

outstanding judicial nominee, Maria Antongiorgi-Jordan, nominated to the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan is a dedicated public servant and accomplished litigator who will be a tremendous asset to the District of Puerto Rico.

After earning her B.A. from Seton Hill University, her J.D. from the Interamerican University School of Law, and her L.L.M. from Georgetown University Law Center, Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan began her legal career at McConnell Valdes, a law firm based in San Juan, PR.

For nearly 20 years, Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan had a wide-ranging litigation practice within the firm. While she focused on complex civil matters, she also was active in criminal defense work through the local Criminal Justice Act—CJA—panel, representing indigent criminal defendants in Federal court.

In total, Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan participated in 42 trials, serving as chief or cochief counsel in 36 of the 42.

Today, Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan serves as clerk of the court for the District of Puerto Rico. In that role, she has helped the court navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and kept it functioning on a day-to-day basis.

Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan boasts widespread support from the Puerto Rico legal community and civic leaders, including Governor Pedro Pierluisi and Stephen Muldrow, the Trump-appointed U.S. Attorney in Puerto Rico.

I will support Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan's confirmation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MURPHY).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 63

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to execute the order with respect to Calendar No. 523, S.J. Res. 63, at 3:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, there will be a rollcall vote at approximately 4 p.m. today on passage of S.J. Res. 63, related to the national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020.

VOTE ON ANTONGIORGI-JORDAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Antongiorgi-Jordan nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).—

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 354 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tillis
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Moran	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Sasse Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MARCH 13, 2020

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to legislative session to consider S.J. Res. 63, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S.J. Res. 63) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the fol-

lowing Senators be permitted to speak prior to the vote on the passage of S.J. Res. 63: I for 20 minutes; Senator MORAN of Kansas for 5 minutes; Senator PAUL of Kentucky for 15 minutes; Senator MARSHALL of Kansas for 5 minutes; and Senator WYDEN of Oregon for 10 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO BETH JAFARI

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I have the unwelcome task of saying farewell to my right hand: my chief of staff, Beth Jafari. It is literally impossible to separate my Senate career from Beth's influence because she has been a leader on Team Cornyn for the last 20 years.

Back in 2003, I made what I now recognize as one of the best employment decisions I have ever made. That is when I hired Beth to be my legislative director. This Houston native had spent nearly a decade working in the House of Representatives before she came to the Senate, but she had had a short period of time wherein she practiced law and recognized the satisfaction and reward of public service more than the enhanced paycheck of the private practice of law.

To me, one of the great benefits is she knew Texas; she knew Congress; she understood Washington and all of its strange ways. I was confident then and am now that she was the perfect person for the job.

Beth quickly developed an expertise in both the processes and the people of the U.S. Senate. She understood the ins and outs of every policy area and which Members cared the most about what issues. She built strong relationships with staff on both sides of the aisle and earned a reputation as a trustworthy and honest broker, and she empowered our own legislative team to notch up win after win for Texas.

When my first chief of staff left in 2007, I knew there was only one person for that job, one person I could literally trust with that job. Beth didn't seek that job in order to raise her own profile or impress the DC power players. That has never been her MO. Instead, she saw an opportunity to champion an incredible team and help us accomplish important things for Texas. That is one of the first things you come to know and appreciate about Beth: She loves Texas. She loves her sports teams, especially her beloved Aggies. She loves the music, the hole-in-the-wall Tex-Mex joints, but most of all, she loves people.

Years ago, after a terrible tragedy in West, TX—that is the name of the town, "West, TX," not the region—a county commissioner said to me: Being a Texan doesn't describe where you are from; it describes who your family is.

That is so true. Beth has dealt with the nearly 30 million Texans as if they were members of her extended family, and when they were in need, she made sure our team sprang into action.

Unfortunately, there have been more—I should say too many—instances where that was required. We have had storms, two of the biggest being Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Ike. Both hit Beth's hometown of Houston, devastating her parents' home, and the affected parts of our State and region couldn't have hoped for a bigger champion in the Halls of Congress than Beth Jafari. She was the offensive coordinator for the entire Texas delegation in making sure we knew exactly what was needed, what the plan should look like, and helping us deliver on that plan. She was so personally involved in Hurricane Harvey that she rescued a four-legged survivor by the name of Jackson.

Well, Texas has experienced natural disasters like most parts of the country, whether they are tornadoes, wildfires, severe winter weather, or some other natural disaster of all stripes, but that just scratches the surface of the many challenges that our State has endured during the past two decades while Beth has been my chief of staff and legislative director.

We have had mass shootings that have brought heartbreak to cities across Texas, including Fort Hood, Dallas, Sutherland Springs, Santa Fe, El Paso, Odessa, and most recently in Uvalde. There was the West Fertilizer plant explosion I alluded to a moment ago—and, of course, the pandemic, and the ongoing border crisis. Beth has been a steady hand guiding our efforts through all of it and more.

No matter how big or how small the problems are, she has worked to ensure that Texans are heard and helped. In many cases, that meant getting timely responses to Texans who just wanted more information about what we were doing or people who wanted to share their ideas about ways we might be of service. In others, it involved passing legislation or working to mobilize Federal resources. And oftentimes, it meant connecting constituents with Federal Agencies to help them with everything from benefit programs to emergency passport renewals.

In my office, we refer to this important part of our job as casework or constituent services, and Beth has been the biggest cheerleader for my constituent services team from the very beginning. It is not legislating, but it is one of the most important things we do to be of service to our constituents.

I am proud of the fact that in 2020, our team received the very top Constituent Services Award in Congress from the Congressional Management Foundation for the assistance we have been able to provide Texans needing help navigating the Federal bureaucracy.

Unlike some people working under the Capitol Dome, Beth has never lost sight of why we are here: to serve the people we represent. While discussing funding bills, foreign bills, defense bills, or you name it, Beth would always bring us back home to the most

important priority, which is to answer the question: How does this affect Texas?

Focused, thoughtful, considerate, deliberate, rock steady, and a Texan through and through—when you hear about such an accomplished person, sometimes you might think that they would be an intimidating personality or unapproachable, but you would be dead wrong about Beth.

When I was elected by my colleagues to serve as a Republican whip in 2012, I asked members of my predecessor staff, Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona, if they would like to stay on board. In typical Beth fashion, Beth didn't waste a moment welcoming them to the team. She called each person and invited them to our annual Christmas party, which she was hosting in her own home. She assured them that it would be the best way to meet everybody, and it didn't matter that they weren't officially on the payroll. But as far as Beth was concerned, they were already part of the team. Beth has a special way of making everybody feel right at home.

On any given day, you can find her making the rounds in the office, talking to colleagues about their favorite college football team, or discussing the latest drama on the reality show "The Bachelorette"—or, excuse me, "The Bachelor," I guess it is. You can tell I am not a frequent viewer.

She asks about spouses. She asks about significant others. She asks about children, sick family members, home renovation projects, and pets. And she makes sure everyone—from the most senior members of the team to the most junior—feels seen, heard, and appreciated.

But it is not just the folks in the Cornyn office that Beth cares about. She has been a part of the Senate community for two decades, and she has built friendships all across the Capitol.

Each morning, you will see her catching up with the Capitol Police, for example, in the Hart garage entrance, or she will make her way to Cups for her first dose of caffeine and a quick conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Chung. She will check in with other Senate chiefs—Republicans and Democrats alike—as well as the chiefs for Members of the Texas House delegation.

I have no doubt that come Monday, Beth is going to miss each of these people and the countless friends she has made throughout the Capitol Complex. They are certainly going to miss her.

If given the microphone, I know Beth would be quick to emphasize that this is all part of a team effort, and she is not wrong. But that tells you another exceptional quality about Beth, and that is her humility. She helps lead the most productive team in the Senate, but she would never dream of claiming credit for herself. Whenever there is an accomplishment worth celebrating, you are sure to find Beth standing on the sidelines, loudly applauding the work of others.

In a city that is full of people who are frequently all hat and no cattle,

Beth is the real deal. Her always calm, always friendly attitude doesn't reflect just how challenging her job is. And her humility provides absolutely no hint that she is one of the most respected staffers on Capitol Hill.

Beth will be the first to tell you she couldn't have accomplished any of this on her own. Of course, her parents have been among her biggest supporters from day one, and I am honored that her mom, Nancy, is looking down from the Gallery today. Someone else I know who is looking down on her is her dad, Bob, who passed away earlier this year. And there is Chris, and James, and Maj, and her other family members who have supported her through the highs and lows of the past 20 years.

It is tough to sum up the impact Beth has had on me, on my wife Sandy, on our team, on our institution, and in our State, but let me share just a few numbers that may do the trick.

Over the last two decades, Beth has served alongside some 800 members of Team Cornyn, and that is just full-time staff and doesn't include interns and law clerks. She has counseled me through two decades of service to Texas, three election campaigns, 4 years as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and 6 years as a Republican whip.

She served in the Senate during four Presidential administrations and witnessed the confirmation process for eight of the nine sitting Justices on the Supreme Court of the United States. And she has been part of the Senate longer than 81 Senators.

In a place where people are always coming and going, Beth has been a wise and trustworthy partner, and this place just won't be the same without her. I know I speak on behalf of our entire team—past and present—when I say there is no one else like Beth Jafari.

She has sometimes been referred to as the glue that holds "Cornyn world" together. If you think about the life of an elected official, you have got, of course, your personal life, your family; you have got your official duties; and then you have got your political responsibilities, and Beth has literally been the glue that holds all of that together in "Cornyn world."

I have never known a Senate without Beth, so this is going to be a big transition for all of us, but I am excited for her about what the future holds beyond the walls of the Capitol. I hope this new chapter will afford Beth more time to sit on the beach with Jackson's leash in one hand and a margarita in the other.

I hope it gives her more opportunities to cheer on her favorite teams, whether that is the Aggies, the Houston Astros, her favorite Olympic track and field contestants, or the national soccer team of Mexico. Instead of just a television screen, maybe she could see more of those in person.

I hope it frees up more time for her to spend with her nephew James, who is very important to her and she to

him, and help hone her skills as the next Picasso. Yes, Beth is taking up oil painting classes, and we will see how that all turns out. She has actually threatened to paint a picture of me, and I said, Well, why don't you wait a while until you get a few more lessons under your belt.

And I sincerely hope it will bring Beth back to the halls of Hart, where she has served our State so well for nearly two decades.

I often joke at times like these that Team Cornyn is like the Hotel California: You can check out, but you can never leave.

So this isn't goodbye; it is a simply "see you soon." But it is also, "You better not block my emails or texts or phone messages."

On behalf of Team Cornyn and the entire Lone Star State, thank you, Beth, for serving our State with such class. We are going to miss you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD FELTS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I have had the privilege to know and to work with many distinguished leaders in Kansas and across the country over the years, and today, I would like to recognize one of those individuals, Richard Felts. Rich currently serves our State as president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, a position he has held since 2014.

Next month, Rich will step down from this role. He will be greatly missed, as he has always been a champion for agriculture and for preserving the rural way of life we so care about in our great State.

For the past 8 years, Rich has advocated for Kansas farmers and ranchers, bringing their challenges here to me and the rest of the congressional delegation and fighting for policies that support farmers and ranchers who support agriculture in our State and cross the United States.

His passion for serving the agriculture community comes from his upbringing in smalltown Kansas and the lessons he learned from his parents who farmed before him.

Rich has dedicated his life to serving Kansans, and throughout the years, I have always known him to be an example of true servant leadership and dedication to improving the State he loves. Rich's calm guidance and heart for others have been especially felt when disasters strike Kansas farmers and ranchers. When wildfires, floods, and drought plagued our State, he could always be counted on to be a consistent and steady voice of advice and empathy for those suffering.

When the COVID-19 pandemic caused devastating supply chain issues for our agriculture community and when they faced challenges and economic fallout from international trade wars, Rich remained a reassuring and inspiring example of leadership. At each of these points, I knew I could rely upon Rich's

advice and counsel when responding to the challenges facing our farmers and ranchers and the communities they live in.

His insight will be sorely missed; although, I doubt that we will not rely upon him in the future, despite his retirement as President of Kansas Farm Bureau. We will still be calling upon him for that advice.

Before he became President of Kansas Farm Bureau, Rich served as vice president on the board of directors of the farm bureau. Throughout his life, he has served on the county farm bureau board as a county 4-H leader, on Montgomery and Kansas State Extension Council, as chairman of Southeast Kansas Grain, and as chairman of the Farm Bureau Mutual Holding Company and subsidiary insurance service companies.

Rich embodies the traits we hope to instill in our children and grandchildren: a heart for service, selfless desire to invest in others, deep love for one's State and country, and passion for making the world a better place. He passed these lessons on to his own daughter, who grew up with a passion for helping others and who followed in his footsteps by serving as the president of the local Montgomery County Farm Bureau.

Fittingly, Rich, a Montgomery County farmer, plans to return to his farm after his time with Kansas Farm Bureau. For Rich and his wife Shirley, farming is a way of life. Rich's position requires much time away from home, and his wife Shirley and four children—Cynthia, Darren, Ryan, and Kimberly—have sacrificed much and supported him greatly through the years. To each of them, I say thank you.

Rich Felts is a true leader, and I have been honored to work with him over the years to make certain our State remains a place where all can pursue the American dream. I would like to ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in recognizing Rich for his dedication to agriculture and his service to the Kansas Farm Bureau and our entire State. I congratulate him on his retirement, and I wish him and his family the very best in the future.

Rich, thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

S.J. RES. 63

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the Constitution is the guarantor of our liberties. So it should come as no surprise that those who crave power to rule over their fellow men always seek to suspend the Constitution by declaring and perpetuating emergencies. This is the trick that always seems to work: Declare an emergency, and exempt yourself from the constitutional restraints on power that are necessary for the preservation of a free society. It is a strategy that has existed since antiquity.

As our Founders enshrined in the Constitution a system of checks and balances, so too did the founders of the

Roman Republic. But when the crisis emerged, the Romans dissolved the restraints on power. That is how the Roman Republic died and how Caesar became dictator for life.

There is a touch of Caesarism in the COVID national emergency. The President told us that the pandemic is over, yet the national emergency remains.

When the Senate last voted to terminate the COVID national emergency in March, the White House issued a veto threat. At the time, the White House said: Although we have made tremendous progress in combating the virus, the virus continues to pose a risk to the American people and our healthcare system.

Caesar could not have said it better himself. The administration demands credit for how it wielded extraordinary powers, but it can never claim total success, for doing so would rob the administration of the power it so craves.

Have we forgotten what emergency powers look like? They look like lockdowns, where livelihoods and lives are destroyed. They look like a travel mask mandate. They look like robbing children of a full education. They look like the closure of places of worship. They look like a vaccine mandate for those working in large companies and the military. They look like an eviction moratorium in which the CDC claims the power to destroy contracts and effectively seize private property.

When was the last time you heard the President tell the country it was time to relax emergency powers?

His actions validate the argument made in Robert Higgs' classic work "Crisis and Leviathan." Higgs demonstrated that governments justify the exercise of extraordinary powers during an emergency; but when the crisis ends, even if government gives back some of the powers, it will never voluntarily relinquish all its newfound authorities.

We are free from these monstrous policies only because the courts forced the President to abide by the Constitution. In restoring the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, the Supreme Court held that "even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten." It bears repeating.

The Constitution doesn't go away. We don't dissolve the Constitution just because there is an infection out. The rights you were granted under the Constitution, the rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution, remain in place even in a pandemic.

When the Supreme Court ended Biden's eviction moratorium, it found that "[T]he C.D.C. has imposed a nationwide moratorium on evictions in reliance on a decades-old statute that authorizes it to implement measures like fumigation and pest extermination. It strains credulity to believe that this statute grants the C.D.C. the sweeping authority that it asserts."

The Supreme Court further concluded that our system does not permit

agencies to act unlawfully. And when the Court struck down the vaccine mandate, the Court stated:

This is no “everyday exercise of federal power.” It is . . . a significant encroachment into the lives—and health—of vast number[s] of employees of Federal power.

When the courts restored the people’s liberty, you could count on the Biden administration to express disappointment and claim that disaster was just around the corner. But the administration, time and time again, was proven wrong; and, now, even the President himself acknowledges what is plain to see for anyone willing to recognize what is in front of one’s own face. We are learning to live with COVID.

The one thing he does not seem to acknowledge is that the time for emergency measures has long since passed. A President should not be able to unilaterally aggrandize his powers by saying a magic word. If he will not terminate the national emergency himself, it falls to us, the people’s representatives in Congress, to act and, in the wise words of one court, remind President Biden that “there is no pandemic exception to the Constitution.”

Let us end this national emergency and restore the Constitution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 63, a resolution to terminate the COVID-19 national emergency declaration. It has now been more than 2½ years since this first issued proclamation declaring the National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease Outbreak, and it has been extended twice already by President Biden since the initial declaration—most recently, February of this year.

It is with this national emergency declaration, in tandem with other additional emergency powers, currently invoked by the President, which this administration is manipulating to supersize government powers. And now, it is obvious they need these powers to continue their spending spree to enact their radical partisan agenda and grow government dependency through further expansion of the welfare state.

Today marks the third time many of us have come to the floor to terminate the emergency declaration. In March, we brought an identical resolution to this floor under the expedited procedure contained in that National Emergency Act that passed this body 48 to 7. That is right, this body passed this same resolution 8 months ago. Since then, even more evidence shows the emergency phase of this pandemic has come and gone.

The number of new patients admitted to hospitals with confirmed cases of COVID-19 remains near lows since the start of the pandemic, and the same is true of emergency department visits. Let me point out that the percent of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 visiting emergency rooms represents less than 2 percent of ER visits nationwide.

And just last week, the World Health Organization announced COVID-related deaths have dropped 90 percent globally compared to February of this year—again, shortly before our March vote the Senate took to terminate this same national emergency declaration. Again, this body passed the same resolution 8 months ago, and the clinical situation on the ground has only improved.

Listen, the decrease in hospital cases and deaths can be contributed to the fact that an estimated 95 percent of Americans, ages 16 and older, had developed identifiable COVID antibodies, and that is according to the CDC. This includes individuals who have gained immunity through natural infection, as well as those who have received the vaccine. More than 646 million doses have been administered and 227 million Americans are fully vaccinated, nearly 70 percent of the population.

Vaccines are so widely available for those that wish to receive inoculation that millions of doses are going unused. Between December 2020 and mid-May of 2022, the U.S. wasted 82 million doses. Additionally, we have a growing roster of antiviral drugs, monoclonal antibodies, and treatment protocols that are helping vulnerable populations avoid life-threatening complications.

Don’t take it from me. Take it from President Biden. Just 2 months ago, the President stated the coronavirus pandemic was over in a “60 Minutes” interview. That is right. Two months ago, the same person who wants to continue to use this so-called emergency said it was over. And, no, I can’t make any sense of it.

So despite all the advances we have made in our fight against this virus and the victorious declaration by our chief executive, this administration insists the national emergency declarations remain in place.

And to add insult to our intellect, just last week, the White House failed to alert States of any intent to lift the public health emergency, another emergency power being used to greatly expand government powers over American lives and validate their continued expansion of government spending and programs.

Everyone should remember, it was this government-imposed state of emergency that justified their continued lockdowns of small businesses and schools. It was this government-imposed state of emergency that justified their mask and vaccine mandates, including a military vaccine mandate that has resulted in the removal of more than 8,000 Active Duty troops since the Defense Secretary issued the requirement in August 2021—8,000 Active Duty troops dismissed because of this mandate.

Today, our businesses and children suffer the consequences. Too many businesses are now shuttered, and our youth struggle with low academic performances and stunning record numbers of mental health issues.

And lest we forget, it was this government-imposed state of emergency that justified President Biden and congressional Democrats’ spending binge, increasing the total government spending by more than \$9 trillion since February of 2021 and lighting the fire for record inflation.

And most recently, it was the national emergency declaration that the President used as justification to extend the payment pause and cancel up to \$10,000 in outstanding federally held student loan balances and even a more generous \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients.

Well, thankfully, a Federal judge in Texas ruled last week that the loan forgiveness plan was unlawful and must be vacated, stating that the program was “one of the largest exercises of legislative power without congressional authority in the history of the United States.”

I want to say this again. This was not me, not a politician, not a conservative blog. This came from a Federal judge. Listen again to what he said. This is “one of the largest exercises of legislative power without congressional authority in the history of the United States.”

So while the law being cited by the President does not authorize him to grant the unfair relief that would have cost the Federal Government and taxpayers more than \$400 billion, his actions show this White House is more than willing and able to use this emergency declaration to advance as many of their inflationary giveaways as possible.

Folks, where and when does this power grab stop? Congress must take the responsible action of reining in this massive expansion of government and restore Americans’ fundamental right by terminating the COVID-19 national emergency declaration. As for the elements of the pandemic response that are working and needed, let’s codify them into law. Let’s work with the White House and with their friends across the aisle and exercise our article I powers and do so through the legislative process.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me and, once again, support our resolution to terminate the COVID-19 national emergency declaration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this is at least the third time the Senate is debating Senator MARSHALL’s proposal to terminate the national emergency declaration related to COVID-19. I am going to have just a few brief remarks on why the Senate ought to vote this down and move on to the crucial year-end priorities that actually have a chance of becoming law.

First, the Marshall resolution has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee. As the chairman of the committee, we have long focused on healthcare and, particularly, Medicare.

And my view is that the Marshall resolution is part of a larger effort to create more redtape and less flexibility in American healthcare.

Now, I have been talking to a lot of Oregonians about many issues over the last few months. And I can just say, nobody has come up to me in one of our iconic Fred Meyer stores or to a town-hall meeting and said, "Hey, Ron, we need more healthcare redtape."

I want to be specific about what this means. The Marshall resolution will make it harder to keep waivers on the books that have helped resolve critical shortages of healthcare providers in hospitals overwhelmed with sick patients. The policies allowed under the national emergency have also helped address shortages of medical supplies needed to treat patients and protect medical workers.

Looking at the bigger picture, the Marshall resolution is part of a broader effort by Republicans to wipe out a host of important policies that have saved lives and helped our healthcare system stay afloat over the last few years.

This larger effort by Republicans, for example, could make it harder for people to get hospital quality services provided at home where they are most comfortable. There is a risk it would lead to a whole lot of vulnerable Americans losing coverage through Medicaid.

Taken together, that is a recipe for chaos in American healthcare and serious headaches for millions of patients who would have their coverage and their care upended.

Nobody is saying that emergency policies that began in the pandemic are going to stick around forever. Changes do have to be handled responsibly. And what we try to do in the Finance Committee is work in a bipartisan way.

So, colleagues, in my view, this Republican effort—and it has been what we have been debating now again and again—comes down to less flexibility and more chaos in American healthcare, and that sounds like an idea the U.S. Senate ought to avoid.

That begins with voting down the Marshall resolution. My sense is this is also exactly the wrong time to start undermining important healthcare flexibilities. Doctors and public health experts—we have all read these articles—are telling us this is going to be a painful flu season. We are hearing this across the country. Hospitalizations, colleagues, for the flu are already surging.

At the same time, there is a huge wave of RSV infections across the country. That is particularly serious for infants and toddlers. It can be a big problem for adults, too. Many pediatric hospitals are overwhelmed. The flu and RSV are hitting just as the country braces for possibly another COVID wave during the winter.

Congress ought to be looking here to support medical workers, protect our healthcare system from becoming to-

tally overwhelmed by viruses, and save lives. The Marshall resolution and this broader Republican effort that we have been hearing about on the floor to eliminate healthcare flexibilities does the opposite.

An earlier version of this Marshall resolution passed back in the spring because some Members were absent for the vote.

Colleagues, this is going nowhere in the other body.

Now, I will close by saying there are serious healthcare issues that deserve bipartisan attention here in the Senate. For example, Democrats and Republicans on the Finance Committee, many of them have been working with Democrats in a very thoughtful way for months on improving mental healthcare in America.

We are very proud on the Finance Committee that four major provisions of our bipartisan work that we put in a year and a half on came out to be the back letter text on mental health in the gun safety legislation. So we want to work in a constructive way. You see that with mental health. Members on the Finance Committee come forward with good ideas. That is the kind of work we ought to be doing on healthcare.

My view is the Marshall resolution is a partisan step in the wrong direction. I think it is a mistake for American healthcare at this crucial moment to reduce flexibility for government to deal with the challenges. I oppose the Marshall proposal.

I yield the floor.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 63

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. MARSHALL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 355 Leg.]

YEAS—62

Barrasso	Cassidy	Cruz
Blackburn	Collins	Daines
Blunt	Cornyn	Ernst
Boozman	Cortez Masto	Fischer
Braun	Cotton	Graham
Burr	Cramer	Grassley
Capito	Crapo	Hagerty

Marshall	Scott (SC)
McConnell	Shaheen
Moran	Shelby
Murkowski	Sinema
Murphy	Sullivan
Paul	Tester
Portman	Thune
Risch	Tillis
Romney	Toomey
Rosen	Tuberville
Rounds	Warner
Rubio	Wicker
Schumer	Young
Scott (FL)	

NAYS—36

Baldwin	Feinstein	Ossoff
Bennet	Gillibrand	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hassan	Peters
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warren
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Sasse Warnock

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 63) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 63

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, pursuant to section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622), the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on March 13, 2020, in Proclamation 9994 (85 Fed. Reg. 15337) is hereby terminated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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