

United States for leadership right here on this floor.

If we override the veto of the President, Senator RUBIO's resolution would undermine domestic production of EV chargers. This resolution would create greater uncertainty for our domestic EV charging industry, directly contradicting our goal of having this equipment made and assembled right here in America. That is why groups like the AFL-CIO and the United Steelworkers oppose the Rubio resolution. It would mean shipping jobs overseas instead of building our supply chain right here at home.

This resolution would actually weaken "Buy American" requirements. It would result in more EV charging projects being built overseas, not less. It would undermine American workers and our Nation's ability to be global leaders in electric vehicles.

Put simply, a vote to override the veto is a vote against American manufacturing of EV chargers.

That is why I oppose this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do so as well. Thirty-five percent of our emissions in this country for global warming come from our mobile sources—35 percent. It is imperative we continue to work on that and go after that as our target.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON VETO MESSAGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays are required under the Constitution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Bennet	Carper	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Coons	Hassan
Butler	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Cantwell	Duckworth	Hickenlooper

Hirono	Murray	Smith
Kaine	Ossoff	Stabenow
Kelly	Padilla	Van Hollen
King	Paul	Warner
Klobuchar	Peters	Warnock
Lujan	Reed	Warren
Markey	Rosen	Welch
Menendez	Schatz	Whitehouse
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Murphy	Shaheen	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso Moran Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote the yeas are 50, the nays are 47.

Two-thirds of the Senators voting, having not voted in the affirmative, the joint resolution under consideration fails to pass over the President's veto.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I rise today on the final day recognizing Black History Month to bring attention to this Chamber and to the American people watching the very harmful and anti-democratic practice of book banning happening or being attempted in States all over our country.

The First Amendment in our Constitution is clear:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

This amendment gives all Americans the right to speak, publish, and read what they wish, free from government censorship. But a nationwide campaign in States like Florida, Texas, Utah, North Dakota, and even California has been deployed to limit our children's learning and enforce restrictions on one of our most fundamental freedoms.

Right now extremist politicians are working overtime to strip our Nation's bookshelves of essential literature that helps to tell the complete story of America, including the stories of great sacrifice, contribution, and pain of Black Americans. These include stories of struggle and triumph against hatred and bigotry. They recount efforts to reconcile the promise of American ideals with the reality of our most pervasive challenges. Authors who have long been recognized as chroniclers of our Nation's journey have been written off by lawmakers who seek to narrow

the scope of what our children can learn about our history.

Now, the organizers of these State-by-State battles would have you believe that they are upholding parents' choice, that imposing these book bans would somehow protect the innocence of our children. But I and so many others who have been watching this contend that the mass effort to shield young learners is an utter slap in the face to communities who too long had to fight to have their very stories told.

Our Nation's most ethnically and racially diverse generation have seen themselves reflected in these pages, and for these extremist adults to deem these stories inappropriate is a direct attack on their experience and their very existence.

Over the past 2 years, these blanket attacks on our books have become more organized and well funded. In 2022, more than 2,500 books were targeted. According to the American Library Association, the majority of those books were about Black or LGBTQ-plus people.

As only the 12th Black Senator to serve in this Chamber and the first openly LGBTQ Black Senator to serve, I will not stand by silently as our stories get erased. That is why I will be joining the Freedom Readers and their efforts to ensure the freedom to learn by regularly taking to the Senate floor and inviting my colleagues to join me to read excerpts of books that tell the story of our Nation, its legacy, and the people who contribute to America's character of imperfection, of resilience, and of progress.

"SISTER OUTSIDER"

I will start today by offering excerpts from an essay in a book titled "Sister Outsider," by Audre Lorde. Anyone who is remotely familiar with Lorde's exceptional body of work can contest to her genius as a writer, a poet, a philosopher, and a civil rights activist.

Her book "Sister Outsider" is a collection of speeches and essays in which Ms. Lorde explores the questions surrounding race, identity, life, community, and meaning from her lens as a Black queer woman from Harlem, encouraging readers to do their own self-reflection and inviting them to draw new conclusions about the world around them, and to speak and take action.

Ms. Lorde's work "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action" first appeared in the Cancer Journal, where she shares her journey of having breast cancer, which ultimately led to a mastectomy. It reads, in part:

In becoming forcibly and essentially aware of my mortality, and of what I wished and wanted of my life, however short it may be, priorities and omissions became strongly etched in a merciless light, and what I most regretted were my silences. Of what had I ever been afraid of? To question or to speak as I believed could have meant pain, or death. But we all hurt in so many different ways, all the time, and pain will either change or end. Death, on the other hand, is

the final silence. And that might be coming quickly, now, without regard for whether I had ever spoken what needed to be said, or had only betrayed myself into small silences, while I planned someday to speak, or waited for someone else's words. And I began to recognize a source of power within myself that comes from the knowledge that while it is most desirable not to be afraid, learning to put fear into perspective gave me great strength.

She writes:

Within those weeks of acute fear came the knowledge—within the war we are all waging with the forces of death, subtle and otherwise, conscious or not—I am not only a casualty, I am also a warrior.

What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say? What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence? Perhaps for some of you here today, I am the face of one of your fears. Because I am woman, because I am Black, because I am lesbian, because I am myself—a Black woman warrior poet doing work—who has come to ask you, are you doing yours?

Ms. Lorde continues:

And it is never without fear—of visibility, of the harsh light of scrutiny and perhaps judgment, of pain, of death. But we have lived through all of those already, in silence, except death. And I remind myself all the time now that if I were to have been born mute or had maintained an oath of silence my whole life long for safety, I would still have suffered, and I would still die. And where the words of women are crying to be heard, we must, each of us, recognize our responsibility to seek those words out, to read them and share them and examine them in their pertinence to our lives. That we not hide behind the mockeries of separations that have been imposed upon us and which so often we accept as our own.

We can learn to work and speak when we are afraid in the same way we have learned to work and speak when we are tired. For we have been socialized to respect fear more than our own needs for language and definition, and while we wait in silence for that final luxury of fearlessness, the weight of that silence will choke us.

The fact that we are here and that I speak these words is an attempt to break that silence and bridge some of those differences between us, for it is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken.

In closing, the writings of Ms. Lorde's in "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action" are not only a beautiful articulation in examining the cost of being silent in the face of what could have been for her a terminal illness, she gives us an even better gift: She invites us to acknowledge our commonalities as well as our differences in order to give them voice and to deepen our understanding and expand the power of our words and turn those words into action.

While Ms. Lorde first wrote and delivered this essay in 1977, I think we could all agree that it could easily have been written just yesterday.

Shamefully enough, school administrators in Tennessee took steps to target this book and to issue educational gag orders with a goal to suppress hundreds of other stories from being told.

Now more than ever, we must heed Ms. Lorde's call to speak into the si-

lence, to raise our voices and reject the intimidation of those who would have the history of our Nation, the beauty of our differences, and the complexity of our humanity disappear from generations of learners to come.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me as Freedom Readers, to challenge those who attempt to undermine our history, and uplift the diversity of our stories against the attacks to erase them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

BICENTENNIAL OF VERMILLION COUNTY, INDIANA

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Vermillion County, IN, on the occasion of its bicentennial, which occurred earlier this month.

I begin this tribute thousands of miles and an ocean away from West Central Indiana, in Iejima, which is an island off the coast of Okinawa. There in Iejima, in a park by the side of a road, stands a small monument made of white stone. There is a bronze plaque that is placed near its base, and it reads:

At this spot the 77th Infantry Division lost a buddy, Ernie Pyle, 18th April 1945.

They weren't the only ones who lost a friend that day. No other writer so vividly captured the experiences of the American soldier or better chronicled the war that they fought during World War II than Ernie Pyle. The warmth and directness of Ernie Pyle's columns channeled the voice of the GI and communicated it clearly to the countrymen back home.

Pyle was by so many accounts America's greatest war correspondent. He was a shy farm boy from the town of Dana in Vermillion County. In fact, the house he was born in is still there. His writing style reflected his upbringing in the warmth of smalltown America and Hoosier common sense.

That monument that I mentioned near the spot he died is just one of the incredible things that Vermillion County's people have accomplished and how the values instilled there made them possible.

Now, I will allow that not all Americans have heard of this part of Indiana. After all, it is a small spot on the map, bounded to the east by the Wabash River—7 miles wide, 37 miles long—home to less than 16,000 citizens, but as Ernie Pyle's life demonstrates, we are all, each and every one of us, better off because of the Hoosiers who have called Vermillion County home.

They have done great things, and they have done them quietly, in and far away from their own communities. In fact, when our Union was in peril, our freedoms threatened, Vermillion County's residents answered the call again and again and again.

They fought in the siege of Vicksburg, suffered in the misery of Andersonville. Their bodies rest far from Vermillion County's Hoosier soil. They are in American cemeteries abroad. Their names can be found on the tab-

lets of the lost. Their families still hold the Purple Hearts and hang the Gold Star banners.

These Hoosiers have not only defended America, but with their industriousness and creativity, they have contributed to all of our walks of life.

The area's first settlers discovered the richness of Vermillion County soil. Two centuries later, their descendants still work the land. In fact, hundreds of farms—many of them family-owned—help drive the local economy and feed our Nation.

Vermillion County has provided much else, though: leaders—leaders who have risen to Indiana's highest offices; but not just leaders—explorers, actors, athletes, engineers, and, of course, one legendary journalist who was the voice of the American soldier and won the Pulitzer Prize.

The rich history of Vermillion County isn't simply characterized by a list of outbound citizens, though. It is also characterized by hopeful new arrivals.

At the end of the 19th century, the town of Clinton was a destination for Italian immigrants seeking employment in the nearby coal mines. They embraced their new home and their country, and they left a legacy in Vermillion County that is still visible and recalled every September. The Little Italy Festival is a 4-day celebration of Clinton's Italian heritage held almost every Labor Day since 1966. It is one of the most cherished local traditions.

With its small towns, their historic buildings, family businesses, its beautiful landscapes, and beloved covered bridges, Vermillion County is quintessential Indiana and quintessential America. But it is the Hoosiers who live there that we can celebrate on this anniversary.

A story Ernie Pyle recorded from "good old Dana"—as he put it—catches their spirit just as clearly as his reports from the front gave voice to the GIs. You see, when Pyle's mother suffered a stroke, she badly needed a hospital bed. There was only one in the entire county. It was the property of a family living 8 miles away. They were happy to loan it, but the Pyles had no way to transport their bed to their home. When he heard about this dilemma, one Claude Lockeridge, who lived just down the road from the Pyles, fired up his old Model T truck and drove 16 miles in the snow to fetch the bed.

It is a little gesture of kindness, perhaps, but a million of these are what makes America—and I would argue, it is what makes America great.

The occasion of its 200th anniversary is a fitting time not simply to honor Vermillion County but to remember—to remember how much our small towns and our local communities matter and how essential the decency, kindness, and patriotism found in places like Vermillion County is to our Republic.

To the people of Vermillion County, we join you in the celebration of your