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No. 124

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ELIZABETH WARREN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray. Lord of life, we magnify Your Name, for Your mercies are new every morning. Take our Senators by the hand and lead them on the road You desire them to travel. Remind them that You are the one who can keep them from stumbling or slipping. Motivate them to never deviate from the path of integrity but seek to glorify You in all they think, say, and do. May they remember Your promise in Hebrews 13:5, that You will never leave or forsake them.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 19, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ELIZABETH WARREN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. WARREN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2226, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, be considered expired, and the motion to proceed be agreed to.

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2226) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 935

(Purpose: in the nature of a substitute)

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I call up substitute amendment No. 935.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], for Mr. REED, proposes an amendment numbered 935.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

#### AMENDMENT NO. 936

Mr. SCHUMER. I call up amendment No. 936 and ask that it be reported by number.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 936 to amendment No. 935.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

#### SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to call

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



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up the following amendments: Murray, No. 300; Kaine, No. 429; Paul, No. 222; Hawley-Vance, No. 838; Cruz-Manchin, No. 926; further, that with respect to the amendments listed above, at 3 p.m., the Senate vote on the amendments in the order listed, with no further amendments or motions in order, and with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption and that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote.

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

## ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, later this morning, it will be my honor to join congressional leaders in welcoming President Isaac Herzog of Israel to the Capitol for a joint address to Congress.

Since the founding of the Nation of Israel 75 years ago, he has been one of America's most important allies and fiercest friends. The United States was the first country to recognize Israel as an independent state; and to this day, our bond remains strong, our partnership essential.

While we have our differences, the United States and Israel are united in the most profound ways that two nations could be. America's support for Israel must never waver because Israel will be an essential partner for the United States in the 21st century.

I look forward to meeting with President Herzog this morning, and I join congressional leaders in welcoming him to Congress.

S. 2226

Madam President, now on the NDAA, last night, the Senate began the process for floor consideration of the annual Defense bill on a bipartisan vote, 72 to 25. This morning, we locked in an agreement to begin consideration of amendments on the floor. We will begin voting this afternoon, and we want this process to be open and fair, without being dilatory.

We want both sides to have input, but neither side should derail the bill. We should avoid the chaos we saw last week in the House that greatly hindered their NDAA process.

So far, we have avoided that. The process in the Senate has been constructive and moved along at a good pace. I am pleased to say the managers' package has 51 amendments—21 from Republicans, 21 from Democrats, and 9 bipartisan. I hope there will be a second managers' package with even more priorities for both sides.

The Senate's NDAA process is an example of how, even with all our disagreements, this Chamber is able to come together to provide for our Nation's defense, take care of our servicemembers, take care of our civilian DOD workforce, and invest in modernizing our defense and intelligence capabilities. If both sides keep working together, I hope we can finish passing the Defense authorization bill before August. I think most of us would like to see that happen. There is no justifica-

tion for letting it spill into the fall. We have a lot of work to do before we get there, but we are on track to get it done.

We have every reason in the world to finish the NDAA bill quickly because there is a lot both sides can celebrate in this year's bill. Many of the NDAA's provisions might typically fly under the radar because they seem incremental, but in their totality, they make a huge difference in our country.

We will make much needed progress on additional new areas, like outcompeting the Chinese Government. We will take our first steps on AI legislation. We will boost resources in a major way to tackle the fentanyl crisis. We will strengthen the bonds with our allies around the world, especially the UK and Australia.

I hope we will have a vote on the full AUKUS package soon.

On competing with the Chinese Government, I am pleased this year's NDAA will have over a dozen amendments in the managers' package.

On the fentanyl crisis, the amendment by TIM SCOTT and SHERROD BROWN will enhance the Federal Government's ability to disrupt illicit opioid supply chains and punish those who facilitate fentanyl trafficking. This is a major piece of legislation that is going to give the President more powers to stop any country—China, Mexico—from sending the precursor materials that are made into fentanyl and kill our children.

Here is what it does: It declares international trafficking of fentanyl a national emergency—a national emergency. It requires the President to sanction criminal organizations and cartel members who traffic this drug. It will enhance the administration's ability to enforce sanctions violations. It will allow the Treasury to take special measures to combat money laundering connected to fentanyl, and much, much more.

Approving our FEND Off Fentanyl Act will be a huge win in the battle against opioids—one of the worst public health crises in the country. I thank Chairman BROWN and Ranking Member SCOTT for championing this measure.

Finally, this year's NDAA will take important steps on artificial intelligence. My amendment, which I worked on with Senators ROUNDS, YOUNG, and HEINRICH, will increase data sharing within DOD, increase reporting on AI's use in the financial services industry, create a "bug bounty program" where ethical hackers help us find vulnerabilities in our defenses, and much, much more.

The Senate process on the NDAA stands in sharp contrast with what we saw in the House. In the Senate, Democrats and Republicans worked together, mindful of the importance to preserve our national security, while the process in the House, unfortunately, was sadly delayed and at times derailed by wildly partisan and irrele-

vant hard-right amendments that have nothing to do with defense. We have not seen that so far in the Senate. We should keep it that way.

For all these great reasons for getting the NDAA done, we hope we can get it done as soon as possible. We will begin voting today on amendments, and I hope we can keep this process moving along.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2226

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays on the substitute amendment No. 935.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

## RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:04 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 12 noon when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HICKENLOOPER).

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

## ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, President Biden welcomed the President of Israel, Isaac Herzog, to Washington.

Unfortunately, some of the loudest anti-Israel voices in the President's own party took President Herzog's visit as an opportunity to call the world's only Jewish state racist, and House Democrats' leftwing boycotted President Herzog's joint address to Congress this morning.

These activist theatrics are unbecoming of elected American officials, and they are a distraction from the real threats that America, Israel, and our Arab friends face in the Middle East. I hope these threats were the focus of the conversation between the two Presidents.

Of course, threats to our shared interests have grown, in large part due to the Biden administration's naive approach to the world's largest state sponsor of terror, Iran.

Over the last 2½ years, Iran has dramatically increased its nuclear activities and even rebuffed the administration's repeated begging for a return to President Obama's flawed deal.

It has consolidated influence in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. It funds and