

threats we share. With our allies South Korea, Japan, and Australia, we should discuss nuclear burden-sharing agreements. It is time for them to step forward and join us in nuclear burden sharing.

Just as former Japanese prime minister, the late Shinzo Abe, suggested in 2022, we should also explore redeploying American nuclear weapons back where they have been in the past, to that region, to keep North Korea and China in check.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has taken a first step to fix our nuclear shortfalls in the Pacific. And this is as a result of a panel of experts that this Congress authorized, that this President signed legislation for, and which has met over the past several years, and which reported to us on—not a bipartisan basis but a unanimous bipartisan basis.

Our action in the NDAA reflects that unanimous recommendation of experts. In that regard, we authorized the continued development of the sea-launched nuclear cruise missile. This will help us rise to the challenge posed by our adversaries' tactical nuclear weapons.

The committee has also focused its defense budget increase on exactly the kinds of weapons and infrastructure that will be most helpful as we seek to deter our adversaries—to deter our adversaries from making a fatal mistake so that we can continue the peace.

Those steps are tailored to the Pacific, but the goals match the overall theme of this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Just as we did under the administration of Ronald Reagan, we can achieve peace through strength. But we must achieve it through strength. That is the way Reagan did it, and he did it with a Democratic Senate and a Democratic House for many of those years.

We can contain the rising axis of aggressors, but we can do so only if we make a once-in-a-generation investment in our Armed Forces.

This is not a luxury. This is not a frill for our military that is to be desired by some of them. This is an absolute necessity.

Listen to the witnesses that have come before us in open sessions of our committee. Almost to a man and a woman, they have said: This is the most dangerous defense situation that we have had in, if not decades, generations.

These are the people that we look to for information and leadership, and this is the nonclassified testimony. Those of us who see all of the information, see further need for this necessity, not this frill.

So, as I said earlier, my Senate Armed Services Committee colleagues agree. We recognize the danger, and we have taken the first step to meet the moment. Last week, we did agree to the defense topline increase of \$25 billion, and, frankly, experts who have done this before tell you that we really

needed twice as much. But this is what we could get passed out of the committee.

The topline increase is a downpayment on the defense investment that is necessary to keep Americans safe. It would help reverse the downsizing of our Navy, help reverse the downsizing of our Air Force, and would bring the next-generation weapons to the field faster.

It includes \$5.5 billion to accelerate production of key munitions and counter-drone gear.

The increase would invest over \$1 billion in space capabilities crucial for 21st century warfare. And, Mr. President, you know this and every Member of the Senate knows this: The next war, if we cannot avoid it, will be fought in space, and it will be fought with lasers, in addition to the oceans and in addition to on the ground. We are in need of providing ourselves with the resources to meet that kind of new warfare that we have never seen in the history of mankind.

It would invest \$6 billion in military construction and maintenance for our barracks, training ranges, and military infrastructure, and a pay raise for those Americans—those brave young Americans, those brave young men and women—who are willing to step forward and say: I am going to take an oath to serve my country during dangerous times.

So Putin's visit to North Korea is just another sign that we have no time to waste. The axis has already started solidifying, as I pointed out.

Senate leadership needs to bring the NDAA to the floor for a vote soon. Delays only diminish American strength and embolden our adversaries.

Again, I commend my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee, and I call on our leadership to bring this essential legislation forward now so that we can let the appropriators know what we actually need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 742

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to remind this body that 42 days ago, it was confirmed that Martin Gruenberg fueled a toxic workplace culture at the FDIC. Yet he is still collecting a taxpayer-funded salary.

On his first day in office, President Biden said:

I am not joking when I say this: If you're ever working with me and I hear you treat another with disrespect . . . I promise you I will fire you on the spot.

So that begs the question: Did the President forget his pledge or is he just ignoring it?

Well, President Biden, it is time to put up or shut up.

At Chairman Gruenberg's FDIC, employees stalked one another. They sent coworkers unwanted sexual photos of themselves and others. They made gross, lewd, and downright sexist comments, designed to belittle, intimidate,

and sexualize their female coworkers. As the FDIC's own hand-picked investigator stated, "for far too many employees and for far too long, the FDIC has failed to provide a workplace safe from sexual harassment, discrimination, and other interpersonal misconduct."

The FDIC needs to clean up the raunchy 1990s frat house that Gruenberg has allowed to fester, and there is no better place to start than at the top. Gruenberg has proven he lacks the skills, judgment, and temperament to lead the FDIC. How can someone who can't regulate the behavior of the Agency be trusted to regulate the banking industry?

He can't, and that has been proven. Public reports say Gruenberg personally looked the other way when it came to sexism, harassment, and racial discrimination. Investigators determined that Gruenberg himself had a reputation of "losing his temper and interacting with staff in a demeaning and inappropriate way." They also claimed Gruenberg was either unable or unwilling to recognize his failures, except when the writing was on the wall.

I am aware Gruenberg has agreed to resign, but only after the Senate confirms a replacement. By his own admission, Gruenberg must resign—not tomorrow, not next week, but today. But we all know why he is refusing to just quit today. If and when the FDIC chairmanship becomes vacant, the Vice Chair, who is currently a Republican, assumes the chairmanship.

Now, President Biden has nominated someone to backfill Gruenberg, and I look forward to reviewing her record and her credentials. But we all know it will take significant time for her to go through the confirmation process and face a vote here in the Senate.

Let us be crystal clear about what is happening. President Biden is letting a dirtbag run the FDIC for who knows how long because he cares more about politics than protecting women in the workplace.

Integrity means doing the right thing when no one is looking. At this turbulent time, the FDIC deserves a leader who acts with integrity, and Gruenberg's conduct doesn't fit the bill. Simply put, the time has come to turn the page on Martin Gruenberg. President Biden should put his money where his mouth is and fire him.

But since Biden doesn't seem to remember his own pledge, it is the responsibility of the Senate to remind him of it. And for that reason, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 742, which is at the desk. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first, I want to agree with my friend from Iowa. There is no question that we need a new FDIC Chair. We don't need a bunch of potshots on the President or using this for political purposes. We need a new FDIC Chair, and the good news is that the President has already sent the Senate a nomination for a new Chair.

So, first of all, this resolution isn't necessary. It is not going to do anything to improve the culture of the FDIC. I wish it would, but it won't. The reality is that the Banking and Housing Committee is moving quickly to consider and report out the nomination.

Additionally, I should just note the resolution has some factual inaccuracies that misrepresent the findings of the third-party report. But the most important thing is that the Senate should be focused on providing new leadership that can implement the recommendations of the third-party report and begin the much needed overhaul of the FDIC.

I could not agree more. We need to work together. Put the potshots and partisanship aside. It is not about attacking the President. It is about getting this person out of there to be able to have new leadership come in.

That is what is happening. That person has been nominated. The Banking and Housing Committee are moving forward, and that is where we need to be focused. Anything else is just wasting time.

So, with that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, the women of the FDIC do deserve more than a fly-by-night confirmation. This needs to be carefully considered. Simply put, this position at this time is too important.

We are talking about an Agency that for literally decades has been plagued by some of the most toxic working conditions that any of us have ever seen.

So we know that President Joe Biden has nominated Commissioner Romero to replace a scumbag—we know that—but it doesn't mean that her nomination shouldn't be carefully scrutinized. So we do hope we can put some time and consideration into the nomination.

But I would say that getting rid of Martin Gruenberg today would state to the employees of the FDIC that the President takes these allegations seriously and that he does want to prevent sexual harassment, hopefully setting the stage for future leaders within the FDIC, because right now, those employees do not feel they have been heard. Allowing Martin Gruenberg to continue in the position is just furthering—furthering—the way they feel, and they feel very little at this time.

Sexual harassment has no place in this workplace or any workplace. The President needs to send a strong message to the FDIC that it will not be tolerated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

VOTE ON SULLIVAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sullivan nomination?

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay," the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL)

would have voted "nay," the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay," and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Ex.]

YEAS—45

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Butler	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Smith
Cardin	King	Stabenow
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Lujan	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Welch
Duckworth	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Durbin	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—26

Blackburn	Graham	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Capito	Hawley	Rounds
Cassidy	Hoeven	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Wicker
Ernst	Lummis	Young
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—29

Barrasso	Johnson	Rubio
Braun	Manchin	Sanders
Britt	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Budd	Menendez	Sinema
Cramer	Moran	Sullivan
Crapo	Murkowski	Tillis
Daines	Murray	Tuberville
Fetterman	Ricketts	Vance
Hagerty	Risch	Warnock
Hyde-Smith	Romney	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider with respect to the Sullivan nomination be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

(The remarks of Mr. CARDIN pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 743 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. CARDIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Oklahoma.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, there is a difference between a refugee who was fully vetted, that America has welcomed historically and should continue to, and we will. We worked for decades to be able to honor refugees and to be able to do our part in what is happening around the world. That same standard for refugees, where an individual is identified, the family is vetted, they go through the process both at the U.N. and through the United States to be able to identify how to be able to help that family, that same definition for "refugee" is also used as a definition for "asylee." It is the same definition, but there is a dramatic difference between the two.