

more than 2 months ago. They did their job in a bipartisan way. That, in and of itself, is a miracle. But it should have been brought to the floor and opened for debate and votes and passage.

I want to commend Senator REED of Rhode Island, the chairman; Ranking Member WICKER; and all of our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for doing their job. Now, the majority leader needs to do his job so that we can do our job. It is long past time for Senator SCHUMER to bring this vital legislation to the floor. We are playing with fire, I believe, at a time when the national security threats loom so large, and I hope we will soon get a chance to debate and to vote on this bill.

Given the great power of competition and the fact that conflicts have unfolded in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific, the NDAA should be a top priority. It is regrettable that the majority leader doesn't see it as a priority.

Well, Mr. President, when you can't plan, you can't get ready, and so it is no exaggeration to say we now find ourselves in a true readiness crisis. We can't delay consideration of the Defense authorization bill. We can delay it, but we can't postpone our problems, and our adversaries are not acting on Majority Leader SCHUMER's timeline.

America's strength and leadership are vital to global security and equally vital to protecting our homeland. So the Democratic-led Senate should not ignore its responsibility to bolster our readiness and certainly should not stand in the way of the rest of us who are interested in addressing these challenges.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING MAY 22, 2024, AS THE 205TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE ROLE THAT MEMPHIS HAS PLAYED IN SHAPING THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 806, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 806) recognizing May 22, 2024, as the 205th anniversary of the founding of Memphis, Tennessee, and acknowledging the role that Memphis has played in shaping the history, culture, and economy of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 806) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

AFTER SCHOOL ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, it is September, which means that, across the country, America's 54 million K-12 students are starting the new school year. For so many parents and students, this is an exciting time, with new classes and teachers and projects and friends and opportunities for academic success. But for too many others, the new school year brings a growing risk, and that is juvenile crime.

Across the country, 64 percent of violent juvenile crime happens on school days, peaking between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. At a time when violent juvenile crime is rising across the country, I know many communities, including in Tennessee, are looking to the new year with apprehension.

After years of steadily declining juvenile crime, in 2023, Shelby County saw a staggering 4,546 juvenile charges. Now, that is up 37 percent from 2021, and that spike in Memphis follows spikes we are seeing in cities like Washington, DC, and New York City, where the average age of a carjacking suspect last year was 15 years old.

Now, young people are facing little supervision at the end of the schoolday and before their parents get home from work, and they are being lured into gangs that plague cities with theft, drug dealing, and murder. In Memphis, there are at least 30 criminal gangs that are out recruiting children as young as 8 years old into their operations.

Every young American and Tennessean deserves the opportunity to succeed and avoid the dangers of criminal activity, and Congress has an incredible opportunity to help ensure that. Alongside Senator CORTEZ MASTO, I have introduced the AFTER SCHOOL Act, which would create a grant program administered through the Justice Department for local communities like Memphis to establish, maintain, and strengthen afterschool programs with the goal of reducing violent crime among juveniles.

Time and again, afterschool programs—ranging from athletics and tutoring to music and volunteer work—have proven to be successful at keeping young children out of trouble and focused on their own personal development. Across two different studies conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago, afterschool programs helped reduce arrests among at-risk

teens by 28 to 35 percent and violent crime by 45 to 50 percent. Recidivism rates among participants, meanwhile, fell 21 percent.

At the same time, studies have shown that afterschool programs improve behavior in class, decrease the likelihood of drug abuse, and promote academic success. The success of these programs is a big reason why the Memphis City Council unanimously endorsed and supported this bipartisan legislation.

With juvenile crime on the rise, the lives of countless young Tennesseans and Americans are at stake, and I call on all of my colleagues to support the AFTER SCHOOL Act to secure a brighter future for our Nation's youth.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

TRIBUTE TO ANN CLAIRE WILLIAMS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have served on the Senate Judiciary Committee for more than two decades. During that time, I have evaluated and voted on more than 1,000 judicial nominees in the committee and on the Senate floor. I now serve as the chair of the committee, where one of my greatest privileges is helping to confirm President Biden's judicial nominees to the Federal bench. We have been steadfastly committed to confirming highly qualified, independent, and evenhanded judges; judges who rule with reason and restraint; judges who respect the rule of law, pursue justice, and answer only to the Constitution. And we have been committed to confirming judges who reflect the demographic and professional diversity of our Nation. So, it is safe to say that I understand what makes a person a capable arbiter of the law. The Hon. Ann Claire Williams is one such remarkable jurist.

For the entirety of her career, Judge Williams has defied odds and broken boundaries. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan nominated her to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of

Illinois. She made history, becoming the first woman of color to serve on a district court in the Seventh Circuit. More than a decade later, President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Williams to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, making her the first judge of color to sit on that court, and only the third Black woman in history to serve on any Federal circuit court.

Even before she was appointed to the Federal bench, Judge Williams was no stranger to breaking barriers. After graduating from Notre Dame Law School, she clerked for Judge Robert A. Sprecher on the Seventh Circuit. She was one of the first two female African-American law clerks to work on that court. Thereafter, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Illinois for 9 years, becoming the first woman of color to serve as supervisor in that office and later becoming the first chief of the Northern District of Illinois' Organized Drug Enforcement Task Force in 1983. In short, Judge Williams is a trailblazer.

Over the course of her storied career, Judge Williams has gone above and beyond in her commitment to pro bono and civic work. She recently finished her third consecutive term as chair of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, which conducts peer review evaluations of all lifetime appointed Federal judges. I share her commitment to making sure our Federal bench is comprised of jurists who have the requisite integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament to serve, and I commend her for her dedication to this work. Additionally, Judge Williams became the first person of color to become an officer of the Federal Judges Association when she ascended to its treasurer and president positions, helping to strengthen the judicial community.

Judge Williams's call to serve has extended beyond the duties related to the bench. She helped found the Public Interest Fellowship Program of Equal Justice Works, a nonprofit that seeks to promote a lifelong commitment to public service and equal justice. And in Illinois, she helped to found Just the Beginning-A Pipeline Organization, which encourages students of color and those from underrepresented groups to pursue career and leadership opportunities in the law. You see, Judge Williams has not just broken boundaries; additionally, she has blazed a trail for others to follow, making the legal profession more diverse, equitable, and responsive to the needs of our Nation.

Judge Williams's dedication to the rule of law has inspired her to look beyond America's borders. She taught prosecutors at the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. And now, Judge Williams leads Jones Day's pro bono efforts to advance the rule of law in Africa, using her legal talents to advance equity and justice for people across the

world and establishing justice initiatives in Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

So it is no surprise that Judge Williams is being recognized for her extraordinary contributions to the legal profession. I want to congratulate her on being honored by the "American Lawyer" with a Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes lawyers who have "left an indelible mark on the legal profession through their substantive area of work as well as a strong public service component." I also want to commend her for being awarded an American Bar Association Presidential Citation, based on her "extraordinary and tireless leadership as chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary; her dedication to building a pipeline aimed at inspiring young students and increasing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and the judiciary; and her lifetime commitment and devotion to the rule of law, both at home and abroad." More than just recognizing the achievements of a particularly outstanding lawyer and jurist, by naming Judge Williams a recipient, these awards also illustrate the goal toward which our legal system should constantly aspire: equal justice under the law.

Judge Williams, congratulations on a truly remarkable career. And thank you for your steadfast commitment to public service. You are a model for all those who follow, and you make our judiciary and our Nation stronger.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No.

24-66, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Acting Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-66

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$95 million.

Other \$5 million.

Total \$100 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Three hundred fifty (350) Javelin FGM-148F missiles (includes four (4) fly-to-buy missiles).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: U.S. Government technical assistance; technical data; repair and return services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army AT-B-UOA.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-B-UJV; AT-B-ULI; AT-B-UMF; AT-B-UMX; AT-B-ZYH; AT-B-ZYQ; AT-B-ZYS; AT-B-ZZX; AT-B-ZZA.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 19, 2024.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—FGM-148F Javelin Missiles

The Government of Australia has requested to buy three hundred fifty (350) Javelin FGM-148F missiles (includes four (4) fly-to-buy missiles). Also included is U.S. Government technical assistance; technical data; repair and return services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is \$100 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve the Australian Army's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining and increasing its anti-armor capability. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be the Javelin Joint Venture between RTX Corporation, located in Tucson, AZ, and Lockheed Martin, located in Orlando, FL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.