

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to a bomb wing for which the Secretary of the Air Force has commenced the process of replacing B-1 bomber aircraft with B-21 bomber aircraft.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered period” means the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2026.

(2) The term “designed operational capability statement” has the meaning given that term in Air Force Instruction 10-201.

(d) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 133 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81; 135 Stat. 1574) is repealed.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have six 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 22, 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, September 22, 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, September 22, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. First of all, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to con-

sider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 1041 and 1150; that the Senate vote on the nominations, en bloc, without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Robin Meredith Cohn Hutcheson, of Utah, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and Kevin G. Ritz, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of four years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I will note that the two Senators from Minnesota are now controlling the Chamber.

But we have also, during our time in the Chamber alone, confirmed someone who used to live in our State, and she would be Robin Meredith Cohn Hutcheson, to be the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, in addition to the U.S. attorney for the State of Tennessee.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2022

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7846, which was received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7846) 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.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7846) was passed.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mo-

tion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

KEVIN AND AVONTE'S LAW REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, the next matter before the Senate is a bill that Senator GRASSLEY and I have long led, the Kevin and Avonte's Law reauthorization.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 4885 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4885) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Americans Alert Program.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, 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 (S. 4885) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4885

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 “Kevin and Avonte's Law Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING AMERICANS ALERT PROGRAM.

Section 240001(d) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12621(d)) is amended by striking “2018 through 2022” and inserting “2023 through 2027”.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, now resolutions en bloc.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, introduced earlier today: S. Res. 793, S. Res. 794, and S. Res. 795.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE LATE SENATOR ROBERT
"BOB" CHARLES KRUEGER**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 796, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 796) honoring the life and legacy of the late Senator Robert "Bob" Charles Krueger.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 796) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

**ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER
23, 2022, TO TUESDAY, SEP-
TEMBER 27, 2022**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 796 until 11 a.m. on Friday, September 23, to convene for a pro forma session, with no business conducted; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, and 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 resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 389, H.R. 6833; further, that the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed at 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN of Alaska.

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

The Senator from Alaska.

TYPHOON MERBOK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I want to talk about one of the strongest

storms in many, many years to hit my State. It was called Typhoon Merbok, and it hit western Alaska late last week and into the weekend. It brought gale-force winds, massive flooding, and loss of power, water, and communications. It has wreaked havoc.

I have just a few photos here. You see a house literally floating away into the ocean; whole communities completely flooded; a giant wave system—again, communities completely flooded in western Alaska.

This is an area of our State dotted with dozens of small villages, nearly all of them, the majority, Alaska Native communities. Roughly about 21,000 people live in these communities in western Alaska with a coastline of roughly 1,300 miles. That is just one little, small part of my State, but that is just about as many miles of all the Florida coastline combined just here in western Alaska. They got hammered.

There are very, very few roads. Alaska has over 200 communities that are not connected by any roads at all, and so it presents many challenges in terms of relief. Unfortunately, the very small number of roads that we have, many were washed away in these communities. The storm knocked out lines of communication, prompted evacuations, and wrenched homes from their foundations, as I mentioned, floating in the water.

The preliminary assessment shows very significant damage to bridges, roads, water treatment plants, bulk fuel tanks, seawalls, breakwaters, airstrips—if you don't have a road, every one of these small communities has an airport, a tiny little airport—generators, powerplants. This was a devastating storm.

But I am proud to say my fellow Alaskans pulled together—the Native communities in particular, as they do so often—to make sure that all residents and particularly the most vulnerable, the elderly in particular, were out of harm's way when this storm came pounding ashore in western Alaska.

Our State and local government emergency management teams, the Alaska National Guard, the Coast Guard, and our first responders have also been working day and night to ensure that communities are safe and that utility services and major infrastructure are becoming operational as soon as possible, but it is still a real challenge.

I will say from the Federal Government's perspective, FEMA has done a good job thus far—a really good job. They immediately got teams on the ground and are working to evaluate the damage. The head of FEMA, whom I spoke to shortly after the storm hit, is on her way to Alaska. The Secretary of Homeland Security just called me today on their focus on this. The Region 10 FEMA Director—which covers Alaska—is also on the ground there.

Thankfully, thank God there have been no reports of death or serious injury, and it is in part because of the re-

silience of the people in Alaska and the preparation.

Further, donations of food, water, clothes, and other essentials from businesses and nonprofits and just generous individuals throughout Alaska have been pouring in to this community. We are so grateful for all the help that has come.

Even though most Americans are very unaware of this, this was a devastating storm.

Let me talk a little bit about some of these wonderful communities that were hit by the storm. All of these communities—I have spent a lot of time in western Alaska. They are amazing people with an incredible generosity of spirit and thriving Alaska Native cultures. But these are some of the poorest communities in America—the poorest communities in America. Like I said, almost none of them have roads. Several of them do not have any water or sewer—running water or flush toilets. American citizens.

You know, I get a little frustrated in this body whenever there is a lower 48 community that has a problem with drinking water—the latest in Jackson, MS, and Detroit, MI. There is all this money, and they say: Hey, let's fix that aging infrastructure. I get it. That is important. But what I always say is, why don't we fix communities like mine that have no infrastructure, no water and sewer, no flush toilets, no access to the internet, housing where multiple generations are often crammed together?

And here is the thing. These are some of the most amazing people on the planet, and as Americans, they are some of the most patriotic people in the whole country. I always like to brag about Alaska, where there are more veterans per capita than any State in the country. But the Alaska Native people serve at higher rates in the U.S. military than any other ethnic group in America. This is what I call special patriotism. When you go to these small communities, everyone there is a veteran. It really warms your heart as an American.

So we need to help these communities, and we are going to do that. The Senate is going to do that; the Federal Government is going to do that; and the State of Alaska is going to do that.

I do want to make one mention of one issue that is important to me. It is an issue just to fairness, and I am just putting down a marker to make sure we have fairness as it relates to my constituents in this very significant storm that we need help with.

The majority leader was here on the floor recently talking about the impact that Hurricane Fiona was having on Puerto Rico, and we are all thinking about Puerto Rico as well. We want to make sure they are all safe, and that is something we need to be focused on in the Federal Government, in the U.S. Senate.

Now, normally, the Federal Government pays for 75 percent of the costs of