

hear as many as 30,000,000 fewer words than children from more affluent families;

Whereas, in 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as “NAEP”) reported that—

(1) 66 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP proficient level in reading; and

(2) 37 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP basic level in reading; and

Whereas awareness of early childhood literacy issues must be heightened to encourage greater support to help children achieve reading proficiency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 20, 2023, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages States, localities, schools, early childhood education programs, and nonprofit organizations to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing public awareness about early childhood literacy issues;

(3) recognizes the need to make early childhood literacy a public priority;

(4) supports the efforts of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers dedicated to increasing childhood literacy rates;

(5) applauds the initiatives of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers that—

(A) use time and resources to address early childhood literacy issues, the causes of poor reading scores, and potential solutions to those issues; and

(B) work to promote the love of reading among children; and

(6) encourages parents, other family members, and caregivers to introduce children to the world of books and other literacy activities in different ways, including by—

(A) reading to children;

(B) telling stories;

(C) teaching letters and words; and

(D) visiting libraries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 431—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL WOMEN’S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH”

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WARNER, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Ms. BUTLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 431

Whereas there are more than 12,000,000 women-owned businesses in the United States;

Whereas women-owned businesses generate \$1,800,000,000 in total revenue;

Whereas women-owned businesses employ more than 9,230,000 workers;

Whereas 38 percent of small businesses are women-owned;

Whereas women entrepreneurs continue to face challenges in Federal contracting, mentorship, and access to capital; and

Whereas the celebration of “National Women’s Small Business Month” would honor the efforts of women business owners and women entrepreneurs and recognize the significance of the contributions of these business owners and entrepreneurs to the small business community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2023 as “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(2) honors the vital role of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs in the United States during “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(3) recognizes the significant contributions of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs to the small business community;

(4) supports and encourages young women entrepreneurs to pursue their passions and create more start-up businesses;

(5) recognizes the importance of creating policies that promote a business-friendly environment for small business owners that is free of unnecessary and burdensome regulations and red tape; and

(6) supports efforts to—

(A) encourage consumers to shop locally; and

(B) increase awareness of the value of locally-owned small businesses and the impact of women-owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 432—RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH COMMEMORATION OF THE ANTISEMITIC ATTACK THAT OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 27, 2018, AT A SYNAGOGUE IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 432

Whereas, on October 27, 2018, a mass shooting took place at the Tree of Life synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where members of the Tree of Life, Dor Hadash, and New Light congregations were engaged in Shabbat morning services;

Whereas 11 innocent worshippers were killed, 2 congregants were critically injured, and 5 law enforcement officers were injured while attempting to rescue victims and apprehend the perpetrator in the deadliest antisemitic attack in the history of the United States;

Whereas the 11 innocent worshippers killed in the attack included—

(1) Joyce Fienberg;

(2) Richard Gottfried;

(3) Rose Mallinger;

(4) Jerry Rabinowitz;

(5) Cecil Rosenthal;

(6) David Rosenthal;

(7) Bernice Simon;

(8) Sylvan Simon;

(9) Daniel Stein;

(10) Melvin Wax; and

(11) Irving Younger;

Whereas the perpetrator of the attack espoused antisemitic views and targeted the

individuals worshipping at the Tree of Life synagogue because of their religious beliefs;

Whereas, on June 16, 2023, a Federal jury in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, found the perpetrator of the attack guilty on 63 counts, including hate crimes and the obstruction of the free exercise of religion resulting in death;

Whereas the people of the United States commend the service of those jury members, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, the Allegheny County Police, all other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies who assisted with the investigation, and the prosecution team from the United States Attorney’s Office in the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Department of Justice that worked to bring the perpetrator to justice;

Whereas antisemitism remains an evil and destructive form of identity-based hate that destroys lives and runs contrary to the values of the United States; and

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League recorded 3,697 incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism and assault throughout the United States in 2022, representing a 36 percent increase in antisemitic incidents from 2021, and the largest number of antisemitic incidents on record since the Anti-Defamation League began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory of the victims who were killed in the horrific, antisemitic attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2018, and expresses the hope that their memory may continue to be a blessing to their families and community;

(2) honors the selfless and dedicated service of—

(A) the law enforcement and emergency response officials who responded to the attack;

(B) the medical professionals who provided and continue to provide care for the victims; and

(C) the law enforcement agencies and Federal prosecutors who worked to investigate and hold the perpetrator accountable in Federal court for his hateful, antisemitic attack on the Jewish community;

(3) expresses continued solidarity and support to the Tree of Life, Dor Hadash, and New Light congregations, the Pittsburgh Jewish community, and the families, friends, and loved ones affected by the tragedy;

(4) commends the Tree of Life community for, in the wake of tragedy, dedicating itself to efforts to eliminate antisemitism and other forms of identity-based hate;

(5) condemns rising antisemitism and stands with the Jewish communities in Pittsburgh, the United States, and around the world; and

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States—

(A) to condemn antisemitism in all its forms;

(B) to protect the right of the people of the United States to freely exercise their religious beliefs; and

(C) to ensure the safety and security of all people of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1357. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 662, to amend the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 to improve disaster relief funding for agricultural producers, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1357. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 662, to amend the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 to improve disaster relief funding for agricultural producers, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Block Grant Assistance Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023, AMENDMENT.

Title I of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division N of Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5201), is amended, in the matter under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS—PROCESSING, RESEARCH AND MARKETING—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY”, by inserting “: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may provide assistance for losses described under this heading in this Act in the form of block grants to eligible States and territories” before the period at the end.

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.

Amounts repurposed under the amendment made by section 2 that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and section 1(e) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022, are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I have 10 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the ses-

sion of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

The Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that John Schmidt, a detailee in my office,

be granted floor privileges until December 31 of this year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, as provided under the order of October 24; further, that if Senator PAUL makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 44 from the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.; further, that if the motion to discharge is not agreed to, the Senate vote on the Braun amendment No. 1182 to H.R. 4366; finally, that upon disposition of the Braun amendment, the Senate move to consideration of S.J. Res. 42; that there be up to 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and that following the use or yielding back of time, the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 25, 2023:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JESSICA LOOMAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.