

the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1111

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1111, a bill to enhance United States civil nuclear leadership, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, strengthen the domestic nuclear energy fuel cycle and supply chain, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to repeal the debt ceiling, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and the Flood Control Act of 1968 to provide for provisions relating to collection and retention of user fees at recreation facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1387

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1387, a bill to reauthorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an affirmative defense for certain criminal violations, and for other purposes.

S. 1469

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to require certification of small business concerns as small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans in order to be counted toward goals for contract awards, and for other purposes.

S. 1470

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1470, a bill to amend the Small Business Act relating to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

S. 1487

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1487, a bill to enhance protections for election records.

S. 1502

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1502, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1529, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes.

S. 1530

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1530, a bill to permit COPS grants to be used for the purpose of increasing the compensation and hiring of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1554

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1554, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 1557

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Virginia

(Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 188, a resolution celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 217

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 217, a resolution supporting the designation of May 15, 2023, as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Day" to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent scams targeted at seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those scams from happening, and to improve protections from those scams for seniors.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1682. A bill to amend subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, regarding prevalent wage determinations in order to expand access to affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 1682

*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 “Housing Supply Expansion Act”.

**SEC. 2. UPDATES TO WAGE RATE CALCULATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3142(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or from geographic groupings other than civil subdivisions of the State (which may include metropolitan statistical areas or other groupings determined appropriate by the Secretary)” after “in which the work is to be performed”.

(b) **CHANGES TO SURVEY METHODOLOGY.**—Section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **SURVEY INFORMATION COLLECTION.**—By not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Housing Supply Expansion Act, the Secretary shall—

“(1) review the Secretary’s method of collecting survey information for determining prevailing wages for purposes of subsection (a); and

“(2) revise how such survey information is collected, following a public notice and opportunity for public comment, by—

“(A) including surveys that allow for reliable and objective sources of data and a defensible methodology, which may include information collected through Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys; and

“(B) improving the percentage of businesses choosing to participate in prevailing wage determination surveys and ensuring proportional representation of businesses represented by labor organizations and businesses not represented by labor organizations in the prevailing wage determination surveys that are completed.”.

**SEC. 3. MULTIPLE WAGE RATE DETERMINATIONS.**

Section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **FEDERAL HOUSING ACTS.**—A determination of prevailing wages by the Secretary of Labor applicable under section 212(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715c(a)), section 104(b)(1) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(b)(1)), section 12(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(a)), or section 811(j)(5) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)(5)) shall be limited to 1 wage rate determination under subsection (b) of this section that corresponds to the overall residential character of the project.”.

**SEC. 4. DAVIS-BACON MODERNIZATION WORKING GROUP.**

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group” means the working group established under subsection (b)(1).

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall establish within the Department of Labor, a Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group to recommend the update and modernization of certain requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, as described in subsection (c).

(2) **DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be considered established on the date on which a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group have been appointed, consistent with subsection (d).

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall—

(1) recommend whether, and if so by how much, the residential classification can be applied to affordable housing units with 5 stories or more for purposes of prevailing wage determinations under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code;

(2) develop administrative and legislative recommendations of ways, and for what specific circumstances in which, the prevailing wage rate requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, could be waived or streamlined for certain affordable rental Federal Housing Administration new construction projects; and

(3) review the potential positive and negative outcomes of directing the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine prevailing wages (rather than the Secretary of Labor under section 3142(b) of title 40, United States Code), in a way that would not rely on the collection of voluntary surveys from businesses but rather on data that is already collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(d) **MEMBERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be composed of the following representatives of Federal agencies and relevant non-Federal industry stakeholder organizations:

(A) A representative from the Department of Labor, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

(B) A representative from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, appointed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(C) A representative of a housing construction industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) A representative of a financial services industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(E) A representative of an affordable housing industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(F) A representative of a State public housing agency, as defined in section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(G) A representative of a tribally designated housing entity, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(H) A representative of a labor organization representing the housing construction workforce, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) **CHAIR.**—The representative from the Department of Labor appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall serve as the chair of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, and that representative shall be responsible for organizing the business of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(e) **OTHER MATTERS.**—

(1) **NO COMPENSATION.**—A member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall serve without compensation.

(2) **SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Labor may detail an employee of the Department of Labor to assist and support the work of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, though such a detailee shall not be considered to be a member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(f) **REPORT.**—

(1) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group is established, the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations under subsection (c), including recommendations resulting from the review under subsection (c)(3), to the Secretary of Labor, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

(2) **MAJORITY SUPPORT.**—Each recommendation made under paragraph (1) shall be agreed to by a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(g) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(h) **SUNSET.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall terminate on the date the report is completed under subsection (f)(1).

**SEC. 5. NATIONAL HOUSING ACT.**

Section 212(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715c(a)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276a–276a–5)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

**SEC. 6. HOUSING ACT OF 1959.**

Section 202(j)(5)(A) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

**SEC. 7. NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996.**

Section 104(b)(1) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act; chapter 411; 46 Stat. 1494; 40 U.S.C. 276a et seq.),” and inserting “for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

**SEC. 8. CRANSTON-GONZALEZ NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT.**

Section 811(j)(5)(A) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

**SEC. 9. UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.**

Section 12(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(a)) is amended by striking “, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Davis-Bacon

Act (49 Stat. 1011)" and inserting "for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed".

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1685. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consortium relating to exposures to toxic substances and identifying chemicals that are safe to use; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Supercomputing for Safer Chemicals Act or the SUPERSAFE Act. Through the use of supercomputing and artificial intelligence, we have an opportunity to transform our scientific understanding of the detrimental effects associated with certain industrial chemical uses and to shift American commerce towards safer and more sustainable products and manufacturing.

The legislation would establish a SUPERSAFE Consortium to be led by the Environmental Protection Agency in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal Agencies, the National Labs, academic and other research institutions, State agencies, and other entities as determined by the EPA. The purpose of the SUPERSAFE Consortium is to identify exposures to toxic substance and chemicals that are safer to use in commerce.

Specifically, the SUPERSAFE Consortium established by this bill would use supercomputing, machine learning, and other similar capabilities to establish rapid approaches for large-scale identification of toxic substances and the development of safer alternatives to toxic substances by developing and validating computational toxicology methods; address the need to identify safe chemicals for use in consumer and industrial products and in their manufacture to support the move away from toxic substances and toward safe-by-design alternatives; and make recommendations on how the information produced can be applied in risk assessments and other characterizations for use by the Environmental Protection Agency and other Agencies in regulatory decisions and by industry in identifying toxic and safer chemicals.

Importantly, establishing a SUPERSAFE Consortium would encourage interagency collaboration and leverage the best scientific ideas through inclusion of State agencies and public and academic research institutions.

Currently, tens of thousands of untested chemicals can be used in commercial products, resulting in consumer, community, and worker exposures to potentially toxic chemicals. Too often, there is insufficient scientific data for evaluating health effects or identifying safer chemicals, and existing approaches to generating

this data are slow, costly, and rely on animal testing.

We are well poised to address this problem and discover safer chemicals by establishing a SUPERSAFE Consortium to use supercomputing, machine learning, and other similar capabilities. These technologies can be developed and applied to rapidly provide information to evaluate chemical safety to identify safe chemicals that avoid the chronic diseases and environmental harm caused by toxic chemicals.

Unfortunately, too many Americans are exposed to toxic chemicals such as PFAS and lead. Congress has stepped up and provided billions to remediate toxic exposures, including via the bipartisan infrastructure law, to address PFAS and lead pollution. Establishing a SUPERSAFE Consortium in Federal law could help avoid the widespread pollution that our communities face so we can address potential pollution challenges before they become widespread.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as quickly as possible.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1705. A bill to amend the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to promote career awareness in accounting as part of a well-rounded STEM educational experience; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the STEM Education in Accounting Act, which would help address workforce shortages in the accounting profession by recognizing accounting as part of a STEM education and adding accounting education programs as an allowable use of K-12 Federal grant funding. I want to thank Senator ROSEN for coleading this bill with me.

Accountants play a key role in today's economy. They serve as trusted advisers for companies large and small, assist in measuring business performance, help individuals and businesses file their taxes in an accurate and timely manner, and even investigate instances of financial fraud. Yet, the United States is facing a shortage of accountants willing and able to fill this important economic role. In Maine, for example, municipalities have struggled to find public accountants to conduct their annual audits.

Recent trends suggest this shortage will continue. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job openings for accountants and auditors are expected to grow by 6 percent from 2021 to 2031—about 136,400 openings each year. At the same time, fewer students are pursuing accounting degrees than in prior years.

The STEM Education in Accounting Act seeks to improve the accounting pipeline by expanding K-12 students' exposure to accounting programs. As with other areas of STEM education,

this bill would qualify accounting instruction for Federal funds. This recognition aligns with the increasing need for accounting professionals to have high-level math and technology skills, including the ability to analyze big data, ensure data security, and manage cybersecurity risk.

In particular, this bill would allow States and school districts to use a portion of their Federal student support and academic enrichment grant funding to support accounting education, including accounting career awareness. The Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program was created as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act and aims to help States and school districts offer a well-rounded educational experience to all students. The STEM Education in Accounting Act would also allow school districts to use this flexible grant to strengthen accounting curricula, including increasing access to high-quality accounting courses for members of groups underrepresented in the accounting profession.

Businesses and individuals rely on accountants to help them develop and reach their financial goals. The STEM Education in Accounting Act would help address the shortage of accountants by promoting accounting education and improving the pipeline of future accountants. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1735. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Community Wood Facilities Assistance Act of 2023 and thank my colleagues, Senators COLLINS, SHAHEEN, and KELLY, for joining me as original cosponsors of the bill.

This bill will assist with the construction of facilities that make sustainable use of small-diameter timber from forest-thinning projects and other needed treatments in eastern and western forests.

In doing so, the bill would also create jobs in rural and forest-dependent communities while decreasing wildfire risk in our vulnerable forests.

The Forest Service reports that 80 million acres of Forest Service lands are at risk of catastrophic wildfire or abnormal levels of insect and disease infestations.

These impacts are only made worse by historic levels of drought. In California alone, 129 million trees have died across 8.9 million acres due to drought and bark beetles. Thirty-six million of those tree deaths were in 2022, triple the number from the previous year. This is clearly a crisis.

Removing select small trees and other hazardous fuels in our forests are critical for preserving our forests over the long term. Not only does this ease the competition large trees face for water, it also reduces the spread of bark beetles and makes the forest less susceptible to catastrophic wildfire.

Between the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, Congress has provided billions of dollars for hazardous fuels reduction and forest thinning work. What is needed now is the economic infrastructure to support this work.

Unfortunately, the number of sawmills, bioenergy facilities, and other forest-product companies have been shrinking for decades. This is due in part to increased production efficiency, but in other instances, market instability forced the closure of many large mills.

One result of the decrease in sawmills is the inability for the market to react nimbly to supply and demand. In 2020, even though massive wildfires should have meant a boom in salvageable trees, the COVID-19 pandemic constrained mill capacity and throughput. This constraint, along with a surge in consumer demand, led to a near 400 percent increase in lumber prices, which are only now resolving.

An analysis by The Nature Conservancy and Bain and Company management consultants recommended incentives to “bridge the gap between the cost of ecological thinning and the economic viability of wood-processing infrastructure.”

As the report explains, “If more aggressive restoration targets can be met, there will be significant need for additional processing capacity to defray restoration costs and provide valuable end uses for thinned material.”

Our bill would make targeted changes to existing Forest Service grant programs to help the forest product industry grow and provide outlets for the billions of acres of wood that will result from the investments made in the bipartisan infrastructure law and Inflation Reduction Act.

The two grant programs we target in this bill are the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Grant Program and the Wood Innovations Program.

These programs would benefit from changes, particularly from higher Federal cost-shares and an increased ability to provide more funding for each project, in addition to a higher authorized funding.

The first of these, the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Grant Program, provides grants for the capital cost of small wood products facilities. Our bill would first change the name to avoid confusion with the Wood Innovations Program.

Our bill would also double the authorization level to \$50 million per year, allow the program to fund new facility construction in addition to improvements. The maximum grant

amount would also increase from \$1 to \$5 million, and the Federal cost share would increase from 35 percent to 50 percent, making it easier for small companies to use.

Our bill will also revise the Forest Service’s Wood Innovations Grant Program, which provides grants for innovative uses and applications of wood products and the expansion of related markets. It would similarly allow this program to be used for new facilities in addition to retrofits and improvements and lower the minimum non-Federal cost-share from 50 percent to 33.3 percent.

Congress has an opportunity this year to make these important changes to these grant programs and help stimulate a self-sustaining forest product economy and promote healthier forests. I thank Senators COLLINS, SHAHEEN, and KELLY for their partnership on this bill, and I urge the full Senate to promptly take up this bill and pass it as soon as possible.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 218—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VANCE (for himself and Mr. CASIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 218

Whereas more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States risk their lives daily to serve and protect their communities;

Whereas there are more than 23,000 fallen law enforcement officers honored on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, dating back to 1786, when the first law enforcement officer in the United States died in the line of duty;

Whereas, during the 2 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 800 law enforcement officers died in the United States in the line of duty, the highest number of such deaths over a 2-year period in the history of the United States;

Whereas some politicians and interest groups have responded to the risks faced by law enforcement officers with calls to “defund” or even “abolish” law enforcement agencies across the United States;

Whereas defunding law enforcement agencies or otherwise demoralizing law enforcement officers will make it more difficult for officers to intervene in dangerous situations and high-risk neighborhoods;

Whereas a law enforcement officer will typically encounter between 400 and 600 traumatic events during the career of the officer, compared with 3 or 4 traumatic events encountered by the average citizen;

Whereas the unusually high number of traumatic events experienced by law enforcement officers has contributed to a 54 percent higher suicide rate among officers than among individuals in other jobs;

Whereas the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice has confirmed that there is no statistically significant difference between the rates at which major racial and ethnic groups are stopped in police-initiated interactions;

Whereas the innovative and dedicated efforts of law enforcement officers have successfully brought down crime rates from historic highs;

Whereas the “defund and defame the police” movement that began in 2020 has—

(1) coincided with a dramatic rise in homicides and other violent crimes in cities and towns across the United States; and

(2) caused the retention and recruitment of sworn law enforcement officers to drop to a dangerously low level, with current numbers showing fewer law enforcement officers per resident than at any other time during the 25-year period preceding the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas, in 2020—

(1) 60,105 law enforcement officers were assaulted by criminals, resulting in 18,633 injuries; and

(2) the number of arrests made by law enforcement officers throughout the United States dropped to 7,630,000, a 24 percent reduction from 2019 and the fewest number of such arrests in 25 years;

Whereas 72 percent of law enforcement officers surveyed are less willing to stop and question suspicious individuals than they were before 2020;

Whereas the rhetoric associated with the “defund and defame the police” movement has created an increasingly dangerous environment for law enforcement officers in which, in 2022 alone, 331 officers were shot, 62 of whom were shot fatally; and

Whereas supporting law enforcement officers with the equipment, training, and funding needed to protect communities in the United States from criminal violence has long received overwhelming public support from across the political spectrum: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) highly respects and values the law enforcement officers of the United States and greatly appreciates all that those officers do to protect and serve their communities;

(2) remembers and honors law enforcement officers who have experienced a death or injury in the line of duty and the families of those officers;

(3) calls for increased measures to be taken to maximize the safety and well-being of law enforcement officers, including improvements relating to the retention and recruitment of officers, improved training and equipment for officers, tougher penalties for assaulting or killing an officer, and increased mental health resources for officers;

(4) strongly condemns the misguided and disastrous movement to “defund and defame the police”; and

(5) calls on all levels of government to ensure that law enforcement officers receive the support and resources needed to keep all communities in the United States safe.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 219—AMENDING THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAJORITY LEADER TO MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 219

*Resolved*,

##### SECTION 1. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS.

Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following: