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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Almighty God, You know all about us. You are our Lord. Our goodness is nothing apart from You. Give us Your Holy Spirit to purge us of every wrong thing so that our lives will glorify You.

Today, guide the steps of our lawmakers. Deliver them from those who shoot from the shadows as You rule the nations with Your justice. Lord, examine every heart, both the evil and the good. Empower our Senators to run when they can, to walk when ought, and to wait when they must. Open their minds to discern Your will and inspire them with the willingness to follow where You lead.

We pray in Your matchless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I get into my remarks, just a lit-

tle housekeeping. I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 42

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 42 and the Senate proceed to its consideration, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE COMPREHENSIVE POLICING AND JUSTICE REFORM AMENDMENT ACT OF 2022

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 42.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022.

Thereupon, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday afternoon, Treasury Secretary Yellen released a letter updating congressional leadership about their latest forecast regarding default. The Treasury's projection remains unchanged: The Federal Government is in danger of failing to pay its bills as soon as June 1.

Since last week's White House meeting, Democratic staff have in good faith held conversations with our Republican counterparts about the Nation's fiscal future.

The talks are separate but simultaneous to our responsibility to avoid default. Democrats will not use the threat of default to get what we want. Nobody should use default as a hostage. Nobody should say: "Unless you do this, then we default" because the consequences of default will be devastating for ordinary Americans.

We talked through the weekend; we talked yesterday; and both sides—the staffs, that is—are talking today as well. And later this afternoon, I will join President Biden, House Leader JEFFRIES, Speaker MCCARTHY, and Leader MCCONNELL at the White House.

Democrats welcome a debate about this year's budget. For decades, both parties have regularly worked out their differences about spending and revenues throughout the appropriations process. That is what is happening right now while we separately but simultaneously work to avoid default.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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And, again, let me just repeat this because it is so important as we get closer to June 1. Nobody—nobody—should use default as a hostage. Nobody should say: “Unless you do this, then we default” because the consequences will be devastating for America.

Default would almost certainly create another recession, kill more than 8 million jobs, send costs soaring on everything from mortgages, car payments, student loans, small business loans, and so much more. If you want to own a home one day, default would take that dream and run it through the shredder. If you want to protect your 401(k), default would rob you of your livelihood. If you want to grow your small business or borrow student loans or if you benefit from Social Security or Medicare, a default would be a nightmare scenario.

We all know these things are fast approaching the closer we get to June 1. Congress cannot—under any circumstances—fail its obligation to protect the full faith and credit of the United States. It is one of our highest obligations.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now on nominations and Senate business, last night we filed cloture on three more outstanding judicial nominees: two district court judges and a circuit court judge. Even as Senate Democrats proceed on our agenda to help working and middle-class families avoid default, we will not relent on filling the vacancies on our Federal judiciary with qualified, mainstream, and diverse judges.

Yesterday, we took a big step forward toward strengthening the bench with the historic confirmation of Bradley Garcia, the first Latino ever to serve on the DC Circuit, the second most important court in the land. And the three judges we filed cloture on last night continue that effort. They are highly qualified and diverse candidates, both demographically and professionally. They will strengthen our Federal judiciary and help the bench better reflect the diversity and dynamism of our country.

Senate Democrats are going to keep working this week to advance these nominees, and I hope both sides can work together to move the process along quickly and in a bipartisan way.

Today, the Senate is also busy off the floor. As we speak, the Senate Banking Committee is holding a very important hearing, hearing testimony from the former CEO and chairman of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, to examine the failures that led to their collapses. I want to thank Chairman BROWN and all the Members of the committee for holding this important hearing because we need to get to the bottom of what went wrong with SVB and Signature Bank.

The American people must have confidence that Congress can work across the aisle to hold bad actors in banking accountable, and that is why it is es-

sential we hear directly from the CEOs of these failed institutions.

I hope today's hearing brings us one step closer to bipartisan action on commonsense banking oversight legislation that Americans rightfully demand.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The clerk will call the roll. The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Later today, I will attend a second discussion between President Biden and Speaker MCCARTHY on the Nation's debt limit.

The Speaker presented his case to the President back in February. House Republicans passed legislation to raise the debt ceiling in April, but as of mid-May, the President of the United States has found just two—two—more occasions to sit down and discuss an agreement to preserve the Nation's full faith and credit.

The Biden administration took 3 months to reach a conclusion that just about everyone else recognized from the beginning. I said it myself back in February: that the only way forward is spending negotiations between the President and the Speaker. That is how the American people arranged the current situation, and, by the way, that is how 7 of the last 10—7 of the last 10—debt limit increases have been secured—bipartisan negotiations.

That is how a Republican President and Democratic Speaker avoided crisis 4 years ago. I remember telling President Trump he needed to do something he was not anxious to do, which was to talk to Speaker PELOSI, because the American people had given us divided government. That is how a Democratic President and a Republican Speaker will avoid this crisis as well.

Speaker MCCARTHY is right. The Senate Democrat majority hasn't passed a bill to raise the debt ceiling. The House Republican majority has.

So that is where the solution to this looming crisis will be found.

Last fall, the American people sent a divided government to Washington. They chose to require that President Biden work with House Republicans on the most consequential issues. Now, the President has to make a choice of his own: Pretend the last election didn't happen or sit down with the Speaker and deal responsibly with our Nation's debt.

Time is of the essence—of the essence. So, for the second time, I will be glad to sit in at the White House to support Speaker MCCARTHY and to urge President Biden to start operating in reality.

BORDER SECURITY

Now, Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, it has been 5 days since the Biden administration ended title 42 emergency border enforcement authorities—5 days. By all accounts, the situation at our southern border is absolutely catastrophic—absolutely catastrophic—for the brave men and women of Customs and Border Protection and for countless communities across Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

As title 42 expired on Thursday, officials in Del Rio, TX—listen to this—reported a 1-day increase in border apprehensions of 75 percent—1 day. In El Paso, one area of downtown is rapidly being overrun by tents and garbage—tents and garbage. One Border Patrol officer reports that every CBP enforcement sector along the southern border is now near 150 percent capacity—150 percent capacity. Sadly, what the country is witnessing right now is a slow-moving car crash.

Republicans have spent years urging President Biden and his party to get serious about securing our southern border. And the American people have known for quite some time that Democrats' approach helped create this humanitarian and security crisis. On President Biden's watch, just last fiscal year, Customs and Border Protection recorded an all-time high for migrant apprehensions: 2.7 million in 1 year. By the Agency's own estimates, another 1.2 million “got-aways” have successfully snuck across the southern border since the President took office.

The Biden administration made no effort to hide how little it cares about cleaning up the mess. Remember, for months on end, the White House Press Secretary assiduously avoided calling the situation at the southern border what it obviously was—a crisis.

Vice President HARRIS, the administration's official “border czar,” has been to the border just once in 2½ years.

When Congress asked the head of the Department of Homeland Security to account for the chaos unfolding on his watch, Secretary Mayorkas characterized functionally open borders as “executing on the plan.”

Apparently, Republicans are the only ones interested in getting the southern border crisis under control.

Later this week, the Senate will vote on a resolution from Senator MARSHALL to remove a major pillar of the Biden administration's open-borders approach. Our colleague's measure takes aim at a rule the administration implemented late last year to severely limit what immigration officials are allowed to consider when determining whether a potential immigrant is likely to become a “public charge” and rely on taxpayer-funded services.

In other words, facing record flows of illegal migration, President Biden's response was to greet people at the border with food stamps and housing vouchers—welcome to America. Sadly,

that is exactly what some of the would-be immigrants arriving at the border have come to expect from Washington Democrats.

One Venezuelan man who made it to El Paso said he was told: "They will feed you, clothe you, help you with your studies, and get a job." That is what this migrant from Venezuela was told.

It is alarming that Washington Democrats must be forced to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. The Biden administration should not need to be dragged, kicking and screaming, to do right by the hard-working citizens of this country.

So I am grateful to the junior Senator from Kansas for calling the Senate's attention once again to the Biden administration's shameless failure at the southern border, and I will urge each of my colleagues to join me in supporting the resolution later this week.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

MR. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (MR. KELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CEILING

MR. THUNE. Mr. President, talks on the debt ceiling continue, and the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate are meeting with President Biden again today. I hope that is a positive sign because, if the President's Treasury Secretary is correct, we could be 2 weeks away from the United States beginning to default on its debts, something that would have very serious consequences for our economy and for our Nation's financial standing.

If we are going to get a debt limit increase, the President is going to have to negotiate with Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans—really negotiate, Mr. President—which means that President Biden is going to have to accept some real spending reforms because, otherwise, a debt limit increase is not going to make it through the House of Representatives. Those are the just the facts.

Democrats, of course, have been kicking and screaming at the idea of spending reforms. You can witness their frantic campaign to portray the responsible reforms in the House Republicans' bill as extreme. Apparently, suggesting that we should return to 2022 discretionary spending levels for 2024 is an extreme position, despite the fact that we were clearly doing just fine at those levels mere months ago.

The Senate Democratic leader came down to the floor last Thursday and suggested the Republicans were attempting to pair a debt ceiling increase with "unrelated partisan priorities"—"unrelated partisan priorities." Well,

let that just sink in for a minute because, according to the Senate Democratic leader, spending reform is a partisan priority that has nothing to do with increasing our Nation's credit card limit. If a discussion over increasing our Nation's credit card limit isn't a good time to have a discussion about spending, I don't know what is. And if spending reform is just a Republican priority, then there is something seriously wrong with the Democratic Party because, with a national debt like ours, spending reform should be a priority for everyone.

Our national debt currently stands at more than \$31 trillion—\$31 trillion. Our debt has already exceeded the size of our economy. Within a few short years, we are going to be spending more just meeting the interest on our Nation's debt than we will on national defense.

How do Democrats not realize that a national debt of that size has serious consequences? By 2044, we will be spending more on interest than on Medicare. By 2050, we will be spending more on interest than Social Security. That is barely going to leave enough money for the government to meet its most basic obligations, much less invest in all the new or expanded government programs Democrats would like to implement.

Yet Democrats are apparently content to simply ignore this reality. It is like they think that we are going to find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow to rescue us once we have spent the Federal Government into the ground. But there is no magic pot of gold.

And before Democrats suggest it, let me just say that taxing the rich will not provide enough money to dig us out of the hole that we are in. We have to find a way to rein in Federal spending; otherwise, the size of our national debt is going to crush our economy and seriously limit the Federal Government's ability to meet even its most basic responsibilities, like funding Social Security and national defense.

Democrats would like Americans to believe that the "clean" debt limit bill they are calling for is the standard when it comes to raising our Nation's credit card limit; but, in fact, that is very far from being the case, as the Democratic leader should know from his own experience in using the debt limit as leverage in negotiations.

As Democrats should be well aware, 7 of the last 10 debt limit increases have included some mix of policy or budgetary changes rather than just a clean increase, and, historically, spending reform has frequently gone hand in hand with debt ceiling legislation. Indeed, one expert recently noted in testimony before the Senate Budget Committee that "of the eight largest deficit-reduction laws since 1985, all eight were attached to debt limit bills."

Let me repeat that. And this is from an expert who recently provided testimony before the Senate Budget Committee. This was his quote.

Of the eight largest deficit-reduction laws since 1985, all eight were attached to debt limit bills.

Now, Mr. President, I am getting a little tired of hearing Democrats dance around the facts or suggest that if Republicans just agree to the "clean" debt ceiling increase that Democrats want, Democrats would be ready to talk about spending once we move on to the budget.

Does anybody really seriously believe that if Democrats won't consider spending reforms now that, somehow, they will develop a serious enthusiasm for reining in spending once we get to the budget? Somehow it doesn't seem likely.

Democrats and the President have spent a lot of energy over the past couple of weeks tearing down Republican proposals. If they had spent half that time coming up with spending reforms of their own, we might already have a debt ceiling agreement.

And I hope that the meeting at the White House later today is a sign that the President is actually getting serious about negotiating because, if he isn't, he will have only himself to blame if our Nation defaults on its obligations. Democrats have already spent us into an inflation crisis. Let's hope that they don't push us into a default crisis as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

MR. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

BRETT BLANTON INVESTIGATION

MR. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I hope everybody in this body knows that congressional oversight is a very important responsibility of all of us, and it is even a constitutional demand. We must ensure that our government truly does work for, of, and by the people. When fraud, waste, and abuse is discovered, Congress has the responsibility to the American people to make it public because transparency brings accountability.

Today, we have an example of wrongdoing to discuss. It involves the former Architect of the Capitol's blatant misuse of government property. According to the Architect of the Capitol inspector general, during Brett Blanton's time as Architect, he engaged in unnecessary, very expensive, and impermissible conduct. For example, the report found unauthorized vehicle use; misrepresentation as a law enforcement officer; ethics violations; and, lastly, appropriations violations. Specifically, the inspector general found that Blanton should have driven approximately 10,438 miles using government vehicles. Instead, the inspector general said that Blanton racked up 29,291 miles. That is almost 20,000 extra

miles of unauthorized benefit on the taxpayers' dime.

The inspector general's October 6, 2022, report expressly noted that Blanton's actions "have violated every pillar the [Office of the Inspector General] operates under including theft, fraud, waste and abuse against not only the [Architect of the Capitol] but also the taxpayer."

In total, the inspector general identified \$13,926 of inappropriate costs associated with Blanton's use of government vehicles. On February 22 of this year, I sent a letter to Mr. Blanton asking him when he would repay the money he impermissibly cost the taxpayers. As of today—now several months later—he has failed to respond to my inquiry and my staff's attempts to contact him. He has also made no effort to repay the money that he owes the American people. His actions show no respect for the taxpayer.

But that isn't the last word on this sad story. On the same day that I sent a letter to Mr. Blanton, I also sent a letter to Acting Architect of the Capitol Chere Rexroat. I asked her whether she intended to seek repayment from Mr. Blanton. She and her team have worked to recover these payments, and as of April 21, the money Mr. Blanton owed the taxpayers was repaid in full: \$12,517 has been withheld from Mr. Blanton's final annual leave payment and has been returned to the Treasury. The remaining \$1,409 was contributed by an insurance company.

When dealing with trillions of dollars in government spending, a dozen or so thousand can seem like a very insignificant amount. However, this amount would be important to a family struggling to make ends meet in a time of record inflation and price hikes. And the amount is important to me because it is about time that we see civil servants holding someone accountable for wrongdoing.

So, obviously, before giving up the floor today, I want to emphasize that congressional oversight doesn't deal out victories every day. When wrongdoing is exposed and corrected, it should be noted.

So let's give all due credit to the Acting Architect of the Capitol and also to her team for the recoupment of this taxpayer money. It may be a small amount of money, but it is the right action to take. And we ought to compliment it. And I compliment the Acting Architect today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is graduation season in America—a time when many of us in this Senate head

back home, gather with students and families to celebrate amazing accomplishments.

This past Saturday I had the honor of joining students at Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine for their commencement ceremony. It was an inspiring and hopeful celebration.

These graduates—doctors—I met this last weekend are heroes in the making. As future practitioners and medical researchers, they will dedicate their lives to healing our communities and families. And we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments.

Let me also note two things. First, Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine was the first school of medicine in the United States to allow students with DACA status to apply for admission. They didn't set any quotas. But they said to these young people who have received recognition by our government that they can stay legally in the United States. Though they were not born here, they have received recognition by our government and been held back from many of their ambitions.

So when Loyola University of Chicago opened their doors for applications from those DACA students, young people—remarkable young people—from all over the United States applied. So far, 32 graduated before last Saturday and another 6 this past Saturday. Think of that: 38 DACA students who finally got a chance to go to medical school proved themselves worthy, did great, and now headed for their residencies and beyond.

They will become an important part of America's future. And I am so proud of Loyola University of Chicago for its leadership in doing that. I encourage all other schools to offer the same opportunities for these extraordinary DACA students to have a chance to continue to be part of America.

The second person I want to mention is a hero that is of a special nature. She was tragically missing from Loyola's campus this past weekend. Her name is Areanah Preston.

On Sunday, Chicago Police Officer Preston was set to receive her Master of Jurisprudence from Loyola's School of Law. But just days before her graduation ceremony, she was shot and killed outside of her home, right as she was returning home from a late shift on patrol.

Officer Preston was one of the best of Chicago. At only 24 years of age, she had served with the Chicago Police Department for 3 years. And during her time on the force, she worked to build trust between law enforcement and the communities that she served.

Officer Preston was inspired to become a police officer after taking a trip to Europe as part of her undergraduate criminology studies. Her class visited former concentration camps in Germany and Poland, the sites of some of the worst atrocities in human history.

The stories of the Holocaust compelled Areanah Preston to the change

she wanted to see in the world. She wanted to be part of it. In her words:

When I got back [home], I wanted to be an officer. I felt like I could be a person to fight for justice.

And during her time on the force, that is exactly what she did.

On Saturday—the day before Mother's Day—Officer Preston's mother Dionne and her other family members walked on stage at Loyola University's ceremony to accept her diploma.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to each and every one of them. Officer Preston and her family should be together today, celebrating her amazing accomplishments and her courageous service to our city. Instead, they are mourning her loss. She is yet another victim of America's epidemic of gun violence.

Officer Preston's loss is especially poignant this week as we mark the beginning of Police Week. It is a time when law enforcement officers across the country travel here to Washington to meet with lawmakers and honor their peers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The murder of Officer Preston in Chicago—as well as hundreds of other police officers who have died by gunfire in recent years—is a sobering reminder that no American is immune to the scourge of gun violence in this country.

It was just 1 year ago this weekend when a White supremacist marched into a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, with an AR-15 assault-style rifle and opened fire, killing 10 Black Americans.

The first victim in that shooting was a man named Aaron Salter. At the time of the shooting, Mr. Salter—a former police officer—was working as a security guard at the grocery store.

When the gunman showed up, Mr. Salter did not hesitate to leap into action. He opened fire on the gunman. There was only so much he could do. You see, Mr. Salter was armed with a handgun. The assailant had an AR-15-style rifle and was wearing a tactical vest.

In this case, Mr. Salter was a good guy with a gun, but the bad guy had a bigger gun. Mr. Salter was forced into a position that no police officer, no security guard, should ever find themselves in—being outgunned by a violent criminal. But this happens with alarming frequency. And it is because lawmakers have failed to do enough to stop guns from falling into the wrong hands.

If we truly want to honor the sacrifices of heroes like Mr. Salter and officer Preston, we need to do more than offer our prayers and condolences. We need to take action.

At this point, I want to salute you, Mr. President, because you and your wife and family have worked so hard to make this issue an important part of our agenda in America.

In the years since the mass shooting in Buffalo, we have seen more than 650 mass shootings across America. A mass

shooting takes place when four people are either killed or wounded in one incident. During that period, more than 40,000 of our fellow citizens have died from gunfire, which is now the No. 1 killer of our Nation's children. The No. 1 killer of children under the age of 18 in America is gun violence. That is a fact.

Time and again, we hear lawmakers argue in Washington and other places that guns really aren't the problem, often claiming the real problem is mental illness. Well, here is the truth. Every nation on Earth struggles with mental illness, but America is the only advanced nation that sees more mass shootings than there are days in a year. I want to deal with mental illness honestly, but to say that is the problem alone is to ignore the obvious.

Last year, the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, held a hearing on the crisis of gun violence in America. One of the witnesses we heard was former Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams.

During that hearing, Chief Williams told the committee that our Nation's gun laws are failing members of law enforcement like her. Here is what she said:

We are outgunned. We're outmanned. We're out-staffed.

We do need responsible gun legislation . . . there should be a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in order for us to properly serve and protect our communities.

Chief Williams was right. Smart gun safety laws work. We even have recent proof of it.

Last year, this Senate finally passed the bipartisan Safer Communities Act—the most important gun safety law in nearly 30 years. Thanks to that law, the Justice Department is able to perform enhanced background checks on buyers under the age of 21.

According to the Department of Justice, these enhanced background checks have already prevented more than 160 firearms from falling into potentially dangerous hands.

But that is not enough. We need to do more. Without more robust legislation—like reining in assault weapons—we are not going to make the progress we need in protecting the lives of our families and communities.

Friday afternoon, I had a visit in my Chicago office from four people. One was a mom and three were pediatricians from the Highland Park area north of Chicago. We remember Highland Park because of the last Fourth of July parade where a shooter got on the roof of a building and, in a matter of 60 seconds, fired off 83 rounds into an innocent crowd. And 7 people died, over 50 were injured. One 8-year-old boy was paralyzed for life.

They came to talk to me about the AR-15 assault weapon crisis that we face in America. What they said to me I cannot repeat on the floor of the Senate because they went into graphic, painful detail of what an AR-15 weapon

does to the human body and particularly what it does to children. Those small bodies, those compact little bodies, hit by an AR-15 round, are forever damaged, and some of them are in an impossible situation when it comes to medical care.

They talked about the fact that—and we hear this so often—at the scene of these mass shootings, particularly in schools, they collect DNA evidence from the parents to identify what is left of the body of the children after the assault weapons had been fired into the bodies.

That is just a horrible thing, unimaginable thing, when it comes to imagining your own children or grandchildren and what might happen to them.

This mother came as part of this group, which is known as March Fourth, broke down in tears and told me that every single day now since Highland Park a year ago, she worries about sending her kids to school: Will this be the day that they don't come home?

No family, no parent, no grandparent should ever face that fear as we do in America—uniquely in America—because of the bewildering explanation of our Second Amendment.

Unfortunately, instead, moving forward on sensible gun safety laws, some people in the other party would move backward. Right now, the House MAGA majority is trying to erase a regulation that restricts braces that turn pistols into short-barreled rifles.

That is the same kind of weapon carried by mass shooters in Dayton, OH; Boulder, CO; and recently in Nashville, TN.

These weapons are a danger to law enforcement and ordinary citizens. And now this Republican effort in the House wants to make it easier to access these deadly weapons, not harder.

Does that make any sense at all?

Moreover, at this very moment, MAGA Republicans are threatening to default on America's debt unless we pass Speaker McCARTHY's bill to wipe out 30,000 law enforcement jobs.

Talk about defending the police. The McCarthy approach in making deep budget cuts not only affects the number of law enforcement who are on the beat trying to protect us every single day but also makes a 25-percent cut in medical research in this country, something that is essential for every family's future.

That is right. House Republicans are threatening to trigger an economic crisis unless Democrats support their proposals to defund the police and basically eviscerate medical research in this country. That is coming from the same Republicans who spent years falsely claiming it was the Democrats who wanted to defund the police. Now we have clear evidence otherwise. Here they are supporting budget cuts that would leave law enforcement behind and make communities less safe. This is no way to honor the service and sac-

rifice of police officers across the country who have journeyed to Washington.

If you are going to talk a big game about supporting law enforcement during your political campaign, you have to back up your action when you are elected. Threatening a disastrous debt default unless we make massive budget cuts is no way to protect America.

Let's make sure officers have all the funding and resources they need to keep America safe, and that includes sensible gun safety laws that help keep weapons of war off American streets.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, President Ronald Reagan once said:

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

In every generation since the country's founding, brave men and women have stepped forward to defend our great country. Each one of them joined knowing that they might be called upon to sacrifice everything, even their lives. In our history, more than 1 million Americans have paid that last full measure of devotion. It is only right that we return the honor.

The tradition of Memorial Day goes back to the 1860s. It was originally called Decoration Day. Families of the fallen would decorate the graves of their loved ones. In 1888, Congress recognized this tradition and made it a holiday in the District of Columbia. Congress made it a national holiday in 1968.

For Gold Star families, every day is Memorial Day. Alabama is home to more than 6,000 Gold Star family members. These include children who were forced to grow up without knowing their parents, spouses who had "happily ever after" cut short, moms and dads who hugged their children goodbye for the very last time, families with an empty seat at their dinner table.

As we honor their loved ones, we also ought to honor Gold Star families. Today, I would like to do just that. I would like to recognize three of Alabama's fallen heroes and their families.

First, I would like to recognize SGT Ricky Jones of Plantersville, AL. The former star running back of Dallas County High School—also known as MoJoe—is remembered for being a "giving person" who was always there for his family and for his community. Sergeant Jones was known to consistently attend football games to support younger players who aspired to be just like him.

His family always knew they could count on him. After his mother fractured her hip, Sergeant Jones took leave to come home and help with her recovery. His sister Jasmine recalls him standing at the door of her bedroom to tell her goodbye when the time

came for him to return to Afghanistan. She didn't know this would be the last time she would see him. He was killed on Father's Day of 2009, leaving behind a wife and four children.

Because of the impact he left on his community, Dallas County established June 27 as "Ricky DeWayne 'MoJoe' Jones Day." Dallas County High School also retired his No. 3 jersey as a tribute to someone who was a hero to so many on and off the field.

Second, I would also like to recognize SGT Jason Stegall of Trussville, AL. From the age of 10, he knew he wanted to make a difference by joining our military. Even with injuries and several near-death experiences, this desire to serve never wavered. Sergeant Stegall's courage saved countless American lives. On one occasion, he helped stop two suicide bombers from carrying out an attack on a U.S. military base in Iraq. Another time, he led his men away from an ambush, despite being shot just beneath his heart.

Sergeant Stegall earned numerous awards for his heroism, including a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

His wife Ashley said his plan was to stay in the service for a long time because he loved every minute of being in the military. But this plan was cut short. At age 31, Sergeant Stegall passed away from a mission-related illness while serving on Active Duty. Ashley was left to cope with the loss of her teenage sweetheart and having to raise three sons alone, including a 10-month-old named Landon. Ashley keeps Sergeant Stegall's memory alive by reminding her sons about his sacrifice and his belief in our great country of America.

Sergeant Stegall is honored at the Trussville Veterans Memorial in Alabama.

Finally, I want to honor the memory of SGT Ervin Hullett of Lowndes County, AL. On Christmas Day in 1952, Sergeant Hullett's brother Arthur received the news that his 22-year-old brother had been killed in Korea.

Both brothers had lived and suffered under segregation and discrimination because of their race. Yet both loved this country and were proud to wear the uniform. Both brothers rose to the rank of sergeant. Sergeant Arthur Hullett to this day says that he has no regrets about his military service. He also says he is confident that his brother would say the very same thing.

Alabama is deeply grateful for their strong belief that America is worth fighting for and even worth dying for. We will not forget their unwavering devotion to serving the American dream for all of our future generations.

SGT Ervin Hullett's name is etched forever into the wall of the Korean war monument here in Washington, DC.

The Bible says: Greater love has no man than that he would lay down his life for a friend.

We may never have met Sergeant Jones or Sergeant Stegall or Sergeant Hullett or any of the other fallen he-

roes, but their sacrifice is an example to all.

As we look toward Memorial Day, I hope we will remember this is not just another long weekend; it is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by all of our courageous heroes who didn't want freedom to die on their watch. May we live to ensure their efforts aren't in vain.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, on National Police Week, we celebrate our law enforcement officers, but it is also important to pause and honor those who gave their lives in the line of duty and to pause and remember the families they left behind.

Last year, I stood in this Chamber as we unanimously adopted the National Police Week resolution and honored the 576 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2021. Today, I take this moment to honor the 246 brave men and women who were killed in the line of duty in 2022. In order to rightfully honor these men and women who lost their lives, we must continue to demand policies that will make our communities safer and, by extension, our officers in the line of duty safer.

This topic is incredibly personal to me. My father was a chief of police in our hometown of El Dorado, KS, for 30 years. Here is a picture I share of my father in 1965, a proud new police officer with our family dog and police officer dog, Rinny.

On more than one occasion, my dad put his life on the line to protect our community, and on many other days, he would tell stories of the bravery and courage of his officers when responding to an emergency. These were all my friends, but they were heroes in my eyes, as well, and always will be remembered as such.

But, today, I am sad to report that our men and women in law enforcement feel demoralized. They are constantly put in a no-win situation, and their own city governments are setting them up to fail. In short, like my dad told me recently on a fishing trip, law enforcement officers know this White House and many mayors and city councils do not have their backs. They feel abandoned, and they feel like they get no respect, even to the point of being wrongfully shamed.

These brave men and women need our support now more than ever. Democrat-run cities have demonized law enforcement, making it harder for our men and women in uniform to do their jobs. And, sadly, their dangerous rhetoric and policies are emboldening

criminals at the expense of our officers.

You don't have to look any further than our own Nation's Capital. In November of last year, here in Washington, the DC Council voted to dramatically reform the city's criminal code to favor the rights of the offender during a crime wave across the District. The legislation eliminated mandatory minimum sentences for most crimes and lowered the maximum penalties for crimes such as carjacking and robbery.

The reforms to the city's criminal code came as the city's crime crisis hit a fever pitch.

Listen to this. Our Nation's Capital had 203 homicides in 2022—our Nation's capital, 203 homicides. Carjackings have tripled since 2019. This year, so far, violent crime is up by double digits. Last year, a physician was murdered after he tried to prevent a carjacker from stealing his car. A city council candidate had his car stolen at gunpoint. More recently, a Senate staffer was brutally attacked and stabbed in the head in broad daylight.

I remain fearful for my staff as they walk from their homes to the Capitol. Just recently, I gathered with a group of Senators to discuss policy, but the topic of discussion soon became the safety of our employees and what we could do to help ensure their safety.

With the culture of lawlessness on the streets being embraced by the DC City Council, at a time of low morale and increased crime, it is no wonder why the city has lost over 1,200 officers over the last 2 years, a number that is growing each day.

We need to stop here and talk about the culture of lawlessness started by this White House. It started during his campaign with a summer of applauding violent riots and vandalism.

After being sworn in, the administration purposefully and shamelessly opened our borders, and, even now, this administration turns their heads to violent criminals and terrorists crossing our borders. And with the Democrats embracing cashless bail in Joe Biden's America, we are now not only a country without borders but also a lawless society, where criminals roam the streets and fentanyl poisons our children.

This Nation must change its course before it is too late. To preserve this union, we need law and order. Our Republic will not survive without it.

H.J. RES. 42

I rise today in support of Senator VANCE's motion to nullify the DC Council's Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022. By passing this resolution, we can now join our House colleagues in firmly rejecting the council's antipolice, pro-criminal laws and reaffirm our support for our heroic law enforcement officers.

I urge all of my Senate colleagues and the White House to choose people over politics by joining our efforts to

improve public safety in Washington, DC.

With its passage, we can send a clear message to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: We in the Senate will not stand by while our law enforcement officers are vilified and cut off at the knees when trying to do their job.

And with its passage, it will make Washington, DC, a safer place for the millions of visitors who pilgrimage to this great Capital to petition their elected Members of Congress, to regale in our history, and to celebrate our freedom.

This is a bill that makes DC safer, but it also sends a message to the entire country—a message that we want safe streets, we want safe communities, we want safe schools, and we want to do it in a bipartisan way.

Let's signal to every county, every city, and every State that Washington, DC, will no longer be soft on crime and cater to criminals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I rise today to support Senator VANCE's resolution of disapproval for the District of Columbia's anti-police law.

When lives are on the line, when seconds count, members of law enforcement are there putting their lives on the line to protect and serve their communities.

Backing the blue is especially important now, as rogue prosecutors and activist judges undercut those who are out there fighting crime. We see big cities implement policies that make the already difficult job of crime-fighting that much harder. Consequently, crime in our country has risen. Our streets are less safe. Our citizens' safety is under constant threat.

A prime example of this overreach is right here in Washington, DC. Last year, the DC City Council passed a so-called comprehensive policing and justice reform package. The package contains provision after provision that hamstring the police in this city. It limits the tactics they can use to control unruly crowds and riots, and it buries them in paperwork before they can even execute a constitutional search. It strips cops of the power to review body cam evidence, and it allows for their names to be released to the media before an investigation can even begin.

And what has happened since this act went into effect? Well, in the first full year that this law was in effect, DC's homicide rate reached nearly a 20-year high. In just the first 4 months of 2023, there have been over 250 carjackings and an increase in robberies throughout the city.

DC's chief of police recently reported that the average homicide suspect is arrested 11 times before committing murder. Now, it is striking that DC is making it harder to arrest these criminals before they commit such heinous acts. And, at the same time, the Dis-

trict's police union has reported that the department "has lost over 1,200 police officers while only replacing 700." The force is poised to be at its lowest number of officers since the 1970s.

Congress has the authority and the responsibility to ensure public safety in the District; and, furthermore, the symbol of our Nation's Capital under siege from crime is one our country cannot and should not tolerate. As politicians in this city push anti-police laws, it is incumbent upon our country's national leaders to stand up to these legislative attacks on law enforcement.

Now is the time for elected officials to express their full and complete support for the police. We need to fund them; we need to back them; and we need to push back against false narratives.

Strong nations support law enforcement because these are the men and women who stand on that thin blue line between safety and chaos. For the sake of law and order in our Nation's Capital, I stand in support of Senator VANCE's resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Texas.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last week, President Biden met with top congressional leaders to talk about the debt ceiling. This meeting came 4 months after the United States hit the debt limit and just a few weeks before a potential default.

Considering the high stakes in this looming debt crisis, it is remarkable that it took this long for the President to sit down with the four leaders and to talk about how to solve this problem together. A debt default, of course, would set off an unprecedented economic crisis and inflict real pain on families all across the country.

We all know our economy is just trying to get back on its feet after COVID. Our banking system has endured three high-profile collapses, and inflation continues to wreak havoc on family budgets. If the United States defaults on its debt, those challenges will only intensify. And that is an understatement. Social Security and Medicare benefits could be delayed. Members of the military and Border Patrol would be left without a paycheck. We would see our economy reeling—skyrocketing mortgage rates, sinking stock prices, and instability across our economy.

Given the already fragile state of the economy, default is the very last thing we need. Fortunately, that is a point of agreement between the parties. I haven't heard anybody say it would be a good idea for us to default.

But the \$31.7 trillion question is, What does the path forward look like?

As the American people know, the Republican position is not shrouded in mystery. My Republican colleagues and I have said over and over that a clean debt ceiling increase is not an op-

tion. It simply doesn't have the votes to pass the House or the Senate, making it a nonstarter. So we should move on.

In order to have a chance of passing both Chambers of Congress, a debt ceiling increase must come with some spending reforms. You would think President Biden, after all of his years serving in the Senate, now as President of the United States, would understand that \$31.7 trillion in debt is unsustainable. That is just common sense. But the President has dragged his feet for the last 4 months, saying he would not negotiate—until now. It looks like he, grudgingly, is acknowledging that he has to negotiate, which he knew or should have known all along.

Thanks to the leadership of Speaker MCCARTHY, the House of Representatives passed a bill last month to avert the debt crisis. I think President Biden actually thought that the Speaker of the House would be unsuccessful in passing any increase in the debt ceiling, so he was happy to sit back, hoping that they would fail and then they would come running to him and agree to his demands. But by passing the House bill, they put the ball in President Biden's court and put the onus on him to drop his "no negotiations, no reforms" position, which was absolutely ridiculous in the first place.

For months, the President has said he won't negotiate. He ruled out negotiations over any spending reforms, even though he signed into law trillions of dollars in new debt which has caused us to come to this juncture in the first place. He said he expects Congress to raise the debt ceiling with no conditions attached and let the runaway spending spree continue.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: If you maxed out your credit card, your credit union or your bank is going to say: Well, if you want an increase in your spending limit, you are going to have to talk to us about how you are going to pay this money back.

Those are the sorts of conversations that would occur in our daily lives, and those are the sorts of conversations that the President should have started to have 4 months ago.

Before the President's meeting with congressional leaders last week, his advisers parroted saying his "no negotiations, no reforms" message. The White House insisted time and time again that the President wouldn't drop his demand for a clean debt ceiling increase.

Now we have seen a massive shift in the President's rhetoric. I am actually grateful that he's made that shift in his rhetoric because his earlier position was completely irresponsible and unsustainable. But, now, over the weekend, the President was asked about the status of conversations with Republicans about the debt ceiling. He said:

It is never good to characterize a negotiation in the middle of a negotiation.

So there he goes using the “N” word, “negotiation,” when he said he wouldn’t negotiate.

And while he offered no insight into the discussions themselves, the fact that he described them as negotiations actually marks a major turning point. After insisting for months that he wouldn’t negotiate, the President has finally caved in, as we knew he ultimately would. He has finally accepted the inevitable reality that a bipartisan compromise is the only way to avoid a debt crisis. But that has been obvious from day one.

We have a Democrat majority in the Senate, a Republican majority in the House, and a Democrat in the White House. We know that in order to pass a bill, all three branches—two branches of Congress and the executive branch—would have to agree on something. So by definition, it has to be bipartisan. That is the baseline for success in divided government.

It really is baffling why it took so long for the President to come to terms with this reality, particularly given his long experience as a Member of this body, the U.S. Senate. But I am glad he got off the sidelines, finally, and now is at the negotiating table with Speaker MCCARTHY.

Reportedly, White House and congressional aides worked over the weekend trying to identify the framework for a deal; and the President, as I said, will meet with congressional leaders again today.

The White House is projecting a great deal of optimism, and I hope that is warranted. I mean, I hope that means they will come with a serious offer. But we still have a long way to go because once a deal is reached, there is still going to be a lot of work that needs to be done.

First, the agreement needs to be translated into legislative language. Once the bill is completed, Members need time to review it, then the bill has to pass both Chambers of Congress. This is a process that can occur over several days or much longer. But remember, Secretary Yellen said the United States can default as early as June 1, which is 16 days away.

With this as a backdrop, President Biden is planning to hop on a plane to Japan tomorrow. We are 2 weeks away from a potential economic disaster—largely of the President’s own making for taking his ridiculous “no negotiation” stance for the last 4 months—but we are 2 weeks away from potential economic disaster, bipartisan discussions have begun, and the President is still planning to go overseas.

The President spent months refusing to negotiate. He said he wouldn’t even entertain the idea of negotiations to avoid a debt crisis. Now the President is at the negotiating table. This isn’t a time to get up, walk away, and jump on Air Force One and go overseas. You can’t fly half way around the globe just as negotiations are gaining momentum, because as he accurately said, the

United States cannot default on its debts over the next 2 weeks. So it is crunch time. It is time to roll up their sleeves, get to work, and to work this out.

Speaker MCCARTHY and the House of Representatives have been ready to negotiate since the beginning, but the President wasted months that could have been spent on hashing out a bipartisan compromise to avoid a debt crisis. And he knew it from the very beginning that, ultimately, he would have to negotiate. So now is the time for the President to take this crisis seriously and to own his responsibility to negotiate a successful outcome.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MCKIERNAN

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a departing member of my team. This is the first time in 7 years that I am delivering a farewell speech regarding one of my team members that wasn’t written by my speechwriter, Mike McKiernan, because Mike is the departing team member we are honoring today.

In June of 2016, he left a glamorous job at the Motion Picture Association of America to join my office. He was excited to return to Congress ahead of what many anticipated would be the incoming Hillary Clinton administration. Well, as we all know, history doesn’t always work out along the path that one anticipates. It worked out a little differently.

Six months later, President Trump was sworn into office, and Mike found himself in the middle of many intensive issues, writing speech after speech regarding the new administration’s policies—often opposing those policies—and the administration’s nominees—often nominees who didn’t seem to have the qualifications necessary for the roles they were nominated to.

Then not far into 2017, we arrived at a watershed moment of Trump’s first year in office: Trump’s determination to complete the theft of a Supreme Court seat through his nomination of Neil Gorsuch. It was Mike McKiernan who compiled a whole set of big three-ring binders with details of Supreme Court history, the influence of powerful special interests on the Court, and, of course, every detail, large and small, about Judge Gorsuch’s record, enabling me to hold the floor for over 15 hours, attempting to focus America’s attention on the grave injustice that for the first time in American history, a Supreme Court seat had been stolen from one administration and passed on to the next with no hearing or consideration of the nominee from the previous President.

It was a long night—a long night for Mike McKiernan, a long night for me—but an important effort to highlight something very important about the politicization and polarization of one of our three key institutions, the Supreme Court of the United States.

If you asked members of my staff for a couple of words or a phrase to describe Mike, you might hear the words “steady presence.” Throughout the years, he has brought a cool, calm, and collected aura, even during moments of considerable stress.

Being a speechwriter might seem like a quiet, intellectual job, but here in the Senate, chaos finds us all—many moments of frantically making last-minute edits, last-minute edits on a script for a speech or a conversation over Zoom, conversations recorded as a video greeting to an organization operating back in Oregon, or crafting comments with only an hour or two of notice to make, to block, or to request a unanimous consent request on an amendment or on a bill.

There was, for every speechwriter and for Mike, the near daily challenge of finding just the right story or just the right analogy or just the right poem to illuminate a commentary over a policy, as, indeed, Mike delivered just the perfect poem on butterflies last year for my closing remarks at the Monarch Summit.

It was Mike who crafted my 2017 quiz show series that I conducted here on the floor of the Senate featuring weekly climate facts, trying to find a new way to engage Americans about the challenges facing us with the evolving impact on our forests and our fishing and our farms and so many aspects of our environment. Our quiz show did not become the smash hit on YouTube that we had hoped for, but at least the Senate pages perhaps learned a thing or two from the quiz shows, and we had fun doing them. Our climate work also led to other fun moments, like hosting Bill Nye the Science Guy in my office and doing a joint video on climate science.

Mike always had the extremity challenge of deciphering my handwriting—handwriting I can’t decipher after I have been away from it for even a few moments. I have no idea what I wrote, but I am sure it was excellent—figure it out.

Mike, I think we are sending you away with a certificate in advanced handwriting decoding.

Along with the fun and good humor that Mike brought to the team, he also brought deep care and purpose to some of the most challenging moments we have handled as an office. He found great meaning in bringing, in his words, “to life as accurately and impactfully as possible” the stories of those who are oppressed and suffering.

When the previous administration tried to take DACA status away from Dreamers, Mike helped me share the stories of young Americans who have known no other home.

When President Trump sent Federal agents to attack Portlanders on the streets in the summer of 2020, Mike helped me to share the experience of those whose civil liberties had been shattered and to hold the administration accountable.

When President Trump implemented his horrific tactic of tearing children out of the arms of their parents at the border, Mike was instrumental in sharing the stories of those families with the world—stories of little children with hopes and dreams who simply wanted to play, to learn, to be loved, and be able to go to school; parents who would do anything to protect their children from violence and oppression and build for those little ones a safer future.

Mike, we will miss your wordsmithing. We will miss your adorable photos and hilarious stories of your two young children, Clara and Braden, and we really require you to keep sharing them as you go forward. Most of all, we will miss your kind, compassionate, mission-driven spirit that embodies what it means to be on our team. You are leaving big shoes to fill, but we are thrilled that you will be staying in the extended Team Merkley family, going to join our former deputy chief of staff J.P. Piorkowski in the Director's Office at the Peace Corps.

One thing our world needs more of is peace and the cross-cultural understanding that comes from Americans going out around the globe to help communities thrive.

I know that in your next chapter and whatever else you do throughout your career, you will never stop working to build a better world, and what better mission could there be for one's life than building a better world?

I wish you all the best. And thank you so much for being a member of the team.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE COMPREHENSIVE POLICING AND JUSTICE REFORM AMENDMENT ACT OF 2022—Continued

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 175, Jeremy C. Daniel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois; further, that the Senate recess from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for the all-Senators briefing.

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

H.J. RES. 42

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, I speak today on behalf of millions of Americans who come to Washington, DC, and want this to be a safe city where they can enjoy it, where they can view the beautiful monuments, and where they can actually live in this city comfortably and in safety.

I speak for the staff members who have seen this city deteriorate over the last decade, and I speak for the many people who have no connection to this city but want it to be a beautiful and safe place to live and work because this is where the people's business is ultimately done.

A very simple problem that we have is the DC violent crime rate and the nonviolent crime rate have gone up way too quickly, in part because the DC Council has passed a number of statutes and a number of laws that make it harder for police officers to do their job.

I will not go through the laundry list of the act that we are dealing with here today and the number of ways in which it makes police less safe in doing their job and makes it more difficult for them to do their jobs in the first place, but a few things in particular jump out. First of all, the law that we are trying to undo bans or severely restricts ordinary law enforcement practices, including the use of riot gear to disperse violent crowds; it makes it harder for police to actually give chase to violent offenders; and it also forces police to go through these ridiculous exhaustion requirements before they can use lethal force to protect themselves and people around them.

This is why a number of DC police officers and organizations don't agree with this act. It is why they think that it makes them less safe, and it is why we have to go in a different direction in this community.

I will close by saying that whether you are a Democrat or a Republican—whatever your politics are—we should be proud of this incredibly beautiful city. The people sent us here to do a

job; they sent us here to do that job proudly; and it is hard to do it if we are surrounded by crime and we are surrounded by lawlessness.

I want this to be the kind of place where Ohioans can come and visit, where they can walk the streets with their children without fear of their personal safety; and, unfortunately, DC is going in the wrong direction.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote commence immediately.

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

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 42

Under the previous order, the joint resolution is considered read a third time.

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

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

Mr. VANCE. 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. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hassan	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rosen
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	King	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Lee	Sinema
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Mullin	Vance
Fischer	Murkowski	Wicker
Graham	Paul	Young
Grassley	Ricketts	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Luján	Van Hollen
Carper	Markey	Warner
Casey	Menendez	Warnock
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Fetterman	Padilla	
Gillibrand	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) was passed.