

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW WILLIAM HOCHFELDER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Matthew William Hochfelder, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Matthew is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where he is completing a bachelor's degree in comparative politics with a concentration in international relations. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Matthew for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CAMRYN RIOS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Camryn Elizabeth Rios, a summer 2023 intern with my Gulf Coast regional office.

Camryn is currently a student at The University of Mississippi, where she is majoring in public policy leadership with a minor in journalism.

I extend my gratitude to Camryn for her work with my office during this semester.●

TRIBUTE TO GIANNA SOFIA ROMAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Gianna Sofia Roman, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Gianna is currently studying at the University of Florida, where she is completing a bachelor's degree in political science and women's studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Gianna for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MADISON SHEPPARD

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Madison Joelle Sheppard, a summer 2023 intern with my Gulf Coast regional office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Madison is currently a student at Florida State University, where she is majoring in international affairs and political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Madison for her work with my office during these challenging times, and I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MAEGAN SMARKUSKY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Maegan Smarkusky, a summer

2023 intern with my Gulf Coast regional office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Maegan is a recent graduate of J.W. Mitchell High School and will attend Florida State University, where she will major in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Maegan for her work with my office during these challenging times, and I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. McLaughlin, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 475. An act to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 663. An act to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

H.R. 3981. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3981. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs conducts oversight of certain educational institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2140. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Pelly Amendment to the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2141. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, a semi-annual report relative to telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba during the period from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2142. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Prohibited Exports, Imports, and Sales to or from Certain Countries - Cyprus" (RIN1400-AF69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2143. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2144. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2145. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Direction Under Section 506(a)(3) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Taiwan"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2146. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Taiwan to strengthen its self-defense capabilities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2147. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2148. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2023-0062 - 2023-0065); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2149. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2023-0066 - 2023-0073); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2150. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dispensing of Narcotic Drugs To Relieve Acute Withdrawal Symptoms of Opioid Use Disorder" ((RIN1117-AB73) (Docket No. DEA-702)) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2151. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Filling of Prescriptions for Schedule II Controlled Substances" ((RIN1117-AB45) (Docket No. DEA-469)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2152. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nomenclature Change for Dockets Management; Technical Amendment" (Docket No. FDA-2023-N-0963) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2153. A communication from the General Counsel, United States Access Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way" (RIN3014-AA26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2154. A communication from the Senior Policy Advisor, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating the Davis-Bacon Related Acts Regulations" (RIN1235-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2155. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pre-enforcement Notice and Conciliation Procedures" (RIN1250-AA14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2156. A communication from the Ombudsman, Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2022 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2157. A communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's fiscal year 2022 Actuarial Evaluation of the Expected Operations and Status of the PBGC Funds; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2158. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2159. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Administration for Community Living Traumatic Brain Injury Act Programs for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2160. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-55. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming reaffirming its commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and the State of Wyoming; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States are bonded by their shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and a free market economy; and

Whereas, on March 5, 1984, the State of Wyoming adopted Taiwan as Wyoming's sister state; and

Whereas, Taiwan ranks as the United States' eighth largest trading partner, Taiwan ranks as the United States' sixth largest agricultural goods export destination and bilateral trade between the United States and Taiwan reached an estimated one hundred fourteen billion dollars (\$114,000,000,000.00) in 2021; and

Whereas, the United States and Taiwan have welcomed the resumption of high-level trade engagement and have expressed a desire to work closely together; and

Whereas, Taiwan ranks as the State of Wyoming's eighth largest trading partner in Asia and both the State of Wyoming and Taiwan are committed to strengthening bilateral economic bonds; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relation Act in 1979 to sustain a close, bilateral relationship and to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas, based on the principles of the United States' and Taiwan's Education Initiative in 2020, Taiwan's Ministry of Education and the State of Wyoming's Department of Education signed a memorandum of understanding on educational cooperation in 2022 to further promote teacher and student exchanges and cultural awareness; and

Whereas, the United States has previously assisted Taiwan in its participation with the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization and the United States will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in these and other international organizations; and

Whereas, Taiwan, as a willing and contributing member of the world community, has made countless contributions of technical and financial assistance in the wake of natural disasters worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. That, Wyoming reaffirms its commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and the State of Wyoming.

Section 2. That Wyoming supports Taiwan's participation in internal organizations that impact the global trade, health, safety and well-being of twenty-three million (23,000,000) people in Taiwan.

Section 3. That Wyoming reiterates its support for a closer economic and trade partnership between the United States and Taiwan including signing the United States-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to Wyoming's Congressional Delegation, to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Seattle, Washington.

POM-56. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States government and Michiganders to strengthen ties with Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Whereas, the United States and Taiwan have strong ties based on shared ideals and robust bilateral trade. Taiwan shares the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, rule of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States and the state of Michigan. In 2021, the United States ranked as Taiwan's second-largest trading partner, while Taiwan was the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States, counting the European Union as a single trading partner. The countries shared 113.9 billion dollars in two-way goods trade and 19.8 billion dollars in two-way services trade in that year; and

Whereas, Taiwan is a particularly important trade partner for our nation's agricultural industry. Taiwan imported 3.9 billion dollars' worth of agricultural products from the United States in 2021, making it the sixth-largest market for United States food and agricultural products overall. Examining individual agricultural products, Taiwan was the seventh-largest market for United States soybeans and corn in 2021. Due to our high-quality produce, the United States remains one of Taiwan's largest sources of agricultural products, supplying more than one-fifth of the country's total agricultural imports in 2020; and

Whereas, the state of Michigan and Taiwan have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship, with strong bilateral trade and a long history of educational and cultural exchanges. Taiwan was Michigan's tenth-largest export market in Asia in 2022, with over 313 million dollars' worth of Michigan goods exported to Taiwan that year. Since 2006, the Michigan Department of Education and the Taiwanese Ministry of Education have had an English and Chinese language teacher exchange program, helping our citizens to grow closer and learn about each other's cultures. The Taiwan Friendship Caucus in the Michigan Legislature exists to strengthen ties between our governments, our economies, and our people. To ensure this relationship remains strong, Michigan businesses should increase their economic engagement with Taiwan; and

Whereas, the United States could take additional steps to strengthen bilateral trade with Taiwan, which would also enhance Taiwan's trade with the state of Michigan. Trade between our nations could be improved if the United States entered into a bilateral trade agreement and an avoidance of double taxation agreement with Taiwan. Taiwan could also be included in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a partnership between many Indo-Pacific nations and the United States that was created to strengthen economic cooperation. The United States invited other Indo-Pacific partners to join the IPEF in May 2022, and Taiwan should be invited to and included in this partnership; and

Whereas, Taiwan has adopted a policy of "steadfast diplomacy" in its foreign relations. This policy "aims at mutual benefit and peace, creating sustainable partnerships with diplomatic allies, and strengthening