improve the administration and the security of Federal elections.

The most important thing that we can do is that when that vote is cast and that vote is counted accurately, it has to be counted and reported accurately. And that is what we have to do and make sure that there is not even a shred of a thought where a person might think that count is not valid—it is not a valid count. And we have done everything we possibly can to make sure that we have cleared that up.

This is not everything that people on both sides of that wanted. Some on our bipartisan committee wanted a lot more, and some didn't want to basically interfere with the States' rights. So we were caught in betwixt and between. We worked back and forth on different things we could. We tried to put the guardrails on that gave guidance, and we think that we came up with a piece of legislation.

And when you have every Member I just mentioned all sign on, with the diversity of these memberships—we have almost 20; 20 Senators have been involved, coming equally between Democrats and Republicans, and able to come to an agreement—this is a bill that we should put forward.

I was proud to be an original sponsor of both the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and I still believe that we can and we must continue working to protect every American's sacred right to vote. But we also have an obligation to the American people to do the most good that we can right now—right now.

The confusing and antiquated language that we have on the books today from the 1887 Electoral Count Act is a real and present danger to our democracy. We can fix that, and that is exactly what we intend to do.

The increased threats and attacks we are seeing across the country on poll workers and election volunteers—we can fix that, too. But even more important than the policy provisions contained in these two bills is the fact that we have Democrats and Republicans standing arm in arm proposing commonsense election reforms that can begin to restore Americans' faith in our democracy. That is our solemn commitment and promise.

When Benjamin Franklin was asked whether the Constitutional Convention had given us a republic or a monarchy, he famously replied "A republic, young man, if you can keep it."

He qualified his answer because he understood a democracy is fragile and can be lost if we are not careful. And while today's introduction is an important step in this process, we do have much work yet to do.