

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 30, 2023, THROUGH MAY 6, 2023, AS “NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK”

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today as chair of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee and on behalf of over 33 million small businesses across the country to recognize National Small Business Week.

When I complete my remarks, I am going to ask consent to pass S. Res. 200, which has been cleared from the hotline, which is sponsored by me, Senator ERNST, and the distinguished Senator from New Jersey and a distinguished member of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, our current Presiding Officer, Senator BOOKER. This is a resolution that recognizes the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States.

A lot has changed in the 60 years since the week was first celebrated in 1963, Small Business Week, but today, small businesses are as resilient as ever. They have faced immense challenges like COVID-19 and continue to serve their communities with great commitment and courage. Our small businesses deserve far more than a week of appreciation for all they do, but this week, we look forward to celebrating them and committing our full and unconditional support.

Small businesses account for 99.9 percent of all U.S. businesses and employ nearly half of all U.S. workers. They are spearheaded by entrepreneurs like Lois Gamerman, from my home State of Maryland, who was hit hard during the pandemic but who pulled her business through to continue serving our great State. Her grit and resourcefulness earned her the 2023 Maryland Small Business Person of the Year. I congratulate Lois on that accomplishment.

Lois saw an 85-percent loss in sales as the hospitality industry suffered during the pandemic. Her business, Soft Stuff Distributors, received help from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program and the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program to keep its doors open.

I thank all of my colleagues for their help in the passage of those two critically important bills—bipartisan efforts to keep our small businesses alive.

Lois is just one example of many small businesses that are alive today because of the efforts that we did here in the U.S. Senate. Now Soft Stuff occupies 33,000 square feet of space and employs over 50 individuals.

For Lois and the millions of entrepreneurs who depend on these resources, we must double down and continue to fund the programs that help fuel their success. The “Default on America Act” that Speaker MCCARTHY unveiled last week would do exactly the opposite. It would cause the small businesses we love and need, to suffer.

America needs to invest in our small businesses, not abandon them. If the “Default on America Act” were to become law, accessible capital for many entrepreneurs would diminish, and they would have nowhere to turn for assistance.

In 2022, the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs served 1.2 million small businesses. The “Default on America Act” proposes cutting spending to fiscal year 2022 levels. If spending for these critical programs is cut, the SBA would serve 125,000 fewer small businesses than in previous years; 125,000 American small businesses would be denied the resources and assistance that are critical to their survival.

While many small business owners would find themselves struggling without necessary resources, entrepreneurs of color, women, rural, and other underserved small business owners in particular would feel the squeeze.

Now is not the time to walk back our support. In fact, under the Biden-Harris administration, we have seen a small business boom. Today, there are more small business owners nationwide than ever, and now is the time to invest in them, to grow our economy from the middle out and the bottom-up, and to build on the small business boom.

We must come together to keep our communities strong, not push for legislation that would cut jobs and harm the local shops we love. Part of keeping our communities strong is by ensuring that the Agencies serving them work efficiently and effectively. The Small Business Administration does essential work in supporting small businesses and their communities.

For the sake of our small businesses, I ask my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together so we can pass the long-overdue reauthorization of the Small Business Administration. National Small Business Week is our chance to show our small businesses how valuable they are and to pledge our continued support.

To all of America's small businesses and entrepreneurs, thank you for what you do this week and every week.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 200, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 200) expressing support for the designation of the week of April 30, 2023, through May 6, 2023, as “National Small Business Week” to celebrate the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States.

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that 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. 200) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 202ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 42, S. Res. 119.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 119) recognizing the 202nd anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that 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. 119) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 23, 2023, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023, THROUGH TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned to convene for a pro forma session, with no business being conducted, at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 5; that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9; that on Tuesday, 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 following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Gorordo nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator HOEVEN. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Maryland and appreciate the opportunity to make my remarks before this session ends today.

I rise to once again call attention to the growing and unprecedented crisis at our southern border. This crisis is a result of the Biden administration's open border policy. It is a function of the Biden administration's failure to secure the border and enforce our laws.

In fiscal year 2022, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the CBP, encountered almost 2.4 million individuals attempting to illegally cross the southern border. That was an increase of 37 percent from fiscal year 2021 and a more than 400-percent increase from fiscal year 2020. In the first 6 months of fiscal year 2023, Customs and Border Protection had already—already—encountered more than 1.5 million individuals—a pace that will surpass even the record numbers of last year.

Now, with the title 42 public health order set to expire next week, it is only getting worse. Take a look. Anybody can turn on their television and check it out. It is only getting worse.

In response to the expected surge of illegal crossings, the Biden administration announced that they are going to send 1,500 troops to the southern border to help with paperwork. Well, it is good they are sending the troops down there, but without a change in the policy, it is not going to get the job done. They are not able to do the job that they can do and need to do. The Customs and Border Protection officers and agents on the frontlines do the best job possible, but they face an impossible task given the Biden administration's actions that continue to exacerbate the crisis—the Biden administration's open border policy.

I have seen firsthand the work of these dedicated individuals, including of the members of the North Dakota National Guard from my home State. I have traveled down to Texas on numerous occasions to draw attention to the border crisis. I have been to Del Rio. I have been to Eagle Pass. I have been to El Paso and to the Rio Grande Valley. In each of these border towns, it is clear now more than ever that more needs to be done. And it is not just the stopping of illegal migration; it is to prevent human trafficking and to prevent drug trafficking. This affects every State in our country.

I also traveled with a bipartisan congressional delegation to Mexico, to Ecuador, to Colombia, and to Guatemala to outline the need to work with these

nations to stop illegal immigration and prevent drug trafficking and human trafficking.

These are all part of our efforts to draw attention to the problem and outline solutions that will stem the tide of illegal immigration.

To stop this crisis, the Biden administration has to change its policy, and there are several things that can be done right now to make that happen.

First, the Biden administration needs to implement the Migrant Protection Protocols or the “Remain in Mexico” policy, which requires people seeking asylum at our southern border to wait in Mexico while their cases are adjudicated.

Second, reinstate the safe third country agreements, which require individuals coming from places like El Salvador or Honduras or Guatemala to seek asylum in their own countries first or they are returned to their countries to await the outcome of their claims.

Now, title 42 expires on May 11. The border is already in crisis, and it will just get worse, but the reality is, if those two policies are reinstated, then the Customs and Border Protection professionals can get on top of the problem. In other words, let them do their jobs. Put in place border policies that will enable our Customs and Border Protection professionals to do their jobs.

It has been shown that those policies will work. I just gave you the numbers going back to 2020. We are not guessing on this. We are not guessing. We know it works. Those two policy changes will enable our Customs and Border Protection professionals to get control of the border, and with title 42 expiring on May 11, they need to be implemented now.

We have to do more. We need our border wall. We need personnel. We need technology. All those things need to be part of creating a secure border. But right now, particularly with title 42 expiring, we need to implement those two policy changes and enable our Customs and Border Protection professionals to do their job.

Border security is national security. With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:44 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 5, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

LOREN L. ALIKHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE AMY BERMAN JACKSON, RETIRED.

SUSAN KIM DECLERCQ, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE STEPHANIE DAWKINS DAVIS, ELEVATED.

JULIA KATHLEEN MUNLEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE ROBERT DAVID MARIANI, RETIRED.

VERNON D. OLIVER, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE STEFAN R. UNDERHILL, RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID M. CASTANEDA

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANDREW M. ROHLING

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. ROBERT M. GAUCHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DOUGLAS G. PERRY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

DAVID B. BARKER
BRIAN M. CARUTHERS
JOSHUA S. CURTIS
KELLY LYNN DETERING
JOI BLYTHE DOZIER
STEVEN M. FOX
LISA FLORES GUZMAN
KIRK D. HUNTSMAN
ALEXEI KAMBALOV
JOSHUA D. PETER
JOSEPH H. ROUNTREE
JAMES A. STEWART
THOMAS JASON TELFER
JASON T. TOMPKINS
GLORIA JEN WALSKI
JOCELYN M. WHALEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

FRANCISCA A. ALAKA LAMPTON
MANDY L. BRADSCA
ADAM RANDALL BROWN
HEATHER MICHELLE CRAWFORD
JOHN N. DELEHANTY
AARON C. ELDRIDGE
NICHOLAS R. FREESE
JAY A. FURY
CHRISTOPHER THOMAS HARMER
BRADLEY W. HOWARD
BRIAN D. JOHNSON
ELIZABETH ANNE JOVANOVICH
NATHANIEL C. KROUSE
DAVID E. MALEY
RYAN W. MCGAUGHEY
MICHAEL DAVID MCLAIN
KELSEY MONSAERT
SAMUEL H. PANG
AN QUE THI PHAN
STEVEN JAY POE, JR.
DANIEL JAMES PRATHER
CLARE ELIZABETH REYNOLDS
ZACHARY R. RUMERY
JUSTIN C. SZAJNECKI
GREGORY KENNETH TAYLOR
CHRISTOPHER KENNETH WEBER
RASHEED JAMAL WEDLOW
VICTORIA M. WEIGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BRITNEY M. ALONZO
ASHENAFI D. ASEGA
JON T. ASHMAN
DAVID R. ATWOOD
RAEYLN J. BATES
ALEXANDER M. BELVO
SARAH C. BERHEIDE