

and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

### ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on S. 2073.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2073) entitled "An Act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes" do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3021

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. SCHUMER. I move that the Senate concur in the House amendment to S. 2073 with amendment No. 3021, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 2073 with an amendment numbered 3021.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be dispensed with.

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

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

### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 2073, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes, with amendment No. 3021.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Mark R. Warner, Edward J. Markey, Gary C. Peters, John W. Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Raphael G. Warnock, Cory A. Booker, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur with the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3022 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3021

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to amendment No. 3021, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3022 to amendment No. 3021.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be dispensed with.

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

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.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3023

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to refer the House message to the Committee on Homeland Security with instructions to report back forthwith an amendment No. 3023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to the refer House message to accompany S. 2073 with instructions to report back forthwith an amendment numbered 3023.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be waived.

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

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 2 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3024

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3024 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike "2 days" and insert "3 days".

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3025 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3024

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment to amendment No. 3024, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3025 to amendment No. 3024.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading of the amendment be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

On page 1, line 1, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have some good news for the Senate. Before we adjourn this evening, I would like to celebrate two significant bills that just passed the Senate two moments ago.

First, just now, the Senate unanimously passed a bill to combat the spread of sexually explicit AI-generated deepfakes, the DEFIANCE Act. I commend Senator DURBIN for his excellent work on this bill. I was proud to support it every step of the way, and it is a very, very important thing we get this bill done.

As we know, AI plays a bigger role in our lives than ever before. While it has many benefits, it is also easier than ever to create sexually explicit deepfakes without a person's consent. It is a horrible attack on someone's privacy and dignity to have these fake images of them circulating online without recourse.

This isn't just some fringe issue that happens to only a few people. It is a widespread problem. These types of malicious and hurtful pictures can destroy lives. Nobody is immune, not even celebrities like Taylor Swift or Megan Thee Stallion. It is a grotesque practice. Victims of these deepfakes are deserved justice. This is one of the examples of the AI guardrails I often talk about.

AI is a remarkable technology that can spur incredible innovation, but we must pass guardrails to prevent its worst abuses from causing people grave harm.

By passing this bill, we are telling victims of explicit nonconsensual deepfakes that we hear them and we are taking action. I urge the House now to take up this piece of legislation so victims of nonconsensual deepfakes can have the justice they deserve. It is just awful what people do to people

with deepfakes. This bill will end that. It is a very good thing.

We passed another very good bill a few moments ago as well. The Senate passed the Preventing Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act. This bill will get to the root of financing behind these deadly and destructive drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine. I have led the way here in the Senate for months cracking down on supply chains of drugs like fentanyl.

Last fall, I met with Chinese President Xi and urged him and the Chinese Government to do more work to crack down on companies that allow precursor chemicals to make their way to countries like Mexico and made often by gangs into fentanyl and sent into the U.S.

Just a few months ago, I led the Senate passing the national security supplemental, which included the FEND Off Fentanyl Act. This bill is another step in that direction—the right direction—to better understand and anticipate how malicious synthetic drug traffickers finance their operations.

Two Senators worked very hard on this legislation and deserve the credit. Our two Senators from Nevada, Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO and Senator JACKY ROSEN. I want to commend them for their excellent work.

So these two bills—they are passing quietly later this evening, but they are very important. I hope that people will take notice of them and show that the Senate is fighting the scourge of drugs and fighting the scourge of deepfakes.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, 13 years ago last week South Sudan became an independent country. I want to congratulate the people of South Sudan on this milestone. The United States has long supported the aspirations of the people of South Sudan in their struggle for independence and democratic governance. John Garang, the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, would visit the Senate to build support for the fight for self-determination.

Today, despite those efforts, South Sudan is a textbook case of a failed state where, despite rich oil deposits, millions of destitute people depend on international aid for their daily survival. Last week, the United States announced more than \$57 million in additional humanitarian assistance to address urgent needs of hundreds of thousands of crisis-affected people in South Sudan.

In 2005, the year John Garang died, the United States, Norway, and the

United Kingdom—known collectively as the Troika—supported Kenya and the other regional member states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to broker the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, or the CPA. The CPA ended what, at that time, was the longest armed conflict in Africa and gave the people of South Sudan an historic opportunity to vote in a referendum that culminated in their Declaration of Independence on July 9, 2011. Their hope, and the hope of the United States and our allies, was that South Sudan was finally beginning a new democratic chapter based on the rule of law—with security, competent and honest elected leaders, and new opportunities for equitable economic development and trade.

The return of political violence in South Sudan in December 2013 was shocking to both the people of South Sudan and the international community. The leaders of South Sudan took up arms to consolidate their grip on political and economic power. Motivated by greed and personal ambition, they sacrificed the hopes, aspirations, and welfare of the South Sudanese people who, in the years since, have lost everything—including their hard-won self-rule. Today, their country is run by warlords who have driven the country into bankruptcy through grand corruption, impoverishing millions.

The democratic aspirations of the South Sudanese people, their ability to live a dignified life, and opportunities to educate their children, have all been stifled. The warlords have established a brutal authoritarian regime that has no respect for human rights or civil liberties, and no regard for democracy and the rule of law. The U.S. Department of State and human rights organizations report a pattern of repression against political dissidents, as well as widespread sexual violence against women and girls.

On July 3, 2024, South Sudan's Parliament passed repressive National Security legislation that gives a wide range of authorities to the National Security Service and its affiliated opaque institutions that have terrorized the people of South Sudan for years. The passage of this law reinforces the fact that the current government of South Sudan does not embrace human rights and democratic values. Such actions make it extremely difficult for the United States to find areas of common ground with South Sudan's leaders.

My predecessor Senator Patrick Leahy was outspoken about the calamity facing the people of South Sudan and the need for new leadership. As he said on January 6, 2022, and later that year on August 6, the government of President Kiir and Vice President Machar has shuttered both political and civic spaces, increasing the risk of political violence. It was not long ago, in August 2021, when peaceful protests organized by the People's Coalition for Civil Action—PCCA—were met with

death threats, arbitrary arrests, trumped up treason charges, and forced exile.

One of the leaders of that organization Abraham Awolich was one of the "Lost Boys" who ended up in a refugee camp in Kenya at the age of 10. From there, he was resettled to my home State of Vermont, and he later graduated from the University of Vermont. In 2011, he returned to his homeland to help with rebuilding the country, but like other pro-democracy advocates, the government of South Sudan regarded him as a threat for standing up against tyranny and dictatorship, and he was forced out of the country. He returned to the University of Vermont, where he is working towards a Ph.D.

Neighboring governments and the international community, including the United States, have given the leaders of South Sudan multiple opportunities to put their country on a path toward peace and democracy, as called for in the CPA. These gestures have been met with intransigence and a total disregard for the will of the South Sudanese people. The August 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan was such an opportunity, but it was squandered when the leaders resorted to violence to resolve a political stalemate. The government claimed that the agreement was imposed on it, and President Kiir launched his own South Sudan National Dialogue, which he hoped would endorse his goal to remain in office indefinitely. The people of South Sudan, to the contrary, called on President Kiir and Vice President Machar to step down and blamed them for the instability, violence, and corruption plaguing the country.

As if to confirm the fear and verdict of their people, forces controlled by Kiir and Machar again resorted to deadly violence in July 2016. That round of violence resulted in many lives lost, the displacement of civilians, and the collapse of the 2015 agreement.

The African regional governments, with the support of the international community, gave President Kiir and Vice President Machar another opportunity to do right for their people by negotiating the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, which was signed in 2018. That agreement was intended to last 36 months until an election. Nearly 80 months later, there has been no significant progress. Instead, President Kiir and his government have acted to frustrate peace, undermine democracy, and subvert the rule of law. Now, both leaders are contemplating another 24 months in office, something the people of South Sudan cannot afford.

The fear of starvation is a reality for millions of people in South Sudan. The economy has collapsed, billions of dollars in oil revenue have been stolen and squandered, and there is a great sense of urgency to restore security and rebuild the economy. The country needs