

look and see what is happening and think it is OK. It is not. I think we have gotten a little more clarity on that, a little more bipartisan voice on that, and my contention to this Chamber is that there is one person, there is an administration that can fix it right now but refuses to do so.

Illegal border crossings—I will just sort of close with this. Recently, I think everybody is talking about just shocking numbers, an alltime high in December of 2023: 249,785. That is up 31 percent from November, the previous month, and up 13 percent from the previous December.

Signals are being sent. And based on the polling, I don't know if the concern is next year that there might be a change in administration, we better be ready for what that looks like.

And, again, the person who can do it—regardless of what may have happened with this language, if you have an executive branch not interested in executing the law, you are never going to get around that.

So we have got the crisis at the southern border. No new authority is needed. It is up to him, and I wish he would. As an American, I really wish he would. But there are forces, evidently, in the White House or on that side of the aisle that just—it is not doable.

And so now I guess he is in the blame game, but nobody is buying it. They didn't buy the Bidenomics argument. They are not buying that this is anyone else's fault than the person who reversed everything that was working previously and the person who can enforce the laws on the books right now and secure our border. He could do it. He just simply doesn't want to.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. To my colleague from Missouri, thank you for your comments at the beginning where you were talking about process and the need for the Senate to change. This is a very different Senate from when I first came here and saw it function in a fashion where the social contract was: I won't object to other people's amendments because they won't object to mine. And then everybody was able to do their amendments.

And also the other factor, just taking it back almost 50 years ago—it was 1976 when I came here as an intern—cloture motions were not used on motions to proceed. They were not used on amendments. They were only used on final passage.

And so now we have the challenge, when a spending bill comes to the floor, that you have a cloture on motion to proceed, a cloture on substituting the Senate bill onto the House vehicle, a cloture motion on final passage, each taking 2 days plus 30 hours, which means 3 weeks are completely wasted time.

I appreciated your expression that there is bipartisan energy and interest

in making this place work better. It is a message I love to hear. I hope we can find a bipartisan strategy that will enable both sides to have amendments and will enable us to quit wasting 3 weeks of time with no action on every spending bill that comes to the floor.

Many colleagues have expressed a desire to see each and every one of the appropriations bills come to the floor. The last one we had on the floor took 6 weeks. Maybe together we can find a better path. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today, the Senate took the next significant step toward passing the national security supplemental by voting on cloture on the substitute 67 to 27. That is a strong signal that this bill has the support it needs to get through the Chamber.

Advancing this bill today was precisely the right thing to do. Our friends abroad are watching closely how we vote in the upcoming days. Ukrainian fighters are watching, and you can be sure Vladimir Putin is watching the Senate too.

So for the information of Senators, the Senate will be back in session tomorrow at noon to consider postcloture debate. We hope to be able to keep moving forward on this bill tomorrow. Members should expect a live quorum at noon.

Again, as I have already made clear, we will keep working on this bill until the job is done.

MORNING BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LEE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3796. A bill to prohibit the transfer of Department of Homeland Security staff from an international land port of entry along southwest border unless such transfer would not impact the processing of trade through such port of entry, such staff would be immediately replaced, or such staff are needed to actively engage in physical detentions to secure such border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3754

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3754, a bill to establish the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative to carry out projects for the protection and restoration of the Mississippi River Corridor, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1452

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr.

HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1452 intended to be proposed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1608. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1567 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. REED, and Mr. ROMNEY) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1609. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1610. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1611. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1612. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1608. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1567 submitted by Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. REED, and Mr. ROMNEY) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 10, line 15, and insert the following:

DIVISION TERRORIST FINANCING PREVENTION

TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES BY FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR ENABLERS

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “foreign financial institution” has the meaning given that term under section 561.308 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) **FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.**—The term “Foreign Terrorist Organization” means an organization that has been designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(5) **SPECIALLY DESIGNATED GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.**—The term “specially designated global terrorist organization” means an organization that has been designated as a specially designated global terrorist by the Secretary of State or the Secretary, pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(6) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) an individual who is a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 102. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

(a) **MANDATORY IDENTIFICATION.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall identify and submit to the President a report identifying any foreign financial institution that has knowingly—

(1) facilitated a significant financial transaction with—

(A) a Foreign Terrorist Organization;

(B) a specially designated global terrorist organization; or

(C) a person identified on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, the property and interests in property of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for acting on behalf of or at the direction of, or being owned or controlled by, a Foreign Terrorist Organization or a specially designated global terrorist organization; or

(2) engaged in money laundering to carry out an activity described in paragraph (1).

(b) **IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**—The President shall prohibit, or impose strict conditions on, the opening or maintaining of a correspondent account or a payable-through account in the United States by a foreign financial institution identified under subsection (a).

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION AND PENALTIES.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702, 1704) to the extent necessary to carry out this title.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under this section to the

same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(d) PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If a finding under this section, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)), the Secretary may submit to a court reviewing the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty such classified information *ex parte* and *in camera*.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this subsection or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

(e) **WAIVER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.**—The Secretary may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a person if the Secretary—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States; and

(2) submits to Congress a notification of the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(f) **EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—This section shall not apply with respect to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(g) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authorities and requirements under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) **GOOD DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

TITLE II—FUNDING

SEC. 201. ADEQUATE FUNDING TO PREVENT EVASION OF COUNTER-TERRORISM SANCTIONS AND FINANCIAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury such funds as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this division.

SA 1609. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. It is the policy of the United States—

(1) that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is the world’s preeminent political and military alliance committed to democracy and the collective defense of its members;

(2) that democracies across the alliance face external threats from authoritarian regimes such as Russia and China and internal threats from proponents of illiberalism;

(3) to reaffirm the unequivocal support of the United States for NATO as an alliance founded on democratic principles;

(4) to reaffirm that, for 74 years, the unity and strength of NATO has contributed to peace and stability in Europe and around the world;

(5) that NATO members should consider the commitment to spend 2 percent of Gross Domestic Product as the lowest percent contribution to ensure the sustainability, resilience, and readiness of the alliance;

(6) to emphasize that the NATO alliance should continue to support Ukraine as it fights for freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

(7) to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to meet obligations as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty, done at Washington, DC, April 4, 1949, including article 5; and

(8) foreign assistance is in the national security interest of the United States and that efforts of the United States and other friendly countries to promote peace and security continue to require measures of support based upon the principle of effective self-help and mutual aid.

SA 1610. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 24, line 12, insert after “of 1985” the following: “: *Provided further*, That the amount provided under this heading may only be made available if the Department of Energy halts the review of the underlying analysis used to permit liquefied natural gas exports under the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.), announced on January 26, 2024, and resumes approvals for liquefied natural gas exports under that Act”.

SA 1611. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 39, line 12, strike “\$3,495,000,000” and insert “\$4,345,000,000”.

SA 1612. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1388 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 61, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 709. Following the October 7, 2023 Hamas terror attacks from Gaza against Israel, it is the policy of the United States that—

(1) Israel should be secure from terrorism and other violent attacks emanating from Gaza;

(2) there should be no forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza;

(3) Palestinians displaced during the war in Gaza since October 7, 2023, must be allowed to return to their homes; and

(4) Israel should not reoccupy Gaza.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Monday, February 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, 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. 30, H.R. 815; further, that all time dur-

ing adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the substitute amendment.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 7:50 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 12, 2024, at 12 noon.