

body, I don't believe Governor Noem is capable or willing to do that.

So, yes, Southern California has a long road back to rebuilding our communities, and, as I said, we are going to need all hands on deck, which brings me to my next point.

Immigrants in Los Angeles will, no doubt, be critical in the rebuilding of our communities. Over 40 percent of construction workers in California are immigrants. But more than that, our national economy relies on immigrants too.

Let me remind folks that during President Trump's first term, his administration—the Trump administration—designated workers in the healthcare, food and agriculture, education, public works, and other sectors as essential workers during the pandemic. And those sectors include millions of immigrants, both documented and undocumented. That is right, colleagues. Undocumented immigrants are and have been, for a long time, a critical part of our healthcare workforce, of our hospital industry, of our tourism sector, of our transportation systems. And they make up around 42 percent of our agricultural workforce. Think about that the next time you are in the produce section of your grocery store.

If tomorrow President Trump could snap his fingers and deport all undocumented immigrants from this country, as he has threatened to do, our annual GDP would drop by 6.8 percent.

So let's be clear. Do the math. Mass deportations would lead to mass inflation. Businesses would shutter. Crops would rot in the fields. Prices would rise for all Americans.

Even in the face of political headwinds, we need a DHS Secretary who will tell the truth—and not just to the President but to the American people—tell the truth about how the vast majority of undocumented immigrants are not violent criminals but they are critical to our economy.

Instead, during her confirmation hearing, Governor Noem repeatedly made false claims about undocumented immigrants. Under oath, she repeated lies that misrepresent noncitizens as security threats. She even denied the well-documented existence of family separations that occurred during the first Trump administration.

We can agree or disagree on policy, but don't lie about the facts. Because if a nominee can so easily lie about a verifiable fact just to curry favor with President Trump, how can we trust him or her to tell the truth to the American people during a crisis?

And between a potential Secretary Noem, a Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, and the Border Czar Tom Homan all competing for President Trump's attention with hard-line immigration enforcements, the Department of Homeland Security will suffer.

Other Agencies and responsibilities within the Department will falter. Roles like critical investigations into

theft or into child exploitation would take a back seat to their political priorities, areas like cyber security and election security—agencies like CISA, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which is a critical resource in an age of misinformation and disinformation and attacks on our elections. And I speak from experience. You may recall that I served as California Secretary of State, the chief elections officer for California, prior to me coming to the Senate.

But rather than rise to the occasion, to meet the real threats that we are confronting, Governor Noem has stated that she wants to downsize CISA and cut back on our election security efforts, and I don't take those threats lightly.

So from national security to immigration to disaster response to election security, we face serious challenges, colleagues. Not one of those challenges will be solved by prioritizing loyalty to one man over loyalty to our country and to our Constitution.

So given her clear, unwavering allegiance to one man over country, for her willingness to push falsehoods over facts, I will oppose her confirmation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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 U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER MARK GAZELLE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in celebrating the career of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Mark Gazelle, who is retiring in January after 34 years of service with the force.

Joining the U.S. Capitol Police in 1991, Officer Gazelle was first assigned to the Capitol Division, First Responders Specialty Unit, before he joined the Mountain Bike Unit. He joined the Senate Chamber Section in 1995 as a plainclothes officer, where he served the remainder of his career on the section. Officer Gazelle has taken command during multiple events as the

Senate floor officer and has been instrumental in training and mentoring newer officers and staff around the Chamber.

Officer Gazelle has served in the U.S. Capitol Police Ceremonial Unit, where he rose through the ranks to become the assistant commander of the unit. The Ceremonial Unit is activated in high-profile congressional events, to include Presidential inaugurations, Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies, statue dedications, and lying in state ceremonies.

Officer Gazelle showed an unwavering commitment to keeping others safe, and these Halls undoubtedly remained safer because of his service. Officer Gazelle represents everything that is great about our country, and we are all better off for his selfless sense of duty and his tireless commitment to our safety. I thank Officer Gazelle for his years of service, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 21. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

H.R. 375. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 21. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 375. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-151. A communication from the President of the United States officially notifying the Congress of the United States of the death of former President James Earl Carter, Jr., the thirty-ninth President of the United States; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-152. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of American

Single Malt Whisky to the Standards of Identity for Distilled Spirits” (RIN1513-AC88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-153. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act of 1974: Implementation of Exemptions” (RIN1903-AA18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-154. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-155. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “National Maternal Mental Health Hotline Fiscal Year 2024”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-156. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Alliance for Innovations on Maternal Health 2025”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-157. A communication from the Deputy Associate General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation” (RIN1601-AB16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 239. A bill to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 240. A bill to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 241. A bill to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. BANKS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 242. A bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 243. A bill to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 244. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to conduct a study of the national security risks posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 245. A bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a working group on cyber insurance, to require dissemination of informative resources for issuers and customers of cyber insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 246. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 247. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 248. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend certain in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation flexibilities established in response to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 249. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate patient access to certain pediatric technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 250. A bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 251. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit treatment of certain distributions and reimbursements for certain abortions as qualified medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 252. A bill to increase access to agency guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 253. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 254. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 255. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 35. A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of Nellie Tayloe Ross becoming the first female elected as the Governor of a State in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 36. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States, States, cities, Tribal nations, businesses, institutions of higher education, and other institutions in the United States should work toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 37. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the people of the United States should have continuous access to timely, up-to-date, and accurate health information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 38. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. RISCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. YOUNG):