

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3203, a bill to establish the Commission on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

S. 3208

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3208, a bill to establish the Office of Supply Chain Resiliency within the Department of Commerce to provide expansion support to companies and supply chains in the United States that are vulnerable to shortages and price increases, and for other purposes.

S. 3292

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3292, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to initiate hearings to review Federal milk marketing orders relating to pricing of Class I skim milk, and for other purposes.

S. 3417

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3417, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 3472

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3472, a bill to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 3541

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3541, a bill to improve health care and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3541, *supra*.

S. 3580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

S. 3606

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr.

BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3606, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination".

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to "Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs".

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Vaccine and Mask Requirements To Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start Programs."

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3649. A bill to establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation regarding comprehensive, interdisciplinary issues relating to transportation from a variety of stakeholders in transportation planning, design, research, policy, and advocacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Transportation Equity Act, which I introduced today.

As our Nation is making historic investments in our transportation infrastruc-

ture through the bipartisan infrastructure law, equity should be at the forefront of the Federal Government's plans to revitalize communities and ensure access, mobility, and opportunity for all.

One of President Biden's first actions in office was signing an Executive order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government, which states, "Our Nation deserves an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda that matches the scale of the opportunities and challenges that we face."

To accomplish this bold agenda, we need the interaction and involvement of diverse groups of stakeholders to ensure communities are heard and create effective policies.

Fortunately, we have a model for how we can bring such groups together to infuse equity into our transportation and infrastructure investments. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation established the Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity to provide advice and recommendations on comprehensive, interdisciplinary issues related to transportation equity from a variety of stakeholders involved in transportation planning, design, research, policy, and advocacy.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bill with Senator WARNOCK to permanently reestablish the Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity within the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This bill would help recognize the role that transportation plays on related issues like public health, housing, accessibility, environmental justice, economic opportunity, and more.

I want to thank Senator WARNOCK for coleading this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this bill to help redress inequities in transportation infrastructure and empower communities to build back better.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3654. A bill to amend Chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, to provide procedures for congressional disapproval of the issuance of additional debt; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3654

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 "Debt Ceiling Reform Act".

SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL DEBT.

Section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 3101. Public debt limit

"(a) DEFINITION OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—In this section, the term 'joint resolution' means a joint resolution—

“(1) that is introduced during the period—
“(A) beginning on the date on which a certification under subsection (b)(1) is received; and

“(B) ending on the date that is 3 calendar days after the date described in subparagraph (A) (or, if a House was not in session, the next calendar day on which that House is in session);

“(2) which does not have a preamble;

“(3) the title of which is only as follows: ‘Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President’s exercise of authority to issue additional debt, as submitted under section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, on _____’ (with the blank space being filled in with the date on which the applicable certification under subsection (b)(1) was received); and

“(4) the matter after the resolving clause of which is only as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves of the President’s exercise of the authority to issue additional debt, as exercised pursuant to the certification under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code.’.

“(b) CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall submit to Congress a written certification whenever the President determines that the debt is within \$100,000,000,000 of a \$1,000,000,000,000 increment and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments.

“(2) AUTHORITY TO ISSUE DEBT AFTER CERTIFICATION.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the United States may issue additional debt as necessary to meet existing commitments on and after the date on which the President submits a written certification to Congress under paragraph (1).

“(3) RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Congress may consider a joint resolution relating to each certification submitted by the President under paragraph (1).

“(c) ENACTMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—The United States may not issue additional debt if, not later than 50 calendar days after the date on which Congress receives a certification submitted under subsection (b)(1) (regardless of whether Congress is in session), there is enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving the President’s exercise of authority to issue additional debt.

“(d) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification submitted under subsection (b)(1), the Speaker, if the House of Representatives would otherwise be adjourned, shall notify the Members of the House of Representatives that, pursuant to this section, the House of Representatives shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such certification.

“(2) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution is referred shall report it to the House of Representatives without amendment not later than 5 calendar days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution. If a committee fails to report the joint resolution within that period, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate calendar.

“(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After each committee authorized to consider a joint resolution reports it to the House of Representatives or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order, not later than the sixth day after introduction of the joint resolution, to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House of Representatives. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order with respect to a joint resolution relating to a certification after the

House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed that joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(4) CONSIDERATION.—A joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against a joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. An amendment to a joint resolution is not in order. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on a joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of a joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(e) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

“(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification under subsection (b)(1), if the Senate has adjourned or recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader of the Senate, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such message.

“(2) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon introduction in the Senate, a joint resolution shall be immediately placed on the calendar.

“(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time during the period beginning on the day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (b)(1) and ending on the 6th day after the date on which Congress receives the certification (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of a joint resolution relating to the certification, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of a joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of a joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to a joint resolution, a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit a joint resolution is not in order.

“(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall occur immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(F) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing a joint resolution relating to a certification under

subsection (b)(1), one House receives from the other a joint resolution relating to the same certification—

“(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

“(2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution under this section relating to a certification under subsection (b)(1), the joint resolution of the House relating to the same certification shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of a joint resolution in the Senate, the Senate receives the companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(4) CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If Congress passes a joint resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the joint resolution and ending on the date the President signs, allows to become law without his signature, or vetoes and returns the joint resolution (but excluding days when either House is not in session) shall be disregarded in computing the calendar day period described in subsection (c).

“(B) VETO MESSAGE.—Debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

“(5) VETO OVERRIDE.—If, within the calendar day period described in subsection (c), Congress overrides a veto of a joint resolution relating to a certification submitted under subsection (b)(1), the United States may not issue any additional debt this chapter.

“(g) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection and subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and they supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

“(h) DEBT DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘debt’ means the face amount of obligations issued under this chapter and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury).

“(2) DETERMINATION OF FACE AMOUNT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the current redemption value of an obligation issued on a discount basis and redeemable before maturity at the option of its holder is deemed to be the face amount of the obligation.

“(B) CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS NOT REDEEMABLE BEFORE MATURITY.—For purposes of this section, the face amount, for any month, of any

obligation issued on a discount basis that is not redeemable before maturity at the option of the holder of the obligation is an amount equal to the sum of—

“(i) the original issue price of the obligation, plus

“(ii) the portion of the discount on the obligation attributable to periods before the beginning of such month (as determined under the principles of section 1272(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 without regard to any exceptions contained in paragraph (2) of such section).”.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF EXPIRED PROVISION.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3101A.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Section 8348 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (j), (k), and (l).

(2) Section 8438 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (g) and (h).

(3) Section 14(d)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1824(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) by striking “in section 3101(b)” and inserting “under section 3101”; and

(B) by striking “an obligation to which such limit applies” and inserting “debt, as defined in subsection (h) of such section”.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Notwithstanding the amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)—

(1) paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (j) and subsection (1)(1) of section 8348 of title 5, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply to any debt issuance suspension period (as defined under section 8348(j)(5) of such title) that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (g) and subsection (h)(1) of section 8438 of title 5, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply to any debt issuance suspension period (as defined under section 8438(g)(6) of such title) that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 512—SUPPORTING REOPENING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL BUILDING AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 512

Whereas the United States Capitol and Senate Office Buildings closed to public visitation on March 12, 2020, at the very outset of the pandemic;

Whereas, since March of 2020, the American people have learned how to safely gather and enter public places despite the existence of COVID-19 and, due to Operation Warp Speed, have had the opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID-19 for more than a year;

Whereas, despite the existence of COVID-19, tens of thousands of people routinely gather across the country for sporting, entertainment, worship, and other events;

Whereas, despite the existence of COVID-19, stores, restaurants, and other public places have been successfully welcoming the public since the pandemic began in 2020;

Whereas, despite the existence of COVID-19, the American people, including Members of Congress, routinely use crowded public transportation vehicles, including airplanes and trains;

Whereas, despite the existence of COVID-19, most Americans have long since resumed working around co-workers, customers, and others;

Whereas it is illogical and unacceptable that, despite the rest of the United States being open, the United States Capitol Building and Senate Office Buildings, buildings that belong to the American people, remain largely closed to public visitation; and

Whereas it is time to once again welcome the public participation in the legislative process and the public visitation of our historic buildings that have always been hallmarks of American democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of reopening the United States Capitol Building and Senate Office Buildings to the American people to facilitate public participation in the legislative process and public visitation of these historic buildings; and

(2) supports returning to the public visitation policies for Senate Office Buildings and the portions of the United States Capitol Building and Capitol complex within Senate jurisdiction that were in place before the COVID-19 pandemic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 513—RECOGNIZING THE GROWING THREATS AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN, RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES, AND LGBTQI PERSONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND AGAINST ALLIES OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS, SUCH AS CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS, SCHOLARS, FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, AND MEDIA WORKERS, AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH AND REAFFIRMING THE DURESS TO PROTECT VULNERABLE AND MINORITY POPULATIONS AND THEIR ALLIES IN AFGHANISTAN UNDER TALIBAN RULE

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 513

Whereas the Taliban have a history of prohibiting women from receiving an education and pursuing jobs outside their homes and have publicly executed women who were accused of adultery;

Whereas a 2001 report by the Department of State noted that, from 1996 to 2001, the Taliban “perpetrated egregious acts of vio-

lence against women” as part of a “war against women”;

Whereas, in some Afghan provinces taken over by the Taliban beginning in May 2021, there are reports that the Taliban have forced women into marriage with Taliban fighters and have led targeted killings against women;

Whereas United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has expressed concern with the Taliban’s contradiction of “stated commitments,” their exclusion of women from the public sector, and their restrictions on women, such as not allowing women to appear in public without a male chaperone;

Whereas, since 2018, the Secretary of State has designated the Taliban as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom pursuant to section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (22 U.S.C. 6442a) for having engaged in “particularly severe violations of religious freedom”;

Whereas, in October 2021, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reported on deteriorating conditions for religious minorities in Afghanistan, noting growing fear among Hazara Shi’a Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Ahmadi Muslims, Baha’is, and nonbelievers, and stating, “Afghans who do not adhere to the Taliban’s harsh and strict interpretation of Sunni Islam and adherents of other faiths or beliefs are at grave threat”;

Whereas the Hazaras constitute approximately 10 to 15 percent of the national population in Afghanistan and are considered a minority religious group;

Whereas the Hazaras specifically, along with other religious and ethnic minorities, have historically been explicitly targeted by the Taliban and have been abused with impunity;

Whereas Amnesty International reported that on August 30, 2021, 13 Hazaras were unlawfully killed in the village of Kahor in the Khider district by Taliban fighters, with one of the victims being a 17-year-old girl;

Whereas, in 2021, the Taliban forcibly displaced approximately 4,000 Hazaras from their homes and ancestral lands in Daykundi province while a Taliban court expelled approximately 2,000 families from the city of Mazar-e-Sharif;

Whereas, in 2021, more than 30 instances of violence and threats of violence against Afghan journalists were recorded;

Whereas activists, journalists, civil society actors, and scholars face threats and intimidation and risk being unlawfully detained or tortured or becoming a victim of targeted killings by the Taliban;

Whereas adherence to the rule of law and protection of human rights is rapidly deteriorating under the Taliban, which are reportedly targeting judges, prosecutors, lawyers, human rights defenders, journalists, former parliamentarians, and individuals who previously advocated for human rights and the rule of law, particularly women;

Whereas there are reports of the Taliban conducting house-to-house searches and tracking individuals who served the previous authorities and then carrying out targeted revenge killings;

Whereas, during the previous period of rule of the Taliban, the Taliban reportedly executed Afghan men alleged to have engaged in sexual activity with other men;

Whereas the current Acting Prime Minister of the Taliban reportedly stated in 1996 that “homosexuality is a great sin” and “some say we should take these sinners to a high roof and throw them down, while others say we should dig a hole beside a wall, bury them, then push the wall down on top of them”;