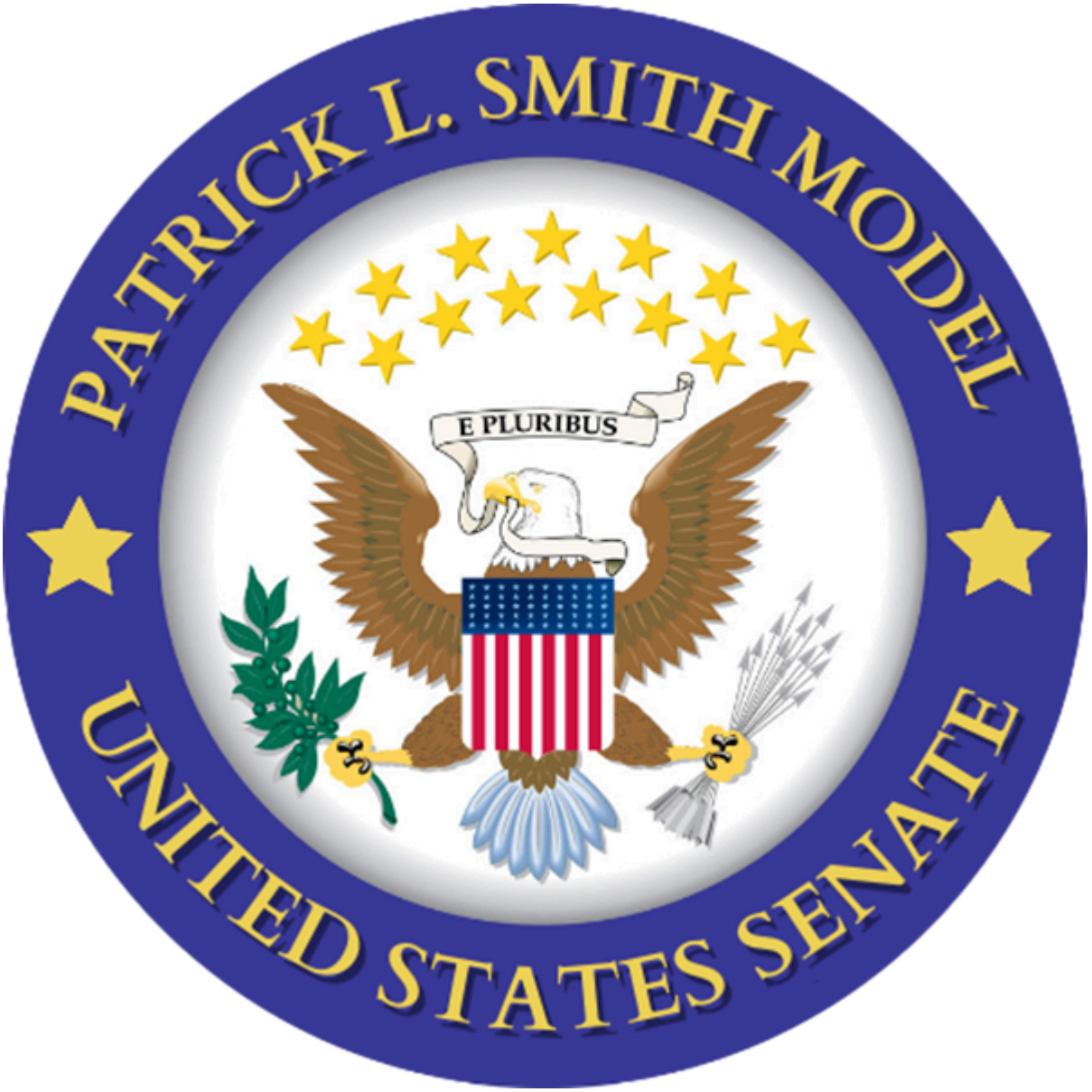
The 53nd Annual Patrick L. Smith Model United States Senate



March 20-22, 2025

Table of Contents

STETSON

UNIVERSITY

The Patrick L. Smith
Model United States Senate
Department of Political Science
421 N Woodland Blvd, Unit 8301
Deland, FL 32723
Office. (386) 822-7570
Fax. (386) 822-7569

Dear Model U.S. Senator: 20 March 2025

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 53nd Annual Patrick L. Smith Model United States Senate at Stetson University. For five decades, thousands of students from across the nation have gathered at Stetson for three days to debate the important issues of the time. Today, we continue this honored tradition.

We are excited about the possibilities for the 53nd Senate. Students from Bridgewater State College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida Southern College, Goucher College, Santa Fe State College, the University of Florida, Valdosta State University, Daytona State College, and Jacksonville University have traveled to Stetson University to participate in this three-day event. The legislation for this year is both substantive and challenging. In addition, each committee will have a special look at a particular issue during the Saturday hearings with expert witnesses.

As part of this year's event, we are honored to welcome current United States Congressman, Mike Haridopolos. Haridopolos served as a senator for the Florida State Senate from 2003-2010, and as the Florida Senate President from 2010-2012. Afterwhich, Haridopolos opened a lobbying firm, and in 2019 co-wrote the book *The Modern Political Party in Florida.* In 2024, Haridopolos became a representative for the 119th Congress. Currently, Haridoplos sits on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Financial Services Committee, and the Republican Study Committee, along with this he is the chairman for the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee.

The United States Senate is an institution of debate and civility. In the spirit of the Senate, we challenge you to thoroughly investigate the issues before your committee and debate differences vigorously. Nevertheless, we must always conduct ourselves with the utmost civility for each other.

We look forward to participating in this 53nd Model Senate and meeting you personally. Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.

Student Director, Andrew Goldner

THE PATRICK L. SMITH
MODEL UNITED STATES SENATE
at STETSON UNIVERSITY
DeLand, Florida

Schedule of Events Fifty-Third Patrick L. Smith Model U.S. Senate

Thursday, 20 March 2025

9:00 - 12:00 Registration: Stetson Room (Carlton Union Building, Second Floor)

10:00-12:15 Leadership Workshop (Majority and Minority Leaders, Whips, Committee Chairs, Ranking Members, Clerk, Parliamentarian): Stetson Room

12:30 - 1:30 Welcome and Orientation: Stetson Room (Carlton Union Building, Second Floor)

1:30 - 2:15 Party Caucuses

Republicans (Stetson Room)

Democrats (CUB 105; Faculty/Staff Lounge)

2:15 - 4:00 Oath of Office and Opening Senate Session: (Carlton Union Building, Second Floor)

4:00 - 6:00 Committee Markup

Armed Services (CUB 261A)

Environment and Public Works (CUB 283)

Foreign Relations (CUB 105: Faculty Lounge)

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (CUB 202A)

Judiciary (CUB 261B)

6:30-8:00 Opening Reception: Stetson Room (Carlton Union Building, Second Floor)

Friday, 21 March 2025

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00-10:15 a.m.	Committee Markup
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Speaker Congressman Haridopolos
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Party Caucuses
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Senate Session
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Committee Markup

Saturday, 22 March 2025

8:30 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:45	Committee Markup
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Party Caucus
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
12:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Floor Session
4:30 p.m.	Photos
5:00	Dinner and Awards Banquet (Stetson Room)

STETSON
UNIVERSITY

Fifty-Third Model U.S. Senate, March 20-22, 2025

Model U.S. Senate Handbook

It has been the continued goal of the Model U.S. Senate to structure a program that will be educational, stimulating, and enjoyable. With these goals in mind, it is *expected that Model U.S. Senators will portray the voting record and personality of their respective Senators*. This handbook contains some of the basic guidelines and other aids to assist in these portrayals. Please read it and consult it as the need arises. Detailed Senate Procedure Manuals are also available on the U.S. Senate website as well as upon request with the Model U.S. Senate Parliamentarian.

On behalf of the organizers of the Patrick L. Smith Model United States Senate, we thank you for your interest and participation in this most unique learning experience. We are confident that this will be a successful program in the spirit of the United States Senate.

Committee Descriptions

Committee on Armed Services:

The Committee on Armed Services handles legislation concerning and has jurisdiction over issues related to: Aeronautical and space activities peculiar to or primarily associated with the development of weapons systems or military operations; the common defense; the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force, generally; maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal, including administration, sanitation, and government of the Canal Zone; military research and development; national security aspects of nuclear energy; naval petroleum reserves, except those in Alaska; pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the Armed Forces, including overseas education of civilian and military dependents; selective service system; and strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.

The Committee also conducts comprehensive study and review of matters relating to the common defense policy of the United States.

Environment and Public Works:

The Committee on Environment and Public Works handles legislation concerning and has jurisdiction over issues related to: Air pollution; Construction and maintenance of highways; Environmental aspects of Outer Continental Shelf lands; Environmental effects of toxic substances, other than pesticides; Environmental policy; Environmental research and development; Fisheries and wildlife; Flood control and improvements of rivers and harbors, including environmental aspects of deep-water ports; Noise pollution; Nonmilitary environmental regulation and control of nuclear energy; Ocean dumping; Public buildings and improved grounds of the United States generally, including Federal buildings in the District of Columbia; Public works, bridges, and dams; Regional economic development; Solid waste disposal and recycling; Water pollution; Water resources.

The Committee also studies and reviews, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to environmental protection and resource utilization and conservation, and reports thereon from time to time.

Foreign Relations:

The committee on Foreign Relations handles legislation concerning and has jurisdiction over issues related to: Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; Boundaries of the United States; Diplomatic service; Foreign economic, military, technical, and humanitarian assistance; Foreign loans; International activities of the American National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross; International aspects of nuclear energy, including nuclear transfer policy; International conferences and congresses; International law as it relates to foreign policy; Intervention abroad and declarations of war; Measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad; National security and international aspects of trusteeships of the United States; Oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs as they relate to foreign policy; Protection of United States citizens abroad and expatriation; Relations of the

United States with foreign nations generally; Treaties and executive agreements; United Nations and its affiliated organizations; World Bank group, the regional development banks, and other international organizations established primarily for development assistance purposes.

The Committee also studies and reviews, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to the national security policy, foreign policy, and international economic policy as it relates to foreign policy of the United States, and matters relating to food, hunger, and nutrition in foreign countries, and reports thereon from time to time.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions handles legislation concerning and has jurisdiction over issues related to: Measures relating to education, labor, health, and public welfare; Aging; Agricultural colleges; Arts and humanities; Biomedical research and development; Child labor; Convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce; Domestic activities of the American National Red Cross; Equal employment opportunity; Individuals with disabilities; Labor standards and labor statistics; Mediation and arbitration of labor disputes; Occupational safety and health, including the welfare of miners; Private pension plans; Public health; Railway labor and retirement; Regulation of foreign laborers; Student loans; Wages and hours of labor.

The Committee also studies and reviews, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to health, education and training, and public welfare, and reports thereon from time to time.

Judiciary:

The Committee on the Judiciary handles legislation concerning and has jurisdiction over issues related to: Bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; Civil liberties; Constitutional amendments; Federal courts and judges; Government information; Holidays and celebrations; Immigration and naturalization; Interstate compacts generally; Judicial proceedings, civil and criminal, generally; Local courts in the territories and possessions; Measures relating to claims against the United States; National penitentiaries; Patent Office; Patents, copyrights, and trademarks; Protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; Revision and codification of the statutes of the United States; State and territorial boundary lines.

Committee Meeting Procedure

1. The Chair of each committee has already been selected on the basis of role portrayal and experience in the P.L.S. Model U.S. Senate.

2. In the absence of a Model U.S. Senator, the Chairman or the Ranking Minority Member may cast a “proxy vote” on behalf of that Senator.

3. Bills should be read and ranked in order of priority, and that ranking should be followed for discussion.

4. As bills are discussed, revised and amended, they must be reported out of committee either favorably or unfavorably. An unfavorable report kills the bill, and it will not appear on the calendar. Bills, in the form they are to be introduced, are to be filed with the Clerk. The majority and minority leaders and the Clerk will then place each bill on the agenda for the Senate session.

5. The use of committee witnesses is an important facet of committee procedure. Experts in various fields will testify on specific proposed legislation. Question them carefully and completely, as they have been selected for their knowledge in the committee’s area.

6. It is suggested that for efficiency and effectiveness the committee agree to use Senate Rules of Procedure throughout their meetings. However, that decision is solely the Chair’s and the decision is final.

Useful Definitions

Act	Legislation that has passed both chambers of Congress in identical form, been signed into law by the President, or passed over his veto, thus becoming law. Technically, this term also refers to a bill that has been passed by one house and engrossed (prepared as an official copy).
Adjourn	A motion to adjourn in the Committee or Senate ends that day's session.
Adjournment Sine Die	The end of a legislative session "without day." These adjournments are used to indicate the final adjournment of an annual or two-year session of a Congress
Adjournment to a Day and Time Certain	An adjournment of the Senate that fixes the day and time for its next session.
Amendment	A proposal to alter the text of a pending bill or other measure by striking out some of it, by inserting new language, or both. Before an amendment becomes part of the measure, the Senate must agree to it.
Bill	The principal vehicle employed by lawmakers for introducing their proposals (enacting or repealing laws, for example) in the Senate. They address either matters of general interest ("public bills") or narrow interest ("private bills"), such as immigration cases and individual claims against the Federal government.
Caucus	From the Algonquian Indian language, a caucus means "to meet together." A caucus is an informal organization of Members of the House or the Senate, or both, that exists to discuss issues of mutual concern and possibly to perform legislative research and policy planning for its members.
Christmas Tree Bill	Informal nomenclature for a bill on the Senate floor that attracts many, often unrelated, floor amendments. The amendments that adorn the bill may provide special benefits to various groups or interests.
Cloture	The only procedure by which the Senate can vote to place a time limit on consideration of a bill or other matter, and thereby overcome a filibuster. Under the cloture rule (Rule XXII), the Senate may limit consideration of a pending matter to 30 additional hours, but only by vote of three-fifths of the full Senate, normally 60 votes.
Companion Bill or Measure	Similar or identical legislation that is introduced in the Senate and House. House and Senate lawmakers who share similar views on legislation may introduce a companion bill in their respective chambers to promote simultaneous consideration of the measure.
Consideration	To "call up" or "lay down" a bill or other measure on the Senate floor is to place it before the full Senate for consideration, including debate, amendment, and voting. Measures normally come before the Senate for consideration by the Majority Leader requesting unanimous consent that the Senate take it up.
Filibuster	Informal term for any attempt to block or delay Senate action on a bill or other matter by debating it at length, by offering numerous procedural motions, or by any other delaying or obstructive actions.
Floor Amendment	An amendment offered by an individual Senator from the floor during consideration of a bill or other measure, in contrast to a committee amendment.
Germane	On the subject of the pending bill or other business; a strict standard of relevance.
Motion to Proceed to Consider	A motion, usually offered by the Majority Leader to bring a bill or other measure up for consideration. This is the usual way of bringing a measure to the floor when unanimous consent cannot be obtained. For legislative business, the motion is debatable under most circumstances, and therefore may be subject to filibuster.
Point of Order	A claim made by a Senator from the floor that a rule of the Senate is being violated. If the Chair sustains the point of order, the action in violation of the rule is not permitted.
President	A constitutionally recognized officer of the Senate who presides over the chamber in the absence of the

Pro Tempore	Vice President. The President Pro Tempore (or, "president for a time") is elected by the Senate and is, by custom, the Senator of the majority party with the longest record of continuous service.
Quorum	The number of Senators that must be present for the Senate to do business. The Constitution requires a majority of Senators (51) for a quorum. Often, fewer Senators are actually present on the floor, but the Senate presumes that a quorum is present unless the contrary is shown by a roll call vote or quorum call.
Recess	A temporary interruption of the Senate's or Committee's business. Generally, the Senate recesses (rather than adjourns) at the end of each calendar day
Rider	Informal term for a non-germane amendment to a bill or an amendment to an appropriation bill that changes the permanent law governing a program funded by the bill.
Table, Motion to	A Senator may move to table any pending question. The motion is not debatable, and agreement to the motion is equivalent to defeating the question tabled. The motion is used to dispose quickly of questions the Senate does not wish to consider further.
Unanimous Consent	A Senator may request unanimous consent on the floor to set aside a specified rule of procedure so as to expedite proceedings. If no Senator objects, the Senate permits the action; however, if any one Senator objects, the request is rejected. Unanimous consent requests with only immediate effects are routinely granted, but ones affecting the floor schedule, the conditions of considering a bill or other business, or the rights of other Senators, are normally not offered, or a floor leader will object to it, until all Senators concerned have had an opportunity to inform the leaders that they find it acceptable.
Unanimous Consent Agreement	A unanimous consent request setting terms for the consideration of a specified bill or other measure. These agreements are usually proposed by the Majority Leader or floor manager of the measure, and reflect negotiations among Senators interested in the measure. Many are "time agreements," which limit the time available for debate and specify who will control that time. Many also permit only a list of specified amendments, or require amendments to be to the measure. A unanimous consent agreement may also contain other provisions, such as empowering the Majority Leader to call up the measure at will or specifying when consideration will begin or end.
Vice President	Under the Constitution, the Vice President serves as President of the Senate. The Vice President may vote in the Senate in the case of a tie, but is not required to. The President Pro Tempore (and others designated by him) usually perform these duties during the Vice President's frequent absences from the Senate.
Yield	When a Senator who has been recognized to speak "yields" to another, he or she permits the other to speak while the first Senator retains the floor. Technically, a Senator may yield to another only for a question.
Yield the Floor	A Senator who has been recognized to speak yields the floor when he or she completes his or her remarks and terminates his or her recognition.

Standard Rules of the Model U.S. Senate

The following oath of affirmation required by the Constitution and prescribed by law shall be taken and subscribed to by each Senator in open Senate before entering upon his duties.

> "I,_____, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter; so help me God."

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Senators duly chosen and sworn in. If, at any time during the daily sessions, a question shall be raised by any Senator as to the presence of a quorum, the Presiding Officer shall direct the Secretary to call the roll and shall announce the result, and these proceedings shall be without debate.

The Presiding Officer having taken the chair, and a quorum being present, the Journal of the preceding day shall be read and any errors corrected. The proceedings of the Senate shall be briefly and accurately stated in the Journal, including messages from the President, titles of bills and resolutions, every vote, and a brief statement of the contents of each petition, memorial or paper presented to the Senate.

A question of order may be raised at any stage if no Senator has the floor, Senate not divided. Unless submitted to the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall decide all such questions without debate, subject to an appeal to the Senate. The Presiding Officer may submit any question of order for the decision of the Senate. An affirmative majority vote is required for passage.

The Presiding Officer shall enforce order whenever demonstration or confusion in the chamber or gallery calls for it. He may do so on his own initiative, without any point of order being made by a Senator.

Cloture may be invoked upon any measure or matter by the presentation to the Clerk of the Senate of a motion with the signatures of 16 Senators. After a valid cloture petition has been filed, it must lay on the table for 15 minutes, after which the clerk will call the roll for a vote. An affirmative vote of 3/5 (60) of those Senators chosen and sworn is required for passage. If cloture has been agreed to, ten (10) minutes of debate time on the pending matter remain. All Senators who have not spoken on the question will be permitted one minute for debate.

To be recognized to speak, a Senator should stand and say "Mr. President." The chair will recognize the first senator to seek recognition, with the understanding that the Majority Leader will always be recognized first. No Senator shall interrupt another Senator without his/her consent.

Senator A: "Mr. President, will the Senator yield?"

Chair: "Will the Senator yield?"

Senator B: "Yes."

Senator A then proceeds to speak if the Senator speaking yields. If Senator B refuses to yield with an answer of "no," Senator A must return to his seat.

A Senator may avoid interruptions by telling the Presiding Officer that he/she will yield to questions after he/she is finished speaking.

Except for the Majority and Minority Leaders, no Senator shall speak twice upon any new question in debate on the same day, except by permission of the Senate that shall be determined by a vote without debate.

All motions or resolutions may be withdrawn or modified by the mover at any time before the decision, amendment, or ordering of the yeas and nays. This does not apply to a motion to reconsider, which shall not be withdrawn without leave.

No Senator shall refer offensively to any State of the Union.

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, speak of another Senator or his conduct in a manner unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

Any Senator who, in the opinion of the Presiding Officer, transgresses the rules of the Senate, shall be called to order by a motion of the Chair or another Senator. Any Senator called to order may appeal the ruling of the Chair, which shall be open to debate.

Basic Model U.S. Senate Parliamentary Procedure

Motion (by order of precedence)	You Say:	Interruptible?	Second Needed?	Debatable?	Amendable ?	Vote Required?
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move to recess until…"	No	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Majority
Personal Privilege	"Point of Privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
Object to Improper Procedure	"Point of Order"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
Procedural Question	"Point of Information."	Yes	No	No	No	Chair
Lay on the Table	"I move that this matter be laid on the table."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Postpone to a certain time	"I move that this matter be postponed until…"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Refer to Committee	"I move that we refer this to the Committee on…"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend	"I move that the motion be amended by…"	No	Yes	If motion is	Yes	Majority
Postpone Indefinitely	"I move that we postpone this question indefinitely."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Main Motion	"I move that…"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Reconsider	"I move that we reconsider our action on…"	Yes	Yes	If motion is	No	Majority
Withdraw a Motion	"I request permission to withdraw my motion."	No	No	No	No	Chair

Notes:

1. There are no such things as “friendly amendments.” Any amendment to a motion must be offered as a motion to amend.
2. The motion to refer to a committee can be amended regarding which committee and notes to the committee.
3. The motion to lay on the table is only in order if there is other urgent business. Instead use move to postpone either indefinitely to until a certain time, or refer to a committee.
4. Typically a call for division is simply granted. If there is an objection, the majority decides.
5. Reconsideration may only be moved by someone who voted with the prevailing side, and is debatable if the original motion was debatable.
6. Usually, the maker of a motion may withdraw it by unanimous consent, but if there is an objection, there must be a vote.

The Legislative Process on the Senate Floor: An Introduction

Summary

The standing rules of the Senate promote deliberation by permitting Senators to debate at length and by precluding a simple majority from ending debate when they are prepared to vote to approve a bill. This right of extended debate permits filibusters that can be brought to an end if the Senate invokes cloture, usually by a vote of three-fifths of all Senators. Even then, consideration can typically continue under cloture for an additional 30 hours. The possibility of filibusters encourages the Senate to seek consensus whenever possible and to conduct business under the terms of unanimous consent agreements that limit the time available for debate and amending.

Except when the Senate has invoked cloture or is considering appropriations, budget, and certain other measures, Senators also may propose floor amendments that are not germane to the subject or purpose of the bill being debated. This permits individual Senators to raise issues and potentially have the Senate vote on them, even if they have not been studied and evaluated by the relevant standing committees.

These characteristics of Senate rules make the Senate's daily floor schedule potentially unpredictable unless all Senators agree by unanimous consent to accept limits on their right to debate and offer non-germane amendments to a bill. Also to promote predictability and order, Senators traditionally have agreed to give certain procedural privileges to the majority leader. The majority leader enjoys priority in being recognized to speak, and only the majority leader (or a Senator acting at his behest) is able to successfully propose what bills and resolutions the Senate should consider.

Thus, the legislative process on the Senate floor reflects a balance between the rights guaranteed to Senators under the standing rules and the willingness of Senators to forego exercising some of these rights in order to expedite the conduct of business.

Congressional Research Service

The Legislative Process on the Senate Floor: An Introduction

Introduction

The legislative process on the Senate floor is governed by a set of standing rules, a body of precedents created by rulings of presiding officers or by votes of the Senate, a variety of established and customary practices, and ad hoc arrangements the Senate makes to meet specific parliamentary and political circumstances. A knowledge of the Senate's formal rules is not sufficient to understand

Senate procedures, and Senate practices cannot be understood without knowing the rules to which the practices relate.

The essential characteristic of the Senate's rules, and the characteristic that most clearly distinguishes its procedures from those of the House of Representatives, is their emphasis on the rights and prerogatives of individual Senators. Like any legislative institution, the Senate is both a deliberative and a decision-making body; its procedures must embody some balance between the opportunity to deliberate or debate and the need to decide. The Senate's rules give greater weight to the value of full and free deliberation than they give to the value of expeditious decisions. Put differently, legislative rules also must strike a balance between minority rights and majority prerogatives. The Senate's standing rules place greater emphasis on the rights of individual Senators—and, therefore, of minorities within the Senate—than on the powers of the majority. The Senate's legislative agenda and its policy decisions are influenced not merely by the preferences of its Members but also by the intensity of their preferences.

Precisely because of the nature of its standing rules, the Senate cannot rely on them exclusively. If all Senators took full advantage of their rights under the rules whenever it might be in their immediate interests, the Senate would have great difficulty reaching timely decisions. Therefore, the Senate has developed a variety of practices by which Senators set aside some of their prerogatives under the rules to expedite the conduct of its business or to accommodate the needs and interests of its Members. Some of these practices have become well-established by precedent; others are arranged to suit the particular circumstances the Senate confronts from day to day and from issue to issue. In most cases, these alternative arrangements require the unanimous consent of the Senate—the explicit or implicit concurrence of each of the 100 Senators. The Senate relies on unanimous consent agreements every day for many purposes—purposes great and small, important and routine. However, Senators can protect their rights under Senate rules simply by objecting to a unanimous consent request to waive one or more of the rules.

Generally, the Senate can act more efficiently and expeditiously when its Members agree by unanimous consent to operate outside of its standing rules. Generally also, Senators insist that the rules be enforced strictly only when the questions before them are divisive and controversial. Compromise and accommodation normally prevail. Senators frequently exercise self-restraint by not taking full advantage of their rights and opportunities under the standing rules, and often by agreeing to unanimous consent requests for arrangements that may not promote their individual legislative interests. The standing rules remain available, however, for Senators to invoke when, in their judgment, the costs of compromise and accommodation become too great.

Thus, the legislative procedures on the Senate floor reflect a balance—and sometimes an uneasy balance—between the operation of its rules and the principles they embody, on the one hand, and pragmatic arrangements to expedite the conduct of business, on the other. The interplay between the principles of the Senate's standing rules and the pragmatism of its daily practices will be a theme running throughout the following sections of this report.

The Right to Debate

The standing rule that is probably most pivotal for shaping what does and does not occur on the Senate floor is paragraph 1(a) of Rule XIX, which governs debate:

> When a Senator desires to speak, he shall rise and address the Presiding Officer, and shall not proceed until he is recognized, and *the Presiding Officer shall recognize the Senator who shall first address him*. No Senator shall interrupt another Senator in debate without his consent, and to obtain such consent he shall first address the Presiding Officer, and no Senator shall speak more than twice upon any one question in debate on the same legislative day without leave of the Senate, which shall be determined without debate. (Emphasis added.)

The presiding officer of the Senate (unlike the Speaker of the House) may not use the power to recognize only certain Senators in order to control the flow of business. If no Senator holds the floor, any Senator seeking recognition has a right to be recognized. Moreover, once a Senator has been recognized, he or she may make any motion that Senate rules permit, including motions affecting what bills the Senate will consider (though a Senator loses the floor when he or she makes a motion, offers an amendment, or takes one of many other actions). In practice, however, the Senate has modified the effect of this rule by precedent and custom. By precedent, the majority and minority leaders are recognized first if the leader and another Senator are seeking recognition at the same time. In addition, by custom, only the majority leader (or another Senator acting at his behest) typically makes motions or requests affecting when the Senate will meet and what legislation it will consider.

In these respects, Senators relinquish their equal right to recognition and their right to make certain motions, and they do so in order to lend some order and predictability to the Senate's proceedings. Otherwise, it would be nearly impossible for any Senator to predict with assurance when the Senate will be in session and what legislation it will consider. For example, during debate on one bill, any Senator could move that the Senate turn to another bill instead. This would make it very difficult for the Senate to conduct its business in an orderly fashion, and it would be equally difficult for Senators to plan their own schedules with any confidence. Thus, Senate precedents and practices modify the operation of this rule, as it affects recognition, in the interests of the Senate as an institution and in the interests of its Members individually.

Even more important is what paragraph 1(a) of Rule XIX says and does not say about the length of debate. The rule imposes a limit of two speeches per Senator per question per legislative day (though Senators rarely insist on imposing this limit on their colleagues). Beyond this restriction, it imposes no limit at all on the number of Senators who may make those two speeches or on the length of the speeches. In fact, there are few Senate rules that limit the right to debate, and no rules that permit a simple majority of the Senate to end a debate whenever it is ready to vote for a bill, amendment, or most other questions being considered. When Senators are recognized by the presiding officer, the rules normally permit them to speak for as long as they wish, and questions generally cannot be put to a vote so long as there are Senators who still wish to make the speeches they are permitted to make under Rule XIX.

The House of Representatives may bring a question to a vote if a simple majority agrees to a motion to order the previous question. When meeting in Committee of the Whole, a majority of Representatives also can move to close debate on a pending amendment or sometimes on a bill and all amendments to it. No such motions are possible in the Senate. As a result, a majority of Senators does

not have nearly the same control over the pace and timing of their deliberations as does a majority of the House.

There is one partial exception to this generalization. The Senate often disposes of an amendment by agreeing to a motion to lay the amendment on the table. When a Senator who has been recognized makes this motion, it cannot be debated (except by unanimous consent, of course). If the Senate agrees to this motion to table, the amendment is rejected; to table is to kill. On the other hand, if the Senate defeats the motion, debate on the amendment may resume; the Senate only has determined that it is not prepared at that time to reject the amendment. Thus, a tabling motion can be used by a simple majority to stop debate even if there still are Senators wishing to speak, but only by defeating the amendment at issue. Although the effect of the motion is essentially negative, it frequently is a test vote on Senate support for an amendment. If the motion fails, the Senate may agree to the amendment shortly thereafter. But this is a reflection of political reality, not a requirement of Senate rules or precedents.

Filibusters and Cloture

The dearth of debate limitations in Senate rules creates the possibility of filibusters. Individual Senators or minority groups of Senators who adamantly oppose a bill or amendment may speak against it at great length (or threaten to), in the hope of changing their colleagues' minds, winning support for amendments that address their objections, or convincing the Senate to withdraw the bill or amendment from further consideration on the floor. Opposing Senators also can delay final floor action by offering numerous amendments and motions, demanding roll call votes on amendments and motions, and by using a variety of other devices.

The only formal procedure that Senate rules provide for breaking filibusters is to invoke cloture under the provisions of Rule XXII (commonly called the "cloture rule"). Under the rules, however, once cloture is proposed, the cloture vote cannot occur until after a further period of time (typically two days of Senate session); further, a simple majority of the Senate is insufficient to invoke cloture (except in very limited circumstances).

Cloture requires the support of three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn, or a minimum of 60 votes if there is no more than one vacancy. (If the matter being considered changes the standing rules, cloture requires a vote of two-thirds of the Senators present and voting. Pursuant to precedents set in 2013 and 2017, cloture can be invoked by a simple majority on any nomination.) For this reason alone, cloture can be difficult to invoke and almost always requires some bipartisan support. In addition, some Senators are reluctant to vote for cloture, even if they support the legislation being jeopardized by the filibuster, precisely because the right of extended debate is such an integral element of Senate history and procedure.

Even if the Senate does invoke cloture on a bill, the result is not an immediate vote on passing the bill. The cloture rule permits a maximum of 30 additional hours for considering the bill, during which each Senator may speak for one hour. (On a limited number of motions, Rule XXII does not permit additional consideration after cloture has been invoked; in those cases, the Senate proceeds to an

immediate vote on the motion in question. In addition, pursuant to an April 3, 2019, precedent, post-cloture consideration of most nominations is limited to two hours.) The time consumed by rollcall votes and quorum calls is deducted from the 30-hour total; as a result, each Senator does not have an opportunity to speak for a full hour, although he or she is guaranteed at least 10 minutes for debate. Thus, cloture does not typically stop debate immediately; it only ensures that debate cannot continue indefinitely. Even the additional 30 hours allowed on a bill under cloture is quite a long time for the Senate to devote to any one bill, especially since Senators may not be willing to invoke cloture until the bill already has been debated at considerable length.

Restraint and Delay

Any Senator can filibuster almost any legislative proposal that the Senate is considering. The only bills that cannot be filibustered are the relatively few which are considered under provisions of law that limit the time available for debating them. For example, Section 305(b)(1) of the Budget Act of 1974 restricts debate on a budget resolution, "and all amendments thereto and debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith," to not more than 50 hours. If no such provision applies, Senators can prolong the debate indefinitely on any bill or amendment (or nomination or treaty), as well as on many motions, subject only to tabling motions or to a successful cloture process.

Although there may be many matters to which some Senators may be adamantly opposed, filibusters are not daily events. One reason is that conducting a filibuster may be physically demanding (at least if it is not supported by a number of other Senators), but there are more compelling reasons for self-restraint. If Senators filibustered every bill they opposed, the Senate as an institution would suffer. It could not meet its constitutional responsibilities in a timely fashion and it could not respond effectively to pressing national needs. Public support for the Senate as an institution, and for its Members as individuals, would be undermined. Furthermore, all Senators have legislation they want to promote. They appreciate that if they used the filibuster regularly against bills they oppose, other Senators would be likely to do the same, and every Senator's legislative objectives would be jeopardized. In short, Senators typically have resorted to filibusters only on matters of pronounced significance to them because this practice serves the long-term interests of the Senate and all Senators alike.

Nonetheless, the right to debate at length remains, and the possibility of filibusters affects much of what happens on the Senate floor. Many of the ways in which the Senate agrees to set aside its standing rules are designed in response to the possibility of filibusters. Simply threatening to filibuster can give Senators great influence over whether the Senate considers a bill, when it considers it, and how it may be amended.

If a majority of Senators support a bill that is being filibustered, they may be able to pass it eventually if they are committed and patient enough—and especially if they are able to invoke cloture. Even if cloture is not invoked, devices such as late-night sessions may strain the endurance and determination of a filibustering Senator (though, in most circumstances, the burden imposed by such sessions is borne more by those supporting an end to debate, and in any case, requires the use of considerable floor time). The potency of filibusters does not depend, however, solely on Senators' ability to

prolong the debate indefinitely. From the right to debate flows the ability to delay, and the prospect of delay alone can often be sufficient to influence the Senate's agenda and decisions.

The legislative process is laborious and time-consuming, and the time available for Senate floor action each year is limited. Every day devoted to one bill is a day denied for consideration of other legislation, and there are not enough days to act on all the bills that Senators and Senate committees wish to see enacted. Naturally, the time pressures become even greater with the approach of deadlines such as the date for adjournment and the end of the fiscal year. So, for all but the most important bills, even the threat of a filibuster can provide significant leverage to Senators. Before a bill reaches the floor or while it is being debated, its supporters often seek ways to accommodate the concerns of opponents, preferring an amended bill that can be passed without protracted debate to the time, effort, and risks involved in confronting a filibuster or the threat of one.

Scheduling Legislative Business

Routine Agenda Setting

One way in which the possibility of extended debate affects the Senate's procedures is in how the Senate determines its legislative agenda—the order in which it decides to consider bills and other business on the floor. When a Senate standing committee reports a bill back to the Senate for floor debate and passage, the bill is placed on the Senate's Calendar of Business (under the heading of "General Orders").

The Senate gives its majority leader the primary responsibility for proposing the order in which bills on the calendar should come to the floor for action. The majority leader's right to preferential recognition already has been mentioned, as has Senators' general willingness to relinquish to him the right to make the motion (provided for in the standing rules) for deciding the order of legislative business—namely, the motion that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a particular bill.

Whenever possible, however, bills reach the Senate floor not by motion but by unanimous consent. Under the Senate standing rules, the motion to proceed to a bill usually is debatable and, therefore, subject to a filibuster. (The question of proceeding to certain matters—for example, to a conference report or to executive session to take up and consider a nomination on the calendar— is not, however, subject to a filibuster, though the matter itself is.) Even before the bill can reach the floor (and perhaps face a filibuster), there may be extended debate on the question of whether the Senate should even consider the bill at all.

To avoid this possibility, the majority leader attempts to get all Senators to agree by unanimous consent to take up the bill he wishes to have debated. If Senators withhold their consent, they are implicitly threatening extended debate on the question of considering the bill. Senators may do so because they oppose that bill or because they wish to delay consideration of one measure in the hope of influencing the fate of some other, possibly unrelated, measure. Senators can even place a "hold" on a bill, by which they ask their party's floor leader to object on their behalf to any unanimous consent request to consider the bill, at least until they have been consulted. The practice of holds is not

recognized in Senate standing rules or precedents (though both a provision in public law and a recently adopted Senate standing order govern their use); more often than not, however, the majority leader will not even make such a unanimous consent request if there is a hold on a bill.

In attempting to devise a schedule for the Senate floor, the majority leader seeks to promote the legislative program of his party (and perhaps the President) as he also tries to ensure that the Senate considers necessary legislation in a timely fashion.

When the majority leader is confronted with two bills, one of which can be brought up by unanimous consent and the other of which cannot, he is naturally inclined to ask the Senate to take up the bill that can be considered without objection. Time is limited, and the majority leader is concerned to use that time with reasonable efficiency. Some bills, of course, are too important to be delayed only because some Senators object to considering them. Most are not, however, especially if the objections can be met through negotiation and compromise. Thus, the possibility of extended debate affects decisions for scheduling legislation in two ways: by discouraging the majority leader and the Senate from attempting to take up bills to which some Senators object, and by encouraging negotiations over substantive changes in the bills in order to meet these objections.

The right of Senators to debate at length is not the only way in which they can influence the Senate's legislative agenda. The standing rules of the Senate give its Members at least two other opportunities to influence the matters that reach the Senate floor for debate and decision. One opportunity affects the prerogatives of Senate committees; the other affects the amendments that Senators may propose on the floor.

Committee Referral and Rule XIV

The Senate's standing committees play an essential part in the legislative process, as they select the small percentage of the bills introduced each Congress that, in their judgment, deserve the attention of the Senate as a whole, and as they recommend amendments to these bills based on their expert knowledge and experience. Most bills are routinely referred to the committee with appropriate jurisdiction as soon as they are introduced. However, paragraph 4 of Rule XIV permits a Senator to bypass a committee referral and have the bill placed directly on the Calendar of Business, with exactly the same formal status the bill would have if it had been considered and reported by a Senate committee.

By the same token, if a committee fails to act on a bill that was referred to it, while this may mean the bill will die for lack of action, the proposal it embodies may not. The Senator sponsoring the bill may introduce a new bill with exactly the same provisions as the first, and have the second bill placed directly on the calendar. However, taking the bill off the calendar (via unanimous consent or a motion to proceed) remains a question the Senate expects the majority leader to propose; thus, a Senator who uses Rule XIV to bypass a committee is not in a position to ensure the bill's movement to the floor. In recent practice, the majority leader more frequently uses this method to put a measure directly on the calendar—often to expedite consideration of a complicated or high-profile bill that has been drafted

outside of the committee process or in relation to a legislative vehicle that closely resembles another bill already considered in committee (or by multiple committees).

Non-Germane Amendments

An even more important opportunity for individual Senators is a result of the absence in the standing rules of any general requirement that the amendments offered by Senators on the floor must be germane or relevant to the bill being considered. The rules impose a germaneness requirement only on amendments to general appropriations and budget measures and to matters being considered under cloture; various statutes impose such a requirement on a limited number of other bills. (The Senate generally interprets germaneness strictly, to preclude amendments that expand the scope of a bill or introduce a specific additional topic.) In all other cases, Senators may propose whatever amendments they choose on whatever subjects to whatever bill the Senate is considering.

The right to offer non-germane amendments is extraordinarily important because it permits Senators to present issues to the Senate for debate and decision, without regard to the judgments of the Senate's committees or the scheduling decisions and preferences of its majority leader. Again consider the position of a Senator whose bill is not being acted on by the committee to which it was referred. Instead of introducing an identical bill and having it placed directly on the calendar, he or she may have a second and typically more attractive option: to offer the text of the bill as a floor amendment to another bill that has reached the floor and that can serve as a useful legislative "vehicle."

The possibility of this opportunity can make it extremely difficult to anticipate what will happen to a bill when it reaches the floor and how much of the Senate's time it will consume. The party

leaders and the bill's floor managers (typically, the chair and ranking minority Member of the committee with jurisdiction over the bill) may know what amendments on the subject of the bill are likely to be offered, but they cannot be certain that Senators will not want to also offer non- germane (and often quite controversial) amendments. In fact, it is not unusual for one or more non-germane amendments to occupy more of the Senate's attention than the subject the bill itself addresses.

Unanimous Consent Agreements

The Nature of Unanimous Consent Agreements

Just as the right of extended debate encourages Senate committee and party leaders to bring up bills for consideration by unanimous consent, the right to debate combined with the right to offer non-germane amendments encourages the same leaders to seek unanimous consent agreements limiting or foreclosing the exercise of these rights while a bill is being considered. Without such an agreement (or in the absence of a successful cloture process), the bill could be debated for as long as Senators wish—as could each amendment offered, whether germane or not, unless the Senate votes to table it. These are the essential conditions under which the Senate considers a bill if it adheres to its standing rules.

It is precisely to avoid these conditions that the Senate often debates, amends, and passes bills under very different sets of parliamentary ground rules—ground rules that are far more restrictive, but that can be imposed only by unanimous consent. One of the frequent purposes of these unanimous consent agreements is to limit the time available for debate, and thereby ensure that there will be no filibuster. Complex unanimous consent agreements of this special kind are sometimes called "time agreements."

In addition, before taking up a bill, or after the Senate has begun debating it, Senators often reach unanimous consent agreements to govern consideration of individual amendments that have been or will be offered. Less often today, the Senate reaches an encompassing agreement, limiting debate on a bill and all amendments to it, before or at the time the bill is called up for floor action.

The following example illustrates several contemporary features of such a comprehensive unanimous consent agreement:

Ordered, That on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, upon the confirmation of the Polaschik nomination, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5021, an Act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; provided, that the only amendments in order to the bill be the following: Wyden Amdt. No. 3582; Carper- Corker-Boxer Amdt. No. 3583; Lee Amdt. No. 3584; and Toomey Amdt. No. 3585; provided further, that there be one hour of debate, equally divided between the proponents and opponents of each amendment and up to two hours of general debate on the bill, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees.

Ordered further, That upon the use of yielding back of time, the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed; provided, that no second degree amendments be in order to any of the amendments prior to the votes; provided, that no motions to commit be in order; provided further, that upon disposition of the Toomey amendment, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; further, that the vote on each amendment and the vote on passage of the bill be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold; provided further, that the Secretary

be authorized to make technical changes to amendments if necessary to allow for proper page and line number alignment.

Ordered further, That if the Senate passes H.R. 5021, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.Con.Res. 108, providing for the correction of the enrollment of H.R. 5012; provided, that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate. (July 23, 28, 2014.)

The two essential features of this and comparable unanimous consent agreements are (1) a prohibition on any amendments not listed in the agreement, and (2) strict limitations on the time available for debating the bill and any questions that may arise during its consideration. Under the terms of this agreement, for example, the Senate as a whole may debate each amendment for no more than one hour. There is also a two-hour time limit for debate on the bill itself (that is, "general debate").

The differences between considering a bill under the terms of the Senate's standing rules and considering it under this kind of unanimous consent agreement are so great and so fundamental that they bear repeating. Under the standing rules, Senators may be able to offer whatever amendments,

even if non-germane, that they want (as long as there are not already pending amendments that must first be disposed of); under this agreement, only specified amendments are in order. Under the standing rules, Senators may debate the bill, each amendment, and a variety of other questions for as long as they want, subject only to limits that would be imposed under a successful cloture process; under this agreement, on each question, time for debate is strictly limited. Under the standing rules, each amendment (and passage of the bill) would be subject to a simple-majority vote threshold; under this agreement, a super-majority vote is required (reflecting the understanding by Senators that opponents of these questions could require a super-majority to invoke cloture in order to reach a vote). The differences could hardly be more dramatic. It must be emphasized, however, that such agreements are *unanimous consent* agreements. They cannot be imposed on the Senate by any vote of the Senate; they require the concurrence or acquiescence of each and every Senator.

Negotiating Time Agreements

Negotiating these complex unanimous consent agreements can be a difficult and time-consuming process, the responsibility for which falls primarily on the majority and minority leaders and the leaders of the committee with jurisdiction over the bill at issue. They consult interested Senators, but it would be impractical to consult every Senator about every bill scheduled for floor action. For this reason, individual Senators and their staffs take the initiative to protect their own interests by advising the leaders of their preferences and intentions. Negotiations sometimes take place on the floor and on the public record, but at least the preliminary discussions and consultations usually occur in meetings during quorum calls or off the floor. (The negotiation process may also be facilitated by use of the clearance process [or "hotline"], an informal communication mechanism by which each party's leadership gauges the preferences of its conference members.)

Senators prefer to expedite the conduct of legislative business whenever possible, and so normally cooperate in reaching time agreements. However, when Senators have special concerns—for instance, when they are intent on offering particular amendments or guaranteeing themselves ample time for debate—their interests must be accommodated. Any Senator who is dissatisfied with the terms of a proposed time agreement has only to object when it is propounded on the floor; so long as any one Senator objects, the standing rules remain in force with all the rights and opportunities they provide. As a result, time agreements may include exceptions to their general provisions in order to satisfy individual Senators. For example, a comprehensive agreement that generally limits debate on each first degree amendment to an hour and prohibits

non-germane amendments may identify one or more specific amendments that are exempted from the germaneness requirement, and also may provide different amounts of time for debating them.

In these ways, time agreements can be less restrictive than the one quoted earlier. There may be no agreement at all if one or more Senators decide to fully preserve their rights to debate and offer amendments. On many other occasions, however, an agreement's provisions are even more restrictive—for example, all amendments to the bill may be prohibited except for a few that are identified specifically in the agreement itself. If the Senate does accept a unanimous consent agreement, whatever its terms, it may be modified at a later time only by unanimous consent.

Other Unanimous Consent Agreements

In current practice, the Senate usually begins consideration of most bills without first having reached a time limitation agreement. In some cases, the floor managers expect few amendments and relatively little debate, making an elaborate agreement unnecessary. In other cases, the majority leader and committee chair cannot reach an agreement with all Senators, but proceed with the bill anyway because of its timeliness and importance. After the Senate has debated such a bill and controversial amendments for many hours or even days, the leaders often renew their attempts to reach an overall agreement limiting debate on each remaining amendment or setting a time for the Senate to vote on passage of the bill.

In the absence of a time agreement covering all amendments and other questions, the party leaders and the floor managers often try to arrange unanimous consent agreements for more limited purposes while the Senate is debating a bill. During consideration of a controversial amendment, a Senator may propose that the Senate agree—by unanimous consent—to limit any further debate on it. Senators also may agree to time limits on individual amendments before offering them. By unanimous consent, the Senate may set aside one amendment temporarily in order to consider another one that could not otherwise be offered at that time. Other agreements may define the order in which Senators will offer their amendments, postpone roll call votes until a later time that is more convenient for Senators, or even set a super-majority threshold for the adoption of a particular amendment.

These examples only begin to illustrate the many ways in which the Senate relies every day on unanimous consent arrangements. From routine requests to end a quorum call to extremely elaborate and complicated procedural "treaties," the Senate depends on unanimous consent requests and the willingness of Senators to agree to them.

The Daily Order of Business

The extent to which the Senate uses unanimous consent arrangements to supplement or supplant operation of its standing rules makes it difficult to predict with confidence what will actually take place on the Senate floor each day. This report already has mentioned some of the problems that can arise in scheduling legislation and in anticipating the time that will be consumed (and the amendments that Senators will offer) during consideration of each bill. In addition, the other proceedings that occur each day also depend on whether the Senate decides to operate under or outside of its rules.

The time at which the Senate convenes each day is set by a resolution the Senate adopts at the beginning of each Congress, but that time is often changed from day to day by unanimous consent—at the request of the majority leader—to suit changing circumstances. When the Senate does convene, and after the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, a brief period of "leader time" is set aside for the majority leader and for the minority leader, under a standing order also

established at the beginning of the Congress. During this time, the two party leaders may discuss the legislative schedule as well as their views on policy issues, and they also may conduct non-controversial business by unanimous consent.

What happens thereafter depends on whether the Senate is beginning a new legislative day. A legislative day begins when the Senate convenes after an adjournment, and it continues until the next adjournment. When the Senate recesses at the end of a day, as it sometimes does, a legislative day continues for two or more calendar days. (Standing Rules VII and VIII prescribe what the Senate should do at the beginning of each new legislative day, and one of the reasons the Senate may recess from day to day is to set aside the requirements imposed by these rules.)

Under the two standing rules, the first two hours of session on each new legislative day are called the "morning hour." They are a period for conducting routine business at a predictable time each day that does not interfere with the consideration of major legislation. The morning hour begins with the transaction of "morning business," which includes the introduction of bills and joint resolutions and the submission of Senate and concurrent resolutions and committee reports. During the remainder of the morning hour, the Senate can act on bills on the Calendar of Business. At the end of the morning hour, the Senate resumes consideration of the unfinished business—whatever bill, if any, was the pending business when the Senate adjourned.

In current practice, however, the Senate typically adjourns but, by unanimous consent, deems the morning hour to have expired; alternatively, occasionally the Senate recesses at the end of the day. In either case, there is no morning hour on the following day of session. Instead, the majority leader usually arranges by unanimous consent that "a period for transacting routine morning business" follow "leader time." Senators make brief statements on whatever subjects they like during this period, the length of which can change from day to day, depending on the legislative schedule. Also by unanimous consent, there may be other periods for transacting morning business during the course of the day when time is available and Senators wish to speak on subjects unrelated to the pending bill.

After the morning hour or the period (set by unanimous consent) for transacting routine morning business, the Senate normally resumes consideration of the bill that is either the unfinished business (if the Senate had adjourned on the preceding day) or the pending business (if the Senate had recessed instead). However, this bill may be set aside—temporarily or indefinitely—in favor of other legislative or executive business if the Senate agrees to motions or unanimous consent requests made for that purpose by the majority leader (or his designee). Before the end of the day, the majority leader also makes arrangements for the following day—establishing a meeting time by unanimous consent and commenting on the expected legislative program.

The Amending Process

The amending process is at the heart of the Senate's floor deliberations. If the Senate reaches a final vote on passing or defeating a bill, the bill is very likely to pass. It is through the amending process that Senators have an opportunity to influence the content of the bill before the vote on final passage occurs; this is an especially important opportunity for Senators who do not serve on the committee that marked up the bill and reported it.

When a bill is called up for floor consideration, opening statements usually are made by the two floor managers—the chair and ranking minority Member of the committee (or sometimes the subcommittee) with jurisdiction over the bill—and often by other Senators as well. These statements lay the groundwork for the debate that follows, describing the purposes and provisions of the bill, the state of current law and the developments that make new legislation desirable or

necessary, and the major points of controversy. These opening statements are a matter of custom and practice, however; the bill is open to amendment as soon as it is before the Senate.

The first amendments to be considered are any recommended by the committee reporting the bill, and so designated in the printed version of the bill "as reported." As each committee amendment is being debated, Senators may propose amendments to it and to the part of the bill the committee amendment would change. The Senate votes on any such amendments before it votes on the committee amendment itself. Thereafter, Senators may offer amendments in any order to any part of the bill that has not already been amended. The order in which amendments are offered depends largely on the convenience of the Senators proposing them, not on requirements imposed by standing rules or precedents. As a general rule, a Senator cannot propose an amendment to a bill while first degree (and possibly second degree) amendments to the bill are pending. It is not unusual, however, for the Senate to agree by unanimous consent to lay aside pending amendments temporarily in order to consider another amendment that a Senator wishes to offer at that time.

After a Senator offers an amendment, it must be read unless the Senate dispenses with the reading by unanimous consent (or by non-debatable motion, in the case of certain amendments that have been previously available). The Senate then debates the amendment and may eventually dispose of it either by voting "up or down" on the amendment itself or by voting to table it. (In some cases, an amendment is disposed of when it falls on a successful point of order.) However, the amending process can become far more complicated. Bills are amendable in two degrees, so before the Senate votes on a first degree amendment, it is subject to second degree amendments that propose to change its text. After voting on any second degree amendments, the Senate votes on the first degree amendment as it may have been amended. Third degree amendments— amendments to second degree amendments—are not in order.

Additional complications are possible, depending on whether the first degree amendment proposes (1) to insert additional language in the bill without altering anything already in the bill; (2) to strike out language from the bill without inserting anything in its place; (3) to strike out language from the bill and insert different language instead; or (4) to strike out the entire text of the bill (everything after the enacting or resolving clause at the very beginning of the measure) and replace it with a different text. In the case of a motion to insert, for example, Senators can offer as many as three first and second degree amendments before the Senate would potentially face votes on any of them; in the case of an amendment that is a complete substitute for the text of the bill, Senators can propose six or more first and second degree amendments to the substitute and to the original text of the bill before any offered amendments could receive votes.

These possibilities depend on several principles of precedence among amendments—principles governing the amendments that may be offered while other amendments are pending and also governing the order in which the Senate votes on the amendments that have been offered. Complicated amendment situations do not arise very often, but they are most likely to occur when the policy and political stakes are high. Majority leaders of the Senate have sometimes offered a series of amendments, one immediately after another, taking up available slots for pending amendments for the

purpose of “freezing” the amendment process so that no other amendments can be offered (except by unanimous consent) at that time.

Once a Senator has offered an amendment, the conditions for debating it depend on whether or not there is a time limitation for considering that particular amendment or all amendments to the bill (imposed either through a unanimous consent agreement, or via a successful cloture process). If there is no such limitation, each Senator typically may debate the amendment for as long as he or she pleases. However, any Senator who has been recognized may move to table the amendment, and that motion is not debatable. If there is a time limitation, the time provided is

both a minimum and a maximum. Senators may not make motions or points of order, propose other amendments, or move to table, until all the time for debating the amendment has been used or until all remaining time has been yielded back. After the time has expired, on the other hand, the amendment can be debated further only by unanimous consent or if the Senators controlling time for debating the bill as a whole choose to yield part of that time.

A number of general principles govern the amending process. For example, an amendment that has been defeated may not be offered again without substantive change. An amendment should not make changes in two or more different places in the bill, nor may it propose only to amend a part of the bill that already has been amended. If an amendment consists of two or more parts that could each stand as separate and independent propositions, any Senator may demand that the amendment be divided and each division treated as if it were a separate amendment (except that a motion to strike out and insert is not divisible). Generally speaking, Senators may not propose amendments to their own amendments, but they can modify or withdraw their amendments instead. If the Senate takes some “action” on an amendment (such as ordering the yeas and nays on it), the Senator who offered the amendment loses his right to modify it, but now gains the right to offer an amendment to his or her own amendment.

As mentioned before, floor amendments to most bills need not be germane unless cloture has been invoked, or unless a germaneness requirement is part of the unanimous consent agreement under which a particular bill is being considered (or under a few other specific circumstances). Alternatively, the Senate may, by unanimous consent, require that amendments to a bill be relevant to it; relevancy is a somewhat less restrictive standard that seeks to ensure that unrelated issues will not be raised in the form of amendments.

The amending process continues until Senators have no other amendments they wish to offer, until the entire bill has been changed by amendments, or until the completion of a successful cloture process. At that point, the Senate orders the bill engrossed and read a third time—a formal stage that precludes further amendments—and then votes on final passage.

Quorum Calls and Rollcall Votes

The Constitution requires that a quorum—that is, a majority of all Senators—be present to conduct business on the floor. Even though Senators have many responsibilities that frequently keep them

from the floor, the Senate presumes that a quorum is present unless a quorum call demonstrates that it is not.

A Senator who has been recognized may suggest the absence of a quorum at almost any time; a clerk then begins to call the roll of Senators. Senators may not debate or conduct business while a quorum call is in progress. If a majority of Senators do not appear and respond to their names, the Senate can only adjourn or recess, or attempt to secure the attendance of additional Senators. However, quorum calls usually are ended by unanimous consent before the clerk completes the call of the roll and the absence of a quorum is demonstrated. The reason is that most quorum calls are not really intended to determine whether a quorum is present.

The purpose of a quorum call usually is to suspend floor activity temporarily. If a Senator is coming to the floor to speak, a colleague may suggest the absence of a quorum until the expected Senator arrives. If the Senate finds itself confronted with unexpected procedural complications, if the majority leader needs to meet with several Senators on the floor about a possible unanimous consent agreement, or if the floor manager of a bill wants to discuss a compromise alternative to an amendment another Senator has offered—for any of these or many other reasons—a Senator may suggest the absence of a quorum to permit time for informal consultations. The time

consumed by many of these quorum calls permits intensive and productive discussions that would be far more difficult to hold under the rules of formal Senate debate.

The Constitution also provides that one-fifth of the Senators on the floor (assuming that a quorum is present) can demand a rollcall vote. Since the smallest possible quorum is 51 Senators, the support of at least 11 Senators is required to order a rollcall vote. A Senator who has been recognized can ask for "the yeas and nays" at any time that the Senate is considering a motion, amendment, bill, or other question. Agreement to this request does not terminate debate. Instead, if a rollcall is ordered pursuant to his request, then that is how the Senate will vote on the question when (or if) the time for the vote arrives. Thus, the Senate may order a rollcall vote on an amendment as soon as it is offered, but the vote itself may not take place for several hours or more (or, potentially, not at all), when Senators no longer wish to debate the amendment (or if a cloture process forces a vote).

The alternative to a rollcall vote usually is a voice vote in which the Senators favoring the bill or amendment (or whatever question is to be decided) vote "aye" in unison, followed by those voting "no." (Sometimes in relation to a voice vote—when the outcome of the vote is not in question—the presiding officer will note that "without objection, the amendment (or bill) is agreed to.") Although a voice vote does not create a public record of how each Senator voted, it is an equally valid and conclusive way for the Senate to reach a decision.

Sources of Additional Information

The standing rules of the Senate are published periodically in a separate Senate document and in the *Senate Manual*, which contains other related documents as well. The most recent compilation of the

Senate's precedents is *Riddick's Senate Procedure*, prepared by Floyd M. Riddick and Alan S. Frumin (Senate Document No. 101-28; 101st Congress, second session).

The parliamentarian and her assistants field inquiries from congressional offices about Senate procedures, and offer expert assistance compatible with their other responsibilities.

The Congressional Research Service has prepared numerous other reports on the Senate and its procedures, including CRS Report RL30788, *Parliamentary Reference Sources: Senate*, by Gail E. Baitinger; CRS Report 98-836, *Calling Up Business on the Senate Floor*, by Christopher M. Davis; CRS Report R43563, *"Holds" in the Senate*, by Mark J. Oleszek; CRS Report RL30360,*Filibusters and Cloture in the Senate*, by Valerie Heitshusen and Richard S. Beth; CRS Report 98-853, *The Amending Process in the Senate*, by Christopher M. Davis; CRS Report 98-306, *Points of Order, Rulings, and Appeals in the Senate*, by Valerie Heitshusen; CRS Report 96-452, *Voting and Quorum Procedures in the Senate*, coordinated by Elizabeth Rybicki, and CRS Report 98-696, *Resolving Legislative Differences in Congress: Conference Committees and Amendments Between the Houses*, by Elizabeth Rybicki. A large number of additional reports on specific topics related to Senate procedure are also available (categorized by subject area) at http://www.crs.gov/iap/congressional-process-administration-and-elections. Senate procedures in specific relation to executive business—that is, nominations and treaties—are not covered extensively in this report, but CRS has prepared additional reports on these topics, as well; for an overview, see CRS Report RL31980, *Senate Consideration of Presidential Nominations: Committee and Floor Procedure*, by Elizabeth Rybicki, and CRS Report 98-384, *Senate Consideration of Treaties*, by Valerie Heitshusen.

CRS analysts with expertise in legislative procedure are available to consult with individual Senators and staff; they also present periodic staff seminars and institutes on legislative procedures.

Author Information

Valerie Heitshusen

Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process

Acknowledgments

This report was originally written by Stanley Bach, former Senior Specialist in the Legislative Process at CRS. The report has been revised and updated by the listed author, who is available to respond to congressional client inquiries on the subject.

Disclaimer

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRIBUTION MEMORANDUM

Parliamentary Phraseology for Presiding Over a Senate Committee Markup

This memorandum is intended for distribution to more than one congressional office.

This memorandum responds to multiple congressional requests for parliamentary phraseology a Senate committee Chair might use in a committee markup. It provides examples of language that might be commonly used to open a markup, lay down a legislative vehicle, provide for the offering and disposal of amendments, address points of order, and report a measure.

Some rules of the Senate affect committee proceedings. In addition, each Senate committee has its own set of written rules, and most committees have developed additional practices that can also affect the actions taken. This memorandum outlines the manner of proceeding under Senate rules and procedures, and it indicates where committee written rules and practices might also be applicable. Given the variation in proceeding among committees, however, the emphasis of this memorandum is necessarily on full Senate rules and precedents. Therefore, when preparing for a markup, Senate committees will likely alter the sample language provided here to fit their specific circumstances, rules, and practices.

Generally speaking, Senate committees conduct markups informally. Senators have found value in working cooperatively both before and during the markup, and the formal, public sessions sometimes serve largely to confirm policy agreements that have been negotiated prior to the meeting. In such situations, Senators generally know what to expect and do not raise questions with regard to process.[1] That said, sometimes there can be value in following rules and procedures. Many Senate committees have found that consistent practice reduces delays that can occur when Senators raise questions about the manner of proceeding, and perhaps the easiest way to be consistent is to follow written rules and long- established precedents. Furthermore, Senators generally find it easier to meet their goals and prepare for markup if they know in advance what opportunities they will have for debate and amendment.

[1] The rules of the Foreign Relations Committee even state: "Insofar as possible, proceedings of the committee will be conducted without resort to the formalities of parliamentary procedure and with due regard for the views of all members." (Rule 3(e); *Congressional Record*, daily edition, Feb. 28, 2011, p. S963).

Calling the Markup to Order, Opening Statements, and Laying Down the Vehicle

The rules of several committees require that a public announcement of the meeting be made prior to a committee markup, and some require that the meeting agenda items be specified.[2] Under the terms of these rules, or in accordance with committee practice, the text that will be before the committee for markup is often identified in the notice of the committee markup meeting. This text, sometimes referred to as the legislative "vehicle," could be an introduced and referred bill (e.g., S.123) or a draft bill that has not yet been introduced and therefore is not yet numbered.[3] The markup typically begins

with some reference to any notice provided and an identification of the text before the committee, such as:

CHAIR: Pursuant to notice, the Committee meets today for the purposes of considering the bill, [number and title of bill].

Senate rules allow a committee to set its quorum requirements as low as one-third of its members to transact business.[4] It is the practice of many committees to assume a quorum is present unless a point of order is made to the contrary. Other committees will not convene a markup unless at least one-third of its membership is present; some committees may also insist that one-third of its members be present at all times during a markup. Some committee Chairs open a markup by stating:

CHAIR: A business quorum is present.

Frequently, a Chair makes an opening statement to begin a markup, followed by a statement from the Ranking Member, and sometimes by all interested committee members, typically alternating by party.

CHAIR: The Chair wishes to make an opening statement.

CHAIR: The Chair now yields to the Ranking Member for any opening statement (s)he wishes to make.

CHAIR: Do other Senators wish to make opening statements on the bill?

After opening statements, consideration of the bill begins.

CHAIR: If there are no other opening statements, the Committee will proceed to the consideration of [number and/or title of bill] for amendment.

2 In addition, a standing order of the Senate requires that committees provide information regarding the time, place, and purpose of meetings for inclusion in the computerized schedule of committee and subcommittee meetings "immediately upon scheduling a meeting." (U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, *Senate Manual Containing the Standing Rules, Orders, Laws, and Resolutions Affecting the Business of the United States Senate*, prepared by Matthew McGowan Under the Direction of Howard Gantman, 110th Cong., 2nd sess., S.Doc. 110-1 (Washington: GPO, 2008), p. 159).

3 For information on the selection of a text for markup, see CRS Report 98-244, *Markup in Senate Committee: Choosing a Text*, by Elizabeth Rybicki.

4 Rule XXVI, paragraph 7(a)(1). As noted later in this memorandum, a majority of committee members must be physically present for the vote to order a measure reported. Note also that quorum thresholds may be much lower for certain committee activities, e.g., taking testimony. See Senate Rule XXVI, paragraphs 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2).

Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute or Other Amendment Proposed by Chair

Sometimes, the first legislative action the committee Chair takes in a markup is to offer a full-text alternative for the markup vehicle. This new text is formally called an "amendment in the nature of a substitute," and it proposes to strike out all the text of the vehicle and replace it with a new text.[5] Such an amendment could be offered to an introduced and referred bill or to a draft vehicle.

Alternatively, a variety of changes to the vehicle may have been negotiated, but not drafted into a single amendment that replaces the entire pending vehicle. Sometimes these changes are considered as a single proposal and referred to as a "managers' amendment," [6] particularly when the changes have been agreed upon by the Chair and Ranking Member of the committee.

If the Chair intends to offer a complete substitute amendment or some other amendment at the outset of consideration, s/he would – immediately after laying down the vehicle – say:

CHAIR: I offer a [managers'] amendment [in the nature of a substitute] to the [draft] bill and ask unanimous consent that it be considered as read.

An additional request from the Chair may be advisable in certain cases when this initial negotiated amendment is not a complete substitute amendment. For example, an amendment in the nature of a substitute (i.e., full-text substitute) offered at the outset of consideration is not considered a first degree amendment, and is thus still open to amendment in two degrees; however, an amendment that is not a full-text substitute does not automatically receive such status. To allow amendments in two degrees to any part of the text in the latter situation, the committee could, by unanimous consent, agree to adopt such an amendment and consider it as part of the original base text for further consideration:

CHAIR: I ask unanimous consent that the managers' amendment be adopted and considered as original text for the purpose of amendment.

Possible Unanimous Consent Modifications to Amending Process

In the Senate, a measure is open for amendment at any point, meaning that amendments need not be offered in any particular order to the vehicle. Committees occasionally agree to provide more structure to the amending process by proceeding through the bill by titles. If this is the preferred route, the committee may agree to a unanimous consent request to that effect:

CHAIR: I ask unanimous consent that the committee amend the bill title-by-title rather than having it open for amendment at any point. Once we have finished one title, we will move to consider amendments to the next title, and will only return to a previous title by unanimous consent.

Parameters on the amending process that require unanimous consent – such as this one – typically will have been negotiated among Senators before the markup. In this case, rather than asking unanimous

[5] Such an amendment would read, "Strike all after the enacting clause and insert ....."

[6] "Managers' amendment" does not have a technical procedural meaning, and may also be a term applied to the type of full-text substitute amendment just described, as well. Typically the term implies that the amendment incorporates a variety of changes to the text that have been negotiated among a number of Senators.

consent, a Chair sometimes uses more informal language along the lines of "By unanimous consent, the managers' amendment is agreed to and considered as original text, and the committee will proceed by considering amendments title-by-title."

Committees may choose to operate under other modifications to the amending process – either explicitly or, rather, pursuant to expectations shared by the committee as a whole based on past practices and customs; to prevent misunderstandings, the Chair may choose to make explicit any such agreement or expected practices at this stage of the markup.

Offering of Amendments by Senators

Before Senators begin offering amendments, the Chair may wish to remind committee members about the operation of any pre-filing requirements that may be provided for in committee rules, and the conditions under which Senators may modify their amendments.

Under Senate rules, amendments must be read aloud. Typically, the reading is waived by unanimous consent.[7] As soon as a Senator proposes his or her amendment, the Chair directs the clerk to read the amendment.

CHAIR: The clerk will read the amendment.

Once the reading has begun, the clerk is commonly interrupted by a request that the reading be dispensed with by unanimous consent. Alternatively, the Chair might make this request as soon as the amendment is offered.

CHAIR: Without objection, we will dispense with the reading. Senator [name] is recognized to speak on the amendment.

Senate rules and precedents place limits on the number and form of amendments that can be pending at any one time, and the Chair is responsible for enforcing these limitations.[8] The amending process rarely becomes complex in Senate committee markup, however, as arrangements are generally made to allow Senators to offer amendments in turn.

Disposition of Amendments

There is no Senate rule that allows a simple majority of Senators to bring debate to a close when it is ready to vote. In addition, most Senate committees do not have rules that allow the committee to end debate on a matter.[9] Instead, the Chair puts the question on an amendment when no Senator seeks recognition to discuss it. The Chair might first inquire whether any Senator wishes to speak further:

[7] A new standing order of the Senate allows the reading of an amendment on the floor to be waived by nondebatable motion if the amendment was submitted 72 hours before the motion was made and is in the *Congressional Record* (S.Res. 29, 112th Congress). It is not clear whether such a motion would be in order in committee; generally, committee amendments are not submitted to the *Congressional Record.*

[8] For more information, see CRS Report 98-853, *The Amending Process in the Senate*, by Betsy Palmer, pp. 8-19.

[9] The exceptions are the Committee on Finance and the Committee on the Judiciary. Finance Committee Rule 8 states, "If the chairman determines that a motion or amendment has been adequately debated, he may call for a vote on such motion or

amendment, and the vote shall then be taken, unless the committee votes to continue debate on such motion or amendment, as the case may be. The vote on a motion to continue debate on any motion or amendment shall be taken without debate."

(continued...)

CHAIR: Is there any further debate on the amendment? Seeing none, the question is on the amendment. All those in favor say "aye." All those opposed, "no."

Sometimes the Chair adopts a slightly different approach in order to expedite the process:

CHAIR: Seeing no further debate on the amendment, the question is on its adoption. All those in favor say "aye." All those opposed, "no."

In either case, Senators might respond to the Chair by seeking recognition to continue to discuss the amendment. If a Senator does so, the Chair must allow the committee member to make his or her remarks, and then, when no other Senator seeks recognition to speak, the Chair can put the question on adoption.

It is common in Senate committees for there to be wide support for certain amendments and an expectation that they will be approved. In such situations, instead of asking the committee to vote on an amendment, the Chair might instead assume there will be unanimous consent to approve the amendment, and state:

CHAIR: Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

Any Senator on the committee could, however, respond to the Chair by stating "I object," and that single objection would prevent the immediate approval of the amendment. It takes unanimous consent—the agreement of every Senator—to agree to an amendment without a vote.

A numerical majority of a committee can end debate on an amendment if it is prepared to defeat the amendment. An amendment can be permanently and adversely disposed of by a non-debatable motion to table. If a Senator moves to table a pending amendment, the Chair would immediately call for a vote on the question.

CHAIR: The question is on the motion to table the amendment. All those in favor say "aye." All those opposed, "no."

Voting

The default method of voting in committee is by voice, in which the Chair asks those in favor to say "aye" and those opposed to say "no." The Chair then announces:

CHAIR: In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes [noes] have it. The ayes [noes] have it. The [amendment/motion] is [not] agreed to.

After the preliminary announcement by the Chair of the result of a voice vote, a Senator may wish to request a roll call vote. Immediately upon hearing the Chair announce that his or her initial opinion that the "ayes" or "noes" have it, a Senator would state to the Chair that s/he requests a recorded (or roll call)

(...continued)

(*Congressional Record*, daily edition, Feb. 17, 2011, p. S838); Judiciary Committee Rule IV states, "The Chairman shall entertain a non-debatable motion to bring a matter before the Committee to a vote. If there is objection to bring the matter to a vote without further debate, a roll call vote of the Committee shall be taken, and debate shall be terminated if the motion to bring the matter to a vote without further debate passes with ten votes in the affirmative, one of which must be cast by the minority." (*Congressional Record*, daily edition, Feb. 17, 2011, p. S837). The Judiciary Committee has 18 members.

vote.[10] The constitutional requirement for a second on a request for the yeas and nays is one-fifth of those present (assuming a quorum is present). If the committee wishes to hew to this standard, the Chair would say:

CHAIR: Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

However, many committees have explicit or implicit practices to proceed to a recorded vote if any Senator requests it. In this case, the request for a roll call vote would be immediately followed by the Chair stating:

CHAIR: The clerk will call the roll.

Note also that the Chair only proceeds to direct the clerk to call the roll if the request for the yeas and nays is made in connection with a voice vote. If a Senator simply asks for the yeas and nays during debate on his or her amendment, this does not cause a vote to occur at that time. In this situation, the Chair responds to the request by saying:

CHAIR: Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second. The yeas and nays are ordered.

Later, when no Senator seeks recognition to debate the amendment any further:

CHAIR: The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The yeas and nays have already been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

After the clerk has reported the vote tally to the Chair, the Chair announces the result.

CHAIR: On this vote the yeas are [__] and the nays are [__]. The amendment is [not] agreed to.

Senators can authorize another Senator, usually the Chair, to vote on his or her behalf in committee, a practice known as proxy voting. Each standing committee has rules concerning the circumstances under which proxy voting may be used. An important restriction on proxy voting is that, to report a measure, a majority of the committee must be physically present for the vote, and any votes cast by proxy cannot make the difference in ordering the measure reported.[11]

Points of Order and their Disposition

A Senator can allege that a committee is not proceeding properly under the rules by making a point of order. A point of order made during a committee markup is ruled upon by the Chair. [12] Such a point of order is not subject to debate, though the Chair may entertain some debate for his or her own edification. The Chair then typically restates the point of order and explains the ruling. If the Chair agrees that Senate or committee rules were being (or about to be) broken, then s/he sustains the point of order by stating:

[10] Typically, chairs grant some leeway in regard to the timing of the request for a recorded vote, allowing the request even if it comes just after the chair has made the final announcement of the vote tally and the disposition of the question.

[11] For more information, see individual committee rules as well as CRS Report RS22953, *Proxy Voting and Polling in Senate Committee*, by Christopher M. Davis.

[12] For more on points of order in the Senate, see CRS Report 98-306, *Points of Order, Rulings, and Appeals in the Senate*, by Valerie Heitshusen. To inquire about a procedural issue, a Senator may state a parliamentary inquiry to the Chair. The statement of the Chair in response to these inquiries is not subject to debate or appeal.

CHAIR: I am prepared to rule on the point of order. The Senator has made a point of order that [_____]. The Chair finds that [_____]. The point of order is sustained [and the amendment falls].

Alternatively, if the Chair does not believe the point of order is supported:

CHAIR: The Senator has made a point of order that [_____]. The Chair finds that [_____]. Therefore, the point of order is not well-taken.

After a ruling, another Senator may appeal the ruling of the Chair. Appeals are not subject to a debate limit. As in the disposition of an amendment, the committee may vote on the appeal only after no Senator seeks further debate on it.[13]

CHAIR: If there is no further debate on the appeal, the question is on the decision of the Chair. Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the committee? All those in favor say aye. All those opposed, no.

CHAIR: The ayes [noes] appear to have it. The ayes [noes] have it, and the committee sustains [overrules] the decision of the Chair.

An appeal of a Chair ruling is subject to a non-debatable motion to table. If a tabling motion on the appeal were made and agreed to, the effect would be to sustain the ruling of the Chair.

Chair: The Senator moves to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair. All those in favor of tabling the appeal say “aye,” all those opposed, “no.” The motion to table is agreed to. The ruling of the Chair is sustained.

Ordering a Measure Reported

A markup concludes when the committee votes to order the measure reported to the full Senate.[14] Senate rules, a majority of the committee must be physically present to order a measure reported. Committees nearly always order a measure reported favorably, although they could order it reported unfavorably or without recommendation. As in the case of amendments, the Chair puts the question on reporting the measure when no committee member seeks recognition to propose additional amendments or debate the issue further.

If the committee is marking up a measure that has already been introduced, numbered (S. 123, S.J.Res. 123, etc.), and referred to the committee,[15] the Chair could say:

[13] As noted previously, the Senate Committees on Finance and on Judiciary each have a committee rule providing that a simple majority may end consideration and vote; these rules would appear to apply to an appeal of the ruling of the Chair.

[14] Senate committees also vote to report out nominations. These meetings usually are not considered "markups" because nominations cannot be amended. The parliamentary language the Chair might use to order a nomination reported is similar to that for legislation: "If there is no further debate, the question is on ordering the nomination reported. A reporting quorum is present. All those in favor say 'aye.' All those opposed, 'no.'" For more information, see CRS Report RL31980, *Senate Consideration of Presidential Nominations: Committee and Floor Procedure*, by Elizabeth Rybicki, pp. 6-7.

[15] For information on the selection of a text for markup, see CRS Report 98-244, *Markup in Senate Committee: Choosing a Text*, by Elizabeth Rybicki.

Under

CHAIR: If there is no further debate or amendment, the question is on ordering the bill [number and/or title of bill] favorably reported. A reporting quorum is present. All those in favor say "aye." All those opposed, "no."

If the committee has agreed to amendments to a numbered bill, the Chair would say:

CHAIR: If there is no further debate or amendment, the question is on ordering the bill [number and/or title of bill] favorably reported with amendments. A reporting quorum is present. All those in favor say "aye." All those opposed, "no."

If the committee has agreed to one substitute in the nature of a substitute (as amended, if amended) to a numbered bill, the Chair would say:

CHAIR: If there is no further debate or amendment, the question is on ordering the bill [number and/or title of bill] favorably reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.[16] A reporting quorum is present. All those in favor say "aye." All those opposed, "no."

If the committee is marking up a draft text instead of a measure that has already been introduced and received a number, then the Chair could say:

CHAIR: If there is no further debate or amendment, the question is on ordering that the bill [title of bill], as amended, be reported as an original bill. A reporting quorum is present. All those in favor say "aye." All those opposed, "no."

Sometimes, the Chair arranges for another Senator to move that a measure be reported.[17] Although this is a common practice, it is not necessary. But if made, the motion is debatable under the regular rules of the Senate. Thus, a Senator cannot move that a bill be reported in an effort to end debate during the markup.

After the voice vote on a motion to report, a Senator might request a recorded vote, as detailed earlier. If the "ayes" prevail, the Chair states:

CHAIR: The ayes are [__], the noes are [__], and the bill [number and title] is reported favorably.

Other Closing Steps

The markup often ends with the Chair stating:

CHAIR: I ask unanimous consent that in preparing the measure for reporting, the staff be authorized to make any required technical and conforming changes.

If there is going to be a written committee report, Senate rules grant committee members the right to have their views printed in the report if they give notice when the committee orders the measure reported.[18]

[16] The Chair might refer to the amendment as "complete substitute" rather than an "amendment in the nature of a substitute."

[17] On occasion, Senators in committee sometimes "second" this motion, an action that is not required under the rules and procedures of the full Senate.

[18] The rule does not apply to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Chair might therefore ask if any Senators wish to give notice, or, if notice has already been received, announce:

CHAIR: Under Senate Rule XXVI, paragraph 10(c), those Senators who gave notice of their intent to file supplemental, minority or views shall have [at least three] calendar days to file such views in writing with the committee clerk.

Congressional clients are welcome to direct questions to either listed author of this memorandum.

Awards

In order to judge the effectiveness and authenticity of your role portrayal in this simulation of the United States Senate, Stetson University has appointed a number of judges that will observe committee hearings and some of the Senate sessions. These judges will be asked to make recommendations for the awards listed below, and those selected will be recognized at the Awards Banquet on Saturday.

Floyd M. Riddick Best Senator Award: Given to the Model Senator who best exemplifies excellence in every aspect of the Model Senate. They will not only organize and speak in a rational, informed manner; gain the respect of their fellow senators, influence other senators, and maintain close adherence to the political and policy outlook of the portrayed senator, but also demonstrate a sound understanding of Senate procedure and how to use that understanding to further their and their party's policy goals.

T. Wayne Bailey Outstanding Senator Award: Will be given to four Model U.S. Senators who (1) organize and speak in a rational, well-informed manner, (2) gain the respect of fellow Senators, (3) understand the correct procedures for passing legislation, (4) are able, to some extent, to influence others' opinions, and (5) maintain close uniformity with regards to the political and policy outlook of the portrayed Senator. This award will require a great deal of preparation and often a bit of acting.

Most Effective Committee: Judged on the basis of the manner in which the committee conducts itself in discussing bills; also the quality of legislation reported out of the committee and the effective use of witnesses and their testimony.

Best Committee Chair: Judged on the skill with which he or she guides discussion and keeps order. Chairs should see to it that everyone has a chance to speak and that the witnesses are effectively used.

Best Ranking Member: Judged on the ability in which he or she leads the committee's minority members in discussion, debate, and decision-making. Ranking members seek to shape legislation and represent the minority party's interests within the committee structure.

Committee on Armed Services

Chairman: Roger Wicker
Deb Fischer
Tom Cotton
Mike Rounds
Joni Ernst
Dan Sullivan
Rick Scott
Tommy Tuberville
Markwayne Mullin
Ted Budd

Ranking Member: Jack Reed
Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Mazie Hirono
Angus King
Elizabeth Warren
Gary C. Peters
Tammy Duckworth
Jacky Rosen
Elissa Slotkingr

S. 1811	44	Budd	To ensure treatment in the military based on merit and performance, and for other purposes.
S. 4029	47	Cotton	To prohibit the Department of Defense from offering service through, or maintaining a business relationship with, Tutor.com.
S. 4415	49	Duckworth	To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a medical readiness program in the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.
S. 5058	51	Ernst	To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, and for other purposes.
S. 3641	55	Fischer	To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, and for other purposes.
S. 3182	59	Gillibrand	To require a report on implementation of termination of the ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.
S. 5330	61	Hirono	To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in the TRICARE Select.
S. 2098	64	King	To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a military training program with the Government of Mexico in the United States, and for other purposes.
S. 29	66	Mullin	To provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.
S. 373	69	Reed	To provide for the retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces.
S. 4617	71	Peters	To exempt National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers from active-duty end strength limits and to clarify the congressional committees to which the Secretary of Defense shall submit an annual report on security cooperation activities.
S. 4881	72	Rosen	To repeal the Military Selective Service Act
S. 4758	74	Rounds	To require the Secretary of Defense to Carry out a pilot program on using artificial intelligence-enabled software to optimize the workflow and operations of depots, shipyards, and other manufacturing facilities run by the Department of

			Defense, and for other purposes.
S. 4866	76	Scott	To require a report on the threats posed by the control of strategic ports by the People's Republic of China
S. 3722	80	Slotkin	To require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.
S. 2031	83	Sullivan	To strengthen the national security of the United States by decreasing the reliance of the Department of Defense on critical minerals from the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, and other geostrategic competitors and adversaries of the United States, and for other purposes.
S. 3490	85	Tuberville	To prohibit the Secretary of Veteran Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care for under the laws administered by the Secretary.
S. 2047	86	Warren	To amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes.
S. 1588	92	Wicker	To amend Title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1811

To ensure treatment in the military based on merit and performance, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2023

Mr. WICKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To ensure treatment in the military based on merit and performance, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Military Merit, Fairness, and Equality Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. Findings.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States Armed Forces is the greatest civil rights program in the history of the world.

(2) Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Colin Powell wrote that "the military [has] given African-Americans more equal opportunity than any other institution in American society".

(3) Today's Armed Forces is the most diverse large public institution in the country, and brings together Americans from every background in the service of defending the country.

(4) Military readiness depends on the guarantee of equal opportunity, without the promise of an equal outcome, because warfare is a competitive endeavor and the nation's enemies must know that the United States Armed Forces is led by the best, brightest, and bravest Americans.

(5) The tenets of critical race theory are antithetical to the merit-based, all-volunteer, military that has served the country with great distinction for the last 50 years.

SEC. 3. Definition of equity.

For the purposes of any Department of Defense Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion directive, program, policy, or instruction, the term "equity" is defined as "the right of all persons to have the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, programs, and activities for which they are qualified".

SEC. 4. Prohibitions.

(a) DIRECTIVES.—The Department of Defense shall not direct or otherwise compel any member of the Armed Forces, military dependent, or civilian employee of the Department of Defense to personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to the tenet that any sex, race, ethnicity, religion or national origin is inherently superior or inferior.

(b) TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION.—No organization or institution under the authority of the Secretary of Defense may provide courses, training, or any other type of instruction that directs, compels, or otherwise suggests that members of the Armed Forces, military dependents, or civilian employees of the Department of Defense should affirm, adopt, or adhere to the tenet described in subsection (a).

(c) DISTINCTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No organization or institution under the authority of the Secretary of Defense shall make a distinction or classification of members of the Armed Forces, military dependents, or civilian employees of the Department of Defense based on account of race, ethnicity, or national origin.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the required collection or reporting of demographic information by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 5. Merit requirement.

All Department of Defense personnel actions, including accessions, promotions, assignments and training, shall be based exclusively on individual merit and demonstrated performance.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4029

To prohibit the Department of Defense from offering services through, or maintaining a business relationship with, Tutor.com.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2024

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To prohibit the Department of Defense from offering services through, or maintaining a business relationship with, Tutor.com.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Ban Chinese Communist Party Access to U.S. Military Students Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Prohibition of Department of Defense usage of Tutor.com.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The website Tutor.com is a long-standing provider of tutoring services to members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

(2) In January 2022, Primavera Capital Group, a Chinese-owned corporation associated with TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, acquired Tutor.com and The Princeton Review (TPR Education LLC) from ST Unitas.

(3) While providing educational services, Tutor.com collects personal data on users, such as location, internet protocol addresses, and contents of the tutoring sessions.

(4) As the national security laws of the People's Republic of China require companies to release confidential business and customer data to the Government of the People's Republic of China, the United States is paying to expose the private information of members of the United States Armed Forces and their children to the Chinese Communist Party.

(b) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Defense shall—

(A) cease offering services through Tutor.com not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) terminate any business relationships with Tutor.com as soon as legally possible.

(2) FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS.—The Department shall not enter into any other relationship with Tutor.com as long as Tutor.com is owned by Primavera Capital Group or any other entity owned or controlled by nationals of the People's Republic of China.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4415

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a medical readiness program in the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2024

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a medical readiness program in the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Access to Care for Overseas Military Act".

SEC. 2. Medical readiness program of Department of Defense in Indo-Pacific region.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2027, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a medical readiness program (referred to in this section as the "Program") to develop relationships with partner nations in the Indo-Pacific region and to facilitate engagement designed to improve medical care during peacetime and wartime and maintain strategies and policies of the Department of Defense for medical readiness in that region.

(2) ORGANIZATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for and oversee the Program in consultation with the Secretary of each military department, the commanders of the combatant commands, the Director of the Defense Health Agency, and any other official the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(3) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Program shall be to promote the medical readiness of the Armed Forces for missions during peacetime and wartime operations by—

(A) reducing potential requirements for long-distance medical evacuation to receive definitive patient care in the Indo-Pacific region;

(B) managing the patient medical evacuation enterprise during contingency operations, including planning, policies, resourcing, and coordination;

(C) increasing the medical capacity and capabilities of the Department of Defense by expanding, where and when appropriate, patient access to public, private, and military foreign medical treatment facilities and foreign medical providers across the Indo-Pacific region;

(D) in collaboration with partner nations, improving the standard of medical care by either—

(i) accrediting foreign medical treatment facilities, which will standardize medical procedures, patient care, and policies similar to military medical treatment facilities of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) developing standardized procedures for medical procedures, patient care, and policies when using foreign medical treatment facilities; and

(E) enhancing and promoting interoperability and interchangeability, wherever feasible, through shared patient record management techniques, medical equipment commonality, and coordination of medical care.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5058

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Artificial Intelligence Allied Collaboration for Crucial Operations, Research, and Development Act of 2024" or the "AI ACCORD Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Joint partner-sharing network capabilities for Middle East defense integration.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners to protect the people, infrastructure, and territory of the United States and such allies and partners from state and non-state actors determined by the Secretary to undermine the national security interests of the United States.

(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A summary of ongoing efforts by United States Central Command (CENTCOM), or in which United States Central Command is participating, to implement a joint partner-sharing network capability integrated with the assets of allies and partners of the United States who are located in the Middle East.

(B) A summary of challenges to further facilitate the implementation of a joint partner-sharing network capability integrated with the assets of Middle Eastern allies and partners, including actions or decisions that need to be taken by other organizations.

(C) An assessment of how the implementation of a joint partner-sharing network capability that would be available to integrate with allies and partners of the United States in the Middle East that—

(i) could demonstrate new tools, techniques, or methodologies for data-driven decision making;

(ii) accelerate sharing of relevant data, data visualization, and data analysis implemented through cryptographic data access controls and enforcing existing data sharing restrictions across multiple security levels; and

(iii) leverage current activities in multi-cloud computing environments to reduce the reliance on solely hardware-based networking solutions.

(D) A recommendation of actions that can be taken to implement a joint partner-sharing network capability integrated with allies and partners of the United States in the Middle East, including identification of policy, resource, workforce, or other shortfalls.

(F) Such other matters as the Secretary considers relevant.

(3) FORM.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(4) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—No activity may be carried out under this section without an approved program protection plan and overarching classification guide to enforce technology and information protection protocols that protect sensitive information and the national security interests of the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMBATANT COMMAND WARFIGHTER FORUM FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—

(1) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense (CDAO) shall issue policies and procedures to establish a forum for warfighters in the combatant commands on artificial intelligence to help promote coordination and interchange on issues relating to artificial intelligence tools, methodologies, training, exercises, and operational research within and among the combatant commands.

(2) PURPOSES FOR CONSIDERATION.—In developing the policies and procedures required by paragraph (1) for establishing the forum described in such paragraph, the Chief shall consider the following as primary purposes of the forum:

(A) Identification of use cases for the near-term application of artificial intelligence tools, including commercially available artificial intelligence tools, data, methodologies, or techniques.

(B) Categorization of risk for the use cases identified pursuant to subparagraph (A), and consideration of risk-management process or other procedural guidelines for enforcing current policy.

(C) Identification and prioritization of current artificial intelligence tools or emerging technologies applicable to the use-cases identified pursuant to

subparagraph (A) that also meet policy guidelines and standards set by the Department.

(D) Identification of shortfalls in training or billets for artificial intelligence-related expertise or personnel within the combatant commands.

(E) Coordination on training and experimentation venues, including with regional partners and allies.

(F) Identification of opportunities for enhanced cooperation with regional partners and allies.

(G) Identification of opportunities for the combatant commands, working with other elements of the Department of Defense, such as the Defense Innovation Unit, to better procure commercial artificial intelligence capabilities, including from partner and allied industrial bases.

(3) REPORT.— (A) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the progress made in establishing the forum described in paragraph (1).

(B) The report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) A summary of the policies and procedures issued pursuant to paragraph (1).

(ii) A list of all meetings of the forum described in paragraph (1) that have occurred since the date of the enactment of this Act.

(iii) A summary of the efforts of the forum described in paragraph (1) to fulfill each of the purposes considered under paragraph (2).

(iv) Recommendations, based on findings of the forum described in paragraph (1), for legislative action to accelerate the adoption by the combatant commands of artificial intelligence capabilities.

119TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

S. 3641

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for evidence-based perinatal mental health prevention for pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and dependents, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23, 2024

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for evidence-based perinatal mental health prevention for pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and dependents, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Maintaining Our Obligation to Moms Who Serve Act of 2024" or the "MOMS Who Serve Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Preventing perinatal mental health conditions amongst pregnant and postpartum servicewomen and dependents to improve military readiness.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Defense Health Agency, shall establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and impact of providing evidence-based perinatal mental health prevention programs for eligible members and dependents within military treatment facilities with the goal of reducing the rates of perinatal mental health conditions and improving the military readiness of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(A) integrate evidence-based perinatal mental health prevention programs for eligible members and dependents within existing maternal or pediatric care or programming, including primary care, obstetric care, pediatric care, and family and parenting programs, when applicable;

(B) select sites for the pilot program—

(i) in a manner that represents the diversity of the Armed Forces, including—

(I) not fewer than 2 military treatment facilities for each military department; and

(II) geographically diverse sites across the United States, excluding any territory or possession of the United States; and

(ii) by prioritizing of military treatment facilities with established maternal health programs or women's clinics;

(C) implement the prevention programs at times, locations, and in a manner that incentivizes participation by eligible members and dependents, including by removing barriers to participation, such as childcare availability, differences in military rank and occupation, and any other factors as the Secretary shall determine; and

(D) increase awareness of and encourage participation in care and programming for eligible members and dependents.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to assist the Secretary in implementing the pilot program pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

(2) COMPOSITION.—Members of the advisory committee shall—

(A) be appointed by the Secretary; and

(B) include—

(i) members of the Armed Forces and dependents, including individuals who—

(I) are or have experienced perinatal care in the previous five years while in the Armed Forces;

(II) represent various military departments and ranks; and

(III) experienced a perinatal mental health condition.

(ii) individuals with experience at military and veteran service organizations;

(iii) experts in perinatal mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention; and

(iv) representatives from the Federal Maternal Mental Health Hotline and related perinatal mental health programs.

(3) DUTIES.—In implementing the pilot program pursuant to subsection (a)(2), the advisory committee shall provide recommendations to the Secretary with respect to the following:

(A) Identification of evidence-based perinatal prevention programs.

(B) Strategies to increase diversity in participation of eligible members and dependents.

(C) Outreach to eligible members and dependents on the benefits of prevention and the availability of pilot program participation.

(D) Strategies to reduce stigma with respect to perinatal mental health conditions and the use of prevention programs.

(4) TERMINATION.—Section 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the advisory committee.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to military treatment facilities in implementing evidence-based perinatal prevention programs pursuant to subsection (a) and outside of the pilot program.

(d) STUDY.—Not later than June 30, 2029, the Secretary shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of the pilot program in preventing or reducing the onset of symptoms of perinatal mental health conditions for eligible and dependents.

119TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

S. 3182

To require a report on implementation of a termination of the ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2012

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require a report on implementation of a termination of the ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Gender Equality in Combat Act".

SEC. 2. Report on implementation of termination of ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of a termination of the ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall set forth the following:

(1) A proposed effective date for the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

(2) A schedule for implementation of the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy by the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces.

(3) An identification of the funds to be required for the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy.

(4) An assessment of the impacts of the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy—

(A) on military readiness, effectiveness, and unit cohesion; and

(B) for policies, guidance, and training (including policies, guidance, and training relating to personnel management, leadership, facilities, investigations, and benefits).

(5) An identification of mechanisms to address any impacts identified pursuant to paragraph (4).

(6) An identification of mechanisms to provide monitoring of workforce climate and military effectiveness necessary to achieve effective implementation of the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy.

(7) An identification of the laws affected by the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy, and an assessment of such effects.

(8) A proposal for such legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate for implementation of the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy.

(c) GROUND COMBAT EXCLUSION POLICY DEFINED.—In this section, the term "ground combat exclusion policy" has the meaning given that term in section 652(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5330

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KING, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act".

SEC. 2. Pilot program to treat pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall commence a five-year pilot program under which the Secretary shall treat pregnancy as a qualifying event under section 1099(b)(1)(B) of title 10, United States Code, for enrollment in TRICARE Select by an eligible beneficiary.

(b) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the status of the pilot program under subsection (a).

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the Secretary commences the pilot program under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for the next four years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the pilot program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the number of covered enrollment changes during the period covered by the report, disaggregated by—

(A) month, beginning with January 2026; and

(B) whether the eligible beneficiary made such covered enrollment change—

(i) because the eligible beneficiary is a member of the uniformed services who separated from active duty;

(ii) because the eligible beneficiary is a member of the uniformed services who returned to active duty;

(iii) because the eligible beneficiary is a dependent of a member of the uniformed services who separated from active duty;

(iv) because the eligible beneficiary is a dependent of a member of the uniformed services who returned to active duty; or

(v) based on the treatment, under the pilot program under subsection (a), of pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACTIVE DUTY.—The term "active duty" has the meaning given that term in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(3) COVERED ENROLLMENT CHANGE.—The term "covered enrollment change" means a change to a previous election by an eligible beneficiary under subsection (b)(1) of section 1099 of title 10, United States Code, to enroll in a health care plan designated under subsection (c) of such section.

(4) DEPENDENT; TRICARE PROGRAM; TRICARE SELECT.—The terms "dependent", "TRICARE program", and "TRICARE Select" have the meanings given those terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

(5) ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARY.—The term "eligible beneficiary" means an individual who is eligible to enroll in TRICARE Select under section 1075(b) of title 10, United States Code.

(6) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term "uniformed services" has the meaning given that term in section 101

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2098

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a military training program with the Government of Mexico in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2023

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a military training program with the Government of Mexico in the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Partnership for Advancing Regional Training and Narcotics Enforcement Response Strategies Act" or the "PARTNERS Act".

SEC. 2. Statement of policy on military capacity building and security cooperation with the Government of Mexico.

It is the policy of the United States Government to counter the threat posed by transnational criminal organizations, including through military capacity building and security cooperation with the Government of Mexico.

SEC. 3. Building the capacity of armed forces of Mexico to counter threat posed by transnational criminal organizations.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of building the capacity of armed forces of Mexico in the United States on goals, jointly agreed to by the

Governments of the United States and Mexico, to counter the threat posed by transnational criminal organizations, including through—

(1) operations designed, at least in part, by the United States, to counter that threat; and

(2) in consultation with the appropriate civilian government agencies specializing in countering transnational criminal organizations—

(A) joint network analysis;

(B) counter threat financing;

(C) counter illicit trafficking (including narcotics, weapons, and human trafficking, and illicit trafficking in natural resources); and

(D) assessments of key nodes of activity of transnational criminal organizations.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for implementing the pilot program required by subsection (a) over a period of five years, including the costs of administering the program during such period.

(2) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 29

To provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID–19 vaccine mandate.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2023

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID–19 vaccine mandate.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Allowing Military Exemptions, Recognizing Individual Concerns About New Shots Act of 2023" or the "AMERICANS Act".

SEC. 2. Remedies for members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID–19 vaccine mandate.

(a) LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF NEW MANDATE.—The Secretary of Defense may not issue any COVID–19 vaccine mandate as a replacement for the mandate rescinded under

section 525 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 absent a further Act of Congress expressly authorizing a replacement mandate.

(b) REMEDIES.—Section 736 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 10 U.S.C. 1161 note prec.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "**to obey lawful order to receive**" and inserting "**to receive**";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "a lawful order" and inserting "an order"; and

(B) by striking "shall be" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "shall be an honorable discharge.";

(3) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (e); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsections:

"(b) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—The Secretary of Defense may not take any adverse action against a covered member based solely on the refusal of such member to receive a vaccine for COVID–19.

"(c) REMEDIES AVAILABLE FOR A COVERED MEMBER DISCHARGED OR SUBJECT TO ADVERSE ACTION BASED ON COVID–19 STATUS.—At the election of a covered member discharged or subject to adverse action based on the member's COVID–19 vaccination status, and upon application through a process established by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary shall—

"(1) adjust to 'honorable discharge' the status of the member if—

"(A) the member was separated from the Armed Forces based solely on the failure of the member to obey an order to receive a vaccine for COVID–19; and

"(B) the discharge status of the member would have been an 'honorable discharge' but for the refusal to obtain such vaccine;

"(2) reinstate the member to service at the highest grade held by the member immediately prior to the involuntary separation, allowing, however, for any reduction in rank that was not related to the member's COVID–19 vaccination

status, with an effective date of reinstatement as of the date of involuntary separation;

"(3) for any member who was subject to any adverse action other than involuntary separation based solely on the member's COVID–19 vaccination status—

"(A) restore the member to the highest grade held prior to such adverse action, allowing, however, for any reduction in rank that was not related to the member's COVID–19 vaccination status, with an effective date of reinstatement as of the date of involuntary separation; and

"(B) compensate such member for any pay and benefits lost as a result of such adverse action;

"(4) expunge from the service record of the member any adverse action, to include non-punitive adverse action and involuntary separation, as well as any reference to any such adverse action, based solely on COVID–19 vaccination status; and

"(5) include the time of involuntary separation of the member reinstated under paragraph (2) in the computation of the retired or retainer pay of the member.

119TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

S. 373

To provide for the retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To provide for the retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) individuals who are qualified and can meet the standards to serve in the military should be eligible to serve; and

(2) the policies recommended in the memorandum of the Secretary of Defense entitled “Military Service by Transgender Individuals” and dated February 22, 2018, are inconsistent with this goal.

(b) RETENTION OF CURRENTLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—An individual serving as a member of the Armed Forces on or after the date of the enactment of this Act may not be involuntarily separated from the Armed Forces, or denied reenlistment or continuation in service in the Armed Forces, solely on the basis of the member's gender identity. Nothing in this subsection relieves a member from meeting applicable military and medical standards, including deployability, or requires retention of the member in service if the member fails to meet such standards.

(c) ACCESSION INTO THE ARMED FORCES.—On or after the date of the enactment of this Act, an individual may not be denied initial enlistment, commissioning, or other accession into the Armed Forces solely on the basis of the individual's gender identity. Nothing in this subsection relieves an individual from meeting applicable military and medical standards, including deployability, for enlistment, commissioning, or other accession.

(d) GENDER IDENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term "gender identity" means the gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, regardless of the individual's designated sex at birth.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4617

To exempt National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers from active-duty end strength limits and to clarify the congressional committees to which the Secretary of Defense shall submit an annual report on security cooperation activities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2024

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To exempt National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers from active-duty end strength limits and to clarify the congressional committees to which the Secretary of Defense shall submit an annual report on security cooperation activities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Exemption of National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers from active-Duty end strength limits and modification of annual reporting requirement regarding security cooperation activities.

(a) EXEMPTION OF NATIONAL GUARD BILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS FROM ACTIVE-DUTY END STRENGTH LIMITS.—Section 115(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(14) Members of the National Guard on active duty or full-time National Guard duty serving as Bilateral Affairs Officers as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program.".

(b) MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT REGARDING SECURITY COOPERATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 386(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "appropriate congressional committees" and inserting "congressional defense committees".

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4881

To repeal the Military Selective Service Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2024

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To repeal the Military Selective Service Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Repeal of Military Selective Service Act.

(a) REPEAL.—The Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) TRANSFERS IN CONNECTION WITH REPEAL.—Notwithstanding the proviso in section 10(a)(4) of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3809(a)(4)), the Office of Selective Service Records shall not be reestablished upon the repeal of the Act. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the assets, contracts, property, and records held by the Selective Service System, and the unexpended balances of any appropriations available to the Selective Service System, shall be transferred to the Administrator of General Services upon the repeal of the Act. The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall assist officers and employees of the Selective Service System to transfer to other positions in the executive branch.

(c) EFFECT ON EXISTING SANCTIONS.—

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not be denied a right, privilege, benefit, or employment position under Federal law on the grounds that the person failed to present himself for and submit to registration under section

3 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3802), before the repeal of that Act by subsection (a).

(2) A State, political subdivision of a State, or political authority of two or more States may not enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision having the force and effect of law to penalize or deny any privilege or benefit to a person who failed to present himself for and submit to registration under section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3802), before the repeal of that Act by subsection (a). In this section, "State" means a State, the District of Columbia, and a territory or possession of the United States.

(3) Failing to present oneself for and submit to registration under section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3802), before the repeal of that Act by subsection (a), shall not be reason for any entity of the U.S. Government to determine that a person lacks good moral character or is unsuited for any privilege or benefit.

(d) CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.—Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to undermine or diminish the rights of conscientious objectors under laws and regulations of the United States.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4758

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on using artificial intelligence-enabled software to optimize the workflow and operations of depots, shipyards, and other manufacturing facilities run by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24, 2024

Mr. ROUNDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on using artificial intelligence-enabled software to optimize the workflow and operations of depots, shipyards, and other manufacturing facilities run by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Department of Defense pilot program on use of artificial intelligence.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall commence carrying out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of using artificial intelligence-enabled software to optimize the workflow and operations for—

(1) depots, shipyards, or other manufacturing facilities run by the Department of Defense; and

(2) contract administration for the Department, including the adjudication and review of contracts managed by the Defense Contract Management Agency.

(b) SOFTWARE.—In carrying out the pilot program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) use best in breed software platforms;

(2) consider industry best practices in the selection of software programs;

(3) be implemented based on human centered design practices to best identify the business needs for improvement; and

(4) demonstrate connection to enterprise platforms of record with relevant data sources.

(c) MINIMUM EXPENDITURES.—In carrying out the pilot program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall expend or obligate not less than $35,000,000.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program required by subsection (a)(1) in consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy, and Secretary of the Air Force.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the commencement of the pilot program pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report containing the following information:

(1) An evaluation of each software platform used in the pilot program.

(2) An analysis of how workflows and operations were modified as part of the pilot program.

(3) A quantitative assessment of the impact the software had at each of the locations in which the pilot program was carried out.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4866

To require a report on the threats posed by control of strategic ports by the People's Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2024

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require a report on the threats posed by control of strategic ports by the People's Republic of China.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Strategic Ports Reporting Act ".

SEC. 2. Report on threats posed by control of strategic ports by the People's Republic of China.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study of—

(1) strategic ports;

(2) the reasons such ports are of interest to the United States;

(3) the activities and plans of the Government of the People's Republic of China to expand its control over strategic ports outside the People's Republic of China;

(4) the public and private actors, such as China Ocean Shipping Company, that are executing and supporting the activities and plans of the Government of the People's Republic of China to expand its control over strategic ports outside the People's Republic of China;

(5) the activities and plans of the Government of the People's Republic of China to expand its control over maritime logistics by promoting products, such as LOGINK, and setting industry standards outside the People's Republic of China;

(6) how the control by the Government of the People's Republic of China over strategic ports outside the People's Republic of China could harm the national security or economic interests of the United States and allies and partners of the United States; and

(7) measures the United States Government could take to ensure open access and security for strategic ports.

(b) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense may enter into an arrangement with a federally funded research and development center under which the center shall conduct the study described in subsection (a).

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed list of all known strategic ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or indirectly, by the People's Republic of China and an assessment of the national security and economic interests relevant to each such port;

(B) a detailed list of all known strategic ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or indirectly, by the United States and an assessment of the national security and economic interests relevant to each such port;

(C) an assessment of vulnerabilities of—

(i) ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or indirectly, by the United States; and

(ii) strategic ports;

(D) an analysis of the activities and actions of the Government of the People's Republic of China to gain control or ownership over strategic ports, including promoting products, such as LOGINK, and setting industry standards;

(E) an assessment of how the Government of the People's Republic of China plans to expand its control over strategic ports outside of the People's Republic of China;

(F) a suggested strategy, developed in consultation with the heads of the relevant United States Government offices, that suggests courses of action to secure trusted investment and ownership of strategic ports and maritime infrastructure, to protect such ports and infrastructure from the control of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and to ensure open access and security for such ports, that includes—

(i) a list of relevant existing authorities that can be used to carry out the strategy;

(ii) a list of any additional authorities necessary to carry out the strategy;

(iii) an assessment of products owned by the Government of the People’s Republic of China or an entity affiliated with such government that are used in connection with strategic ports or maritime infrastructure;

(iv) an assessment of costs to secure trusted investment and ownership of strategic ports and replace products owned by the Government of the People’s Republic of China or an entity affiliated with such government that are used in connection with such ports; and

(v) a list of funding sources to secure trusted investment and ownership of strategic ports, which shall include—

(I) an identification of private funding sources; and

(II) an identification of public funding sources, including loans, loan guarantees, and tax incentives; and

(G) a suggested strategy for Federal agencies to maintain an up-to-date list of strategic ports.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3722

To require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Access to Maternal Health for Military and Dependent Moms Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Definitions.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term "covered individual" means—

(A) a covered beneficiary; or

(B) a dependent.

(2) COVERED BENEFICIARY; DEPENDENT; TRICARE PROGRAM.—The terms "covered beneficiary", "dependent", and "TRICARE program" have the meanings given those terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) MATERNAL HEALTH.—The term "maternal health" means care during labor, birthing, prenatal care, and postpartum care.

(4) MATERNITY CARE DESERT.—The term "maternity care desert" means a county in the United States that does not have—

(A) a hospital or birth center offering obstetric care; or

(B) an obstetric provider.

(5) PRENATAL CARE.—The term "prenatal care" means medical care provided to maintain and improve fetal and maternal health during pregnancy.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 3. Report on access to maternal health care within the military health system.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system for covered individuals, during the preceding 2-year period.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) With respect to military medical treatment facilities:

(A) An analysis of the availability of maternal health care for covered individuals who access the military health system through such facilities.

(B) An identification of staffing shortages in positions relating to maternal health and childbirth, including obstetrician-gynecologists, certified nurse midwives, and labor and delivery nurses.

(C) A description of specific challenges faced by covered individuals in accessing maternal health care at such facilities.

(D) An analysis of the timeliness of access to maternal health care, including wait times for and travel times to appointments.

(E) A description of how such facilities track patient satisfaction with maternal health services.

(F) A process to establish continuity of prenatal care and postpartum care for covered individuals who experience a permanent change of station during a pregnancy.

(G) An identification of barriers with regard to continuity of prenatal care and postpartum care during permanent changes of station.

(H) A description of military-specific health challenges impacting covered individuals who receive maternal healthcare at military medical treatment facilities, and a description of how the Department tracks such challenges.

(I) For the 10-year period preceding the date of the submission of the report, the amount of funds annually expended—

(i) by the Department of Defense on maternal health care; and

(ii) by covered individuals on out-of-pocket costs associated with maternal health care.

(J) An identification of each medical facility of the Department of Defense located in a maternity care desert.

(K) Recommendations and legislative proposals—

(i) to address staffing shortages that impact the positions described in subparagraph (B);

(ii) to improve the delivery and availability of maternal health services through military medical treatment facilities and improve patient experience; and

(iii) to improve continuity of prenatal care and postpartum care for covered individuals during a permanent change of station.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2031

To strengthen the national security of the United States by decreasing the reliance of the Department of Defense on critical minerals from the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, and other geostrategic competitors and adversaries of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2023

Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To strengthen the national security of the United States by decreasing the reliance of the Department of Defense on critical minerals from the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, and other geostrategic competitors and adversaries of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Critical Mineral Independence Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAIN INDEPENDENCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategy to develop supply chains for the Department of Defense that are not dependent on mining or processing of critical minerals in or by covered countries, in order to achieve critical mineral supply chain independence from covered countries for the Department by 2035.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify and assess significant vulnerabilities in the supply chains of contractors and subcontractors of the Department of Defense involving critical minerals that are mined or processed in or by covered countries;

(2) identify and recommend changes to the acquisition laws, regulations, and policies of the Department of Defense to ensure contractors and subcontractors of the Department use supply chains involving critical minerals that are not mined or processed in or by covered countries to the greatest extent practicable;

(3) evaluate the utility and desirability of using authorities provided by the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) to expand supply chains and processing capacity for critical minerals in the United States;

(4) evaluate the utility and desirability of expanding authorities provided by the Defense Production Act of 1950 to be used to expand supply chains and processing capacity for critical minerals by countries that are allies or partners of the United States;

(5) evaluate the utility and desirability of leveraging the process for acquiring shortfall materials for the National Defense Stockpile under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.) to expand supply chains and processing capacity for critical minerals in the United States and in countries that are allies or partners of the United States;

(6) identify areas of potential engagement and partnership with the governments of countries that are allies or partners of the United States to jointly reduce dependence on critical minerals mined or processed in or by covered countries;

(7) identify and recommend other policy changes that may be needed to achieve critical mineral supply chain independence from covered countries for the Department;

(8) identify and recommend measures to streamline authorities and policies with respect to critical minerals and supply chains for critical minerals; and

(9) prioritize the recommendations made in the strategy to achieve critical mineral supply chain independence from covered countries for the Department, taking into consideration economic costs and varying degrees of vulnerability posed to the national security of the United States by reliance on different types of critical minerals.

119TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

S. 3490

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "No VA Resources for Illegal Aliens Act".

SEC. 2. Limitation on care or processing of claims for care from Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not provide health care to, and may not engage in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2047

To amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2023

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Military Housing Readiness Council Act".

SEC. 2. Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 88 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1781c the following new section:

"§ 1781d. Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department of Defense the Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council (in this section referred to as the 'Council').

"(b) MEMBERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed of the following members:

"(A) The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, who shall serve as chair of the Council and who may designate a representative to chair the Council in the absence of the Assistant Secretary.

"(B) One representative of each of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force, each of whom shall be a member of the armed force to be represented and not fewer than two of which shall be from an enlisted component.

"(C) One spouse of a member of each of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force on active duty, not fewer than two of which shall be the spouse of an enlisted member.

"(D) One professional from each of the following fields, each of whom shall possess expertise in State and Federal housing standards in their respective field:

"(i) Plumbing.

"(ii) Electrical.

"(iii) Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC).

"(iv) Certified home inspection.

"(v) Roofing.

"(vi) Structural engineering.

"(vii) Window fall prevention and safety.

"(E) Two representatives of organizations that advocate on behalf of military families with respect to military housing.

"(F) One individual appointed by the Secretary of Defense among representatives of the International Code Council.

"(G) One individual appointed by the Secretary of Defense among representatives of the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification.

"(H) One individual appointed by the Secretary of Defense among representatives of a voluntary consensus standards body that develops construction standards (such as building, plumbing, mechanical, or electrical).

"(I) One individual appointed by the Secretary of Defense among representatives of a voluntary consensus standards body that develops personnel certification standards for building maintenance or restoration.

"(J) One individual appointed by the Chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate who is not described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) and is not a representative of an organization specified in subparagraph (E), (F), (G), (H), or (I).

"(K) One individual appointed by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate who is not described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) and is not a representative of an organization specified in subparagraph (E), (F), (G), (H), or (I).

"(L) One individual appointed by the Chair of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives who is not described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) and is not a representative of an organization specified in subparagraph (E), (F), (G), (H), or (I).

"(M) One individual appointed by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives who is not described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) and is not a representative of an organization specified in subparagraph (E), (F), (G), (H), or (I).

"(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council shall include the following:

"(1) To review and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding policies for privatized military housing, including inspections practices, resident surveys, landlord payment of medical bills for residents of housing units that have not maintained minimum standards of habitability, and access to maintenance work order systems.

"(2) To monitor compliance by the Department of Defense with and effective implementation by the Department of statutory and regulatory improvements to policies for privatized military housing, including the Military Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of Rights developed under section 2890 of this title and the complaint database established under section 2894a of this title.

"(3) To make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense to improve collaboration, awareness, and promotion of accurate and timely information about

privatized military housing, accommodations available through the Exceptional Family Member Program of the Department, and other support services among policymakers, providers of such accommodations and other support services, and targeted beneficiaries of such accommodations and other support services.

"(e) PUBLIC REPORTING.—

"(1) AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS.—Subject to section 552 of title 5 (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'), the records, reports, transcripts, minutes, appendices, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, and other documents made available to or prepared for or by the Council shall be available for public inspection and copying at a single location in a publicly accessible format on a website of the Department of Defense until the Council ceases to exist.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1588

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2023

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Respect for Grieving Military Families Act".

SEC. 2. Forgiveness or offset of overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

(a) WHEN PAYMENT DEPOSITED TO JOINT ACCOUNT.—Section 2771 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) In the case of overpayment of retired or retainer pay, arising from payment of such retired or retainer pay for any period after the date of the death of a recipient through the last day of the month in which such death occurs, if such payment is electronically deposited in an accredited financial institution to a joint account bearing the name of the decedent and another individual who is the decedent's designated beneficiary under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Defense—

"(1) if the decedent is an individual to whom section 1448 of this title applies, shall elect to—

"(A) forgive the overpayment on behalf of the United States; or

"(B) offset the overpayment pursuant to section 1450(n) of this title; or

"(2) if the decedent is not an individual to whom section 1448 of this title applies, shall forgive the overpayment on behalf of the United States.".

(b) COORDINATION WITH SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN.—Section 1450 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ", or that applies under subsection (n)" after "under subsection (j)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(n) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF CERTAIN FINAL RETIRED PAY OVERPAYMENT.—In a case described in section 2771(e) of this title, if the individual described in that subsection other than the decedent is the beneficiary of the decedent under the Plan, each of the first 12 payments, following the death of the decedent, of the annuity payable to the decedent's beneficiary under the Plan, shall be reduced by one-twelfth of such overpayment.".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to payments made to persons who die on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5276

To require a roadmap for the future desired state for the solid rocket motor (SRM) industrial base, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To require a roadmap for the future desired state for the solid rocket motor (SRM) industrial base, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Solid Propulsion Enhancement and Advancement for Readiness Act of 2024" or the "SPEAR Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Solid rocket motor industrial base.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2025, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, acting through the Director of the Joint Production Accelerator Cell and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a roadmap for the future desired state for the solid rocket motor (SRM) industrial base.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The roadmap under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The current and future capability and capacity of existing solid rocket motor manufacturers, Aerojet Rocketdyne and Northrop Grumman (formerly Orbital ATK).

(2) The capability and capacity of potential new entrants to the solid rocket motor industrial base, including companies funded by the United States Government.

(3) An assessment of the process for qualifying new entrants, including new manufacturing processes, for solid rocket motors.

(4) An assessment of the capacity and capability of the SRM industrial base to support the demands of existing munitions program of record.

(5) An assessment of the capacity and capability of the SRM industrial base to support potential future demands of munitions programs.

(6) An assessment of emerging technologies or manufacturing processes that would support the modernization or evolution of the SRM industrial base.

(7) A mapping of program of record and anticipated or potential future munitions programs to SRM manufacturer throughput.

(8) Identification of current and potential shortfalls in common precursors and chemicals.

(9) United States Government funding to date for the SRM industrial base, whether through programs of record or through Defense Production Act (DPA) or Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) programs, broken out by fiscal year and purpose.

(10) A plan to prioritize government funding for energetics facilities in the following precedence:

(A) Government-owned, government-operated facilities.

(B) Government-owned, contractor-operated facilities.

(C) Contractor-owned, contractor-operated facilities.

(d) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than June 1, 2025, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of Department of Defense decisions regarding the SRM industry since February 1, 2022, including—

(1) the requested levels of funding for munitions using solid rocket motors, broken down by motor diameter;

(2) the requested levels of funding for direct investment in government-owned, government-operated facilities, government-owned, contractor-operated facilities, and contractor-owned, contractor-operated facilities;

(3) the requested levels of funding for direct investment in the SRM supplier base;

(4) the potential adverse effects of prioritizing privately owned SRM production infrastructure over government-owned SRM production infrastructure; and

(5) a cost and capabilities comparison between the expansion of existing infrastructure at the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory and construction of new infrastructure at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Chairman: Shelly Moore Capito
Kevin Cramer
Cynthia Lummis
John Curtis
John Boozman
Jon Husted
Mitch McConnell
Mike Crapo
Ron Johnson
James Lankford

Ranking Member: Jeff Merkley
Ed Markey
Mark Kelly
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Angela Alsobrooks
Ron Wyden
Maria Cantwell
John Hoeven
Tina Smith
John Fetterman

S. 147	98	Alsobrooks	To direct the administrator of the environmental protection agency to provide grants to air pollution control agencies to implement a cleaner air space program, and for other purposes.
S. 1433	103	Boozman	To exempt certain aviation entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 for the release of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.
S. 5287	105	Cantwell	To take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes.
S. 1358	107	Cramer	To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and the Flood Control Act of 1968 to provide for provisions relating to collection and retention of user fees at recreation facilities, and for other purposes.
S. 4004	111	Crapo	To amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.
S.143	116	Curtis	To amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the natural gas tax.
S. 4020	117	Fetterman	To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to certain entities, and for other purposes.
S. 1185	119	Hoeven	To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.
S. 5290	121	Husted	To address the effect of litigation on applications to export liquefied natural gas, and for other purposes.
S. 1895	124	Johnson	To require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue a final rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
S. 5439	125	Kelly	To provide for water conservation, drought operations, and drought resilience at water resources development projects, and for other purposes.
S. 4985	130	Lankford	To reform the process for listing a species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.
S. 1427	135	Lummis	To exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect

			to releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.
S. RES. 36	137	Markey	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.
S. 5282	141	Merkley	To restrict car manufacturers and other companies from selling consumer car-related data, increase transparency regarding data practices, and for other purposes.
S. 2118	144	Moore Capito	To clarify the inability of the President to declare national emergencies under the National Emergencies Act, major disasters or emergencies under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and public health emergencies under the Public Health Service Act on the premise of climate change, and for other purposes.
S. 5289	146	McConnell	To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes.
S. 4963	150	Rochester	To support Federal, State, and Tribal coordination and management efforts relating to wildlife disease and zoonotic disease surveillance and ongoing and potential wildlife disease and zoonotic disease outbreaks, and for other purposes.
S. 2504	154	Smith	To require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes.
S. 3111	157	Wyden	To amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize and improve that Act, and for other purposes.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 147

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants to air pollution control agencies to implement a cleaner air space program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

January 17, 2025

Mr. Bennet (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Merkley, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Padilla, and Mr. Wyden) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants to air pollution control agencies to implement a cleaner air space program, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Cleaner Air Spaces Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. Cleaner air space program grants.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) CLEAN AIR CENTER.—The term "clean air center" means 1 or more clean air rooms in a publicly accessible building.

(2) CLEAN AIR ROOM.—The term "clean air room" means a room that is designed to keep levels of harmful air pollutants as low as possible during wildland fire smoke events.

(3) COVERED HOUSEHOLD.—The term "covered household" means a household that—

(A) is located in a low-income community; and

(B) includes a person who—

(i) is at high risk of experiencing a wildland fire smoke event; and

(ii) is vulnerable to negative health effects caused by wildland fire smoke due to factors such as an underlying health condition, a disability, or age.

(4) ELIGIBLE AIR FILTRATION UNIT.—The term "eligible air filtration unit" means an air filtration unit that—

(A) is certified by the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers to have a Clean Air Delivery Rate of at least 97 for smoke;

(B) is certified under the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a);

(C) does not emit ozone; and

(D) uses a true high-efficiency particulate air filter rated to remove 99.97 percent of particles measuring 0.3 micrometers or greater.

(b) Grants authorized.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall provide grants to air pollution control agencies to implement a cleaner air space program in accordance with this section.

(c) Grant requirements.—

(1) AMOUNTS.—Under this section, the Administrator may not provide a grant to an air pollution control agency in an amount that exceeds $3,000,000.

(2) GRANTS FOR TRIBES.—The Administrator shall provide at least 1 grant under this section to a Tribal agency that has jurisdiction over air quality.

(d) Application.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under this section, an air pollution control agency shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator determines appropriate, including a proposal for the implementation of a cleaner air space program.0

(2) PROPOSAL FOR CLEANER AIR SPACE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A proposal for the implementation of a cleaner air space program of an air pollution control agency under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Certification of partnering with a community-based organization.

(B) Details on the responsibilities of all parties involved with the cleaner air space program, including the responsibilities of—

(i) the air pollution control agency and any community-based organizations with which the air pollution control agency is partnering under subparagraph (A).

(C) Information with respect to which geographic population or community of covered households may be receiving eligible air filtration units under the cleaner air space program.

(D) Information on how the air pollution control agency plans—

(i) to distribute educational materials related to eligible air filtration units and to advertise the availability of clean air centers.

(E) Information on how the air pollution control agency plans to establish a clean air center, including—

(i) the facility in which a clean air center may be established and the capacity and ventilation characteristics of that facility.

(F) A description of the costs that may be associated with the cleaner air space program, including any administrative costs.

(e) Cleaner air space program requirements.—Subject to satisfaction of the partnership requirement described in subsection (f), an air pollution control agency implementing a cleaner air space program pursuant to a grant provided under subsection (b) shall—

(1) establish at least 1 clean air center that is—

(A) located in an area at risk of being exposed to wildland fire smoke;

(B) accessible to individuals that reside in covered households;

(C) open, accessible, and staffed during wildland fire smoke events with the option of being open, accessible, and staffed before or after wildland fire smoke events;

(2) advertise to the public—

(A) during a wildland fire smoke event, the availability of a clean air center; and

(B) the cleaner air space program that the air pollution control agency is implementing, including information about the cleaner air space program, the availability of free air filtration units (if applicable), eligibility requirements to receive those free air filtration units, and information on who to contact for more information with respect to the cleaner air space program;

(3) at no cost to covered households—

(A) distribute not less than 1,000 eligible air filtration units to those covered households.

(4) distribute educational materials that include information with respect to how to best utilize an eligible air filtration unit to create a clean air room in a home;

(5) collect, and provide to the Administrator, information on—

(A) the type, number, and cost of each eligible air filtration unit distributed under the cleaner air space program; and

(6) not later than 6 months after providing an eligible air filtration unit to a covered household, conduct an anonymous survey of an individual of the covered household that received the eligible air filtration unit through the cleaner air space program with respect to—

(A) whether the individual understood how to properly set up a clean air room and how to utilize the air filtration unit;

(B) how often the individual utilized the air filtration unit;

(C) the largest barriers to properly utilizing the air filtration unit or creating a clean air room;

(D) whether the individual reported better air conditions in the clean air room compared to other parts of the home of that individual; and

(E) how the implementation of the cleaner air space program could improve.

(F) Partnership.—In implementing a cleaner air space program pursuant to a grant provided under subsection (b), an air pollution control agency shall partner with at least 1 community-based organization to carry out the requirements of the cleaner air space program described in subsection (e).

(f) Authorization of appropriations.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section $30,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2028.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1), the Administrator may use not more than 10 percent for expenses relating to administering the grant program under this section.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1433

To exempt certain aviation entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 for the release of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2023

Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To exempt certain aviation entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 for the release of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Airports PFAS Liability Protection Act".

SEC. 2. Exemption under CERCLA.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE.—The term "covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance" means a non-polymeric perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance that contains at least 2 sequential fully fluorinated carbon atoms, excluding gases and volatile liquids, that is a hazardous substance (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601)).

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) SPONSOR.—The term “sponsor” has the meaning given the term in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code.

(b) Exemption.—Subject to subsection (c), no person (including the United States, any State, or an Indian Tribe) may recover costs or damages from a sponsor, including a sponsor of the civilian portion of a joint-use airport or a shared-use airport (as those terms are defined in section 139.5 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)), under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) for costs arising from a release to the environment of a covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

(c) Requirements.—Subsection (b) shall only apply—

(1) if the release of a covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance by a sponsor resulted from the use of an aqueous film forming foam; and

(2) if the use described in paragraph (1) was—

(A) required by the Federal Aviation Administration for compliance with part 139 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(B) carried out in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards and guidance on the use of that substance.

(d) Savings provision.—Nothing in this section precludes liability for damages or costs associated with the release of a covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance by a sponsor if that sponsor acted with gross negligence or willful misconduct in the use of an aqueous film forming foam.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5287

to take certain federal land in the state of Washington into trust for the lower Elwha Klallam tribe, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

MS. CANTWELL (for herself and MRS. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

---

A BILL

To take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act".

SEC. 2. Land taken into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RESERVATION.—The term "Reservation" means the Lower Elwha Indian Reservation, also known as the Lower Elwha Reservation, located in the State of Washington.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) TRIBE.—The term "Tribe" means the Lower Elwha Tribal Community, also known as the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, located in the State of Washington.

(B) Land held in trust.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to all valid existing rights of the United States, the approximately 1,082.63 acres of Federal land generally depicted as "NPS Parcels to be Transferred to Tribe" on the map entitled "Olympic National Park

Proposed Transfer of Elwha Lands", numbered 149/178020, and dated December 2021, is hereby taken into and held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

(2) INCLUSION IN RESERVATION.—The land taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall be part of the Reservation.

(3) LAW APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN LAND.—The land taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to any requirements for valuation, appraisal, or equalization under any Federal law.

(c) LAND MANAGEMENT.—Of the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1), the portion of the Elwha River subject to section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (Public Law 102–495; 106 Stat. 3175) shall be managed in accordance with subsection (b) of the first section of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271), except for necessary modifications under section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (Public Law 102–495; 106 Stat. 3175).

(d) Map and survey.—

(1) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; SURVEY.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a survey to define the boundaries of the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1).

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may—

(A) make minor boundary adjustments to the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1); and

(B) correct any minor errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of that land.

(e) Gaming prohibition.—No land taken into and held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe under this section shall be considered Indian lands for the purpose of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

SEC. 3. No impact on treaty rights.

Nothing in this Act affects treaty rights under the Treaty between the United States of America and the S'Klallams Indians, concluded at Point no Point, Washington Territory, January 26, 1855 (12 Stat. 933) (commonly known as the "Treaty of Point No Point").

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1358

To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and the Flood Control Act of 1968 to provide for provisions relating to collection and retention of user fees at recreation facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

April 27, 2023

MR. CRAMER (for himself and MR. HEINRICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and the Flood Control Act of 1968 to provide for provisions relating to collection and retention of user fees at recreation facilities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Lake Access Keeping Economies Strong Act" or the "LAKES Act".

SEC. 2. Challenge cost-sharing program for management of recreation facilities.

Section 225 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2328) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (d) as subsections (b) through (e), respectively;

(2) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) NON-FEDERAL PUBLIC ENTITY.—The term 'non-Federal public entity' means a non-Federal public entity as defined in the document of the Corps of Engineers entitled 'Implementation Guidance for Section 1155 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016), Management of Recreation Facilities' and dated April 4, 2018.

"(2) PRIVATE NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term 'private nonprofit entity' means an organization that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code.";

(3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through "The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(b) Authorization.—The Secretary";

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through "To implement" and inserting the following:

"(c) Cooperative agreements.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To implement";

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking "non-Federal public and private entities" and inserting "non-Federal public entities and private nonprofit entities"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Before entering into an agreement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that the non-Federal public entity or private nonprofit entity has the authority and capability—

"(A) to carry out the terms of the agreement; and

"(B) to pay damages, if necessary, in the event of a failure to perform.";

(5) by striking subsection (d) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

"(d) User fees.—

"(1) COLLECTION OF FEES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may allow a non-Federal public entity or private nonprofit entity that has entered into an agreement pursuant to subsection (c) to collect user fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities, whether developed or constructed by that entity or the Department of the Army.

"(B) USE OF VISITOR RESERVATION SERVICES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A non-Federal public entity or a private nonprofit entity described in subparagraph (A) may use, to manage fee collections and reservations under this section, any visitor reservation service that the Secretary has provided for by contract or interagency agreement, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(ii) TRANSFER.—The Secretary may transfer to a non-Federal public entity or a private nonprofit entity described in subparagraph (A), or cause to be transferred by another Federal agency, user fees received by the Secretary or other Federal agency under a visitor reservation service described in clause (i) for recreation facilities and natural resources managed by the non-Federal public entity or private nonprofit entity.

SEC. 3. Retention of recreation fees.

(a) In general.—Section 210(b) of the Flood Control Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 460d–3(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) DEPOSIT INTO TREASURY ACCOUNT.—All fees collected under this subsection shall—

"(A) be deposited in a special account in the Treasury; and

"(B) be available for use, without further appropriation, for the operation and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army, subject to the condition that not less than 80 percent of fees collected at a specific recreation site are utilized at that site."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Fees collected under this subsection—

"(A) shall be in addition to annual appropriated funding provided for the operation and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army; and

"(B) shall not be used as a basis for reducing annual appropriated funding for those purposes.".

(b) Special accounts.—Amounts in the special account for the Corps of Engineers described in section 210(b)(4) of the Flood Control Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 460d–3(b)(4)) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) that are unobligated on that date shall—

(1) be transferred to the special account established under section 210(b)(4) of the Flood Control Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 460d–3(b)(4)) (as amended by subsection (a)(1)); and

(2) be available to the Secretary for operation and maintenance of any recreation sites and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, without further appropriation.

119TH CONGRESS
2ND SESSION

S. 4004

To amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20, 2024

MR. CRAPO (for himself, MR. WARNER, MR. DAINES, MR. KAINE, MS. COLLINS, MS. BALDWIN, MR. BENNET, MR. BLUMENTHAL, MR. BOOKER, MR. BROWN, MS. BUTLER, MS. CANTWELL, MR. CARDIN, MR. CASEY, MR. COONS, MS. CORTEZ MASTO, MS. DUCKWORTH, MR. DURBIN, MR. FETTERMAN, MRS. GILLIBRAND, MS. HASSAN, MR. HEINRICH, MR. HICKENLOOPER, MS. HIRONO, MR. KING, MS. KLOBUCHAR, MR. LUJÁN, MR. MARKEY, MR. MENENDEZ, MR. MERKLEY, MR. MURPHY, MRS. MURRAY, MR. OSSOFF, MR. PADILLA, MR. PETERS, MR. REED, MS. ROSEN, MR. SANDERS, MR. SCHATZ, MRS. SHAHEEN, MS. SINEMA, MS. SMITH, MS. STABENOW, MR. VAN HOLLEN, MR. WARNOCK, MS. WARREN, MR. WELCH, MR. WHITEHOUSE, MR. WYDEN, AND MR. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

---

A BILL

To amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the “Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2024” or the “PAST Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. Increased enforcement under Horse Protection Act.

(a) Definitions.—Section 2 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraph:

‘‘(1) (A) The term ‘action device’ means any boot, collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse in such a manner that it can—

‘‘(i) rotate around the leg or slide up and down the leg, so as to cause friction; or

‘‘(ii) strike the hoof, coronet band, fetlock joint, or pastern of the horse.

‘‘(B) Such term does not include soft rubber or soft leather bell boots or quarter boots that are used as protective devices.’’; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(6) (A) The term ‘participate’ means engaging in any activity with respect to a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, including—

‘‘(i) transporting or arranging for the transportation of a horse to or from a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction;

‘‘(ii) personally giving instructions to an exhibitor; or

‘‘(iii) being knowingly present in a warm-up area, inspection area, or other area at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction that spectators are not permitted to enter.

‘‘(B) Such term does not include spectating.’’.

(b) Findings.—Section 3 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1822) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting ‘‘and soring horses for such purposes’’ after ‘‘horses in intrastate commerce’’; and

(B) by inserting “in many ways, including by creating unfair competition, by deceiving the spectating public and horse buyers, and by negatively impacting horse sales” before the semicolon;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

‘‘(6) the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture has determined that the program through which the Secretary inspects horses is inadequate for preventing soring;

‘‘(7) historically, Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses have been subjected to soring; and

‘‘(8) despite regulations in effect related to inspection for purposes of ensuring that horses are not sore, violations of this Act continue to be prevalent in the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse breeds.”.

(c) Horse shows and exhibitions.—Section 4 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1823) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “appointed” and inserting “licensed”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new sentences: “In the first instance in which the Secretary determines that a horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse from being shown or exhibited for a period of not less than 180 days. In the second instance in which the Secretary determines that such horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse for a period of not less than one year. In the third instance in which the Secretary determines that such horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse for a period of not less than three years.”;

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “appointed” and inserting “licensed”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following new subsection:

‘‘(c) (1) (A) The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation requirements for the Department of Agriculture to license, train, assign, and oversee persons qualified to detect and diagnose a horse which is sore or to otherwise inspect horses at horse shows, horse exhibitions, or horse sales or auctions, for hire by the management of such events, for the purposes of enforcing this Act.

‘‘(B) No person shall be issued a license under this subsection unless such person is free from conflicts of interest, as defined by the Secretary in the regulations issued under subparagraph (A).

‘‘(C) If the Secretary determines that the performance of a person licensed in accordance with subparagraph (A) is unsatisfactory, the Secretary may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, revoke the license issued to such person.

‘‘(D) In issuing licenses under this subsection, the Secretary shall give a preference to persons who are licensed or accredited veterinarians.

‘‘(E) Licensure of a person in accordance with the requirements prescribed under this subsection shall not be construed as authorizing such person to conduct inspections in a manner other than that prescribed for inspections by the Secretary (or the Secretary's representative) under subsection (e).

‘‘(2) (A) Not later than 30 days before the date on which a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction begins, the management of such show, exhibition, or sale or auction may notify the Secretary of the intent of the management to hire a person or persons licensed under this subsection and assigned by the Secretary to conduct inspections at such show, exhibition, or sale or auction.

‘‘(B) After such notification, the Secretary shall assign a person or persons licensed under this subsection to conduct inspections at the horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction.

‘‘(3) A person licensed by the Secretary to conduct inspections under this subsection shall issue a citation with respect to any violation of this Act recorded during an inspection and notify the Secretary of each such violation not later than five days after the date on which a citation was issued with respect to such violation.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘‘(f) The Secretary shall publish on the public website of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture, and update as frequently as the Secretary determines is necessary, information on violations of this Act for the purposes of allowing the management of a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction to determine if an individual is in violation of this Act.''.

(d) Violations and penalties.—Section 6 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1825) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any person who knowingly violates section 5'' and inserting ''Any person who knowingly violates section 5 or the regulations issued

under such section, including any violation recorded during an inspection conducted in accordance with section 4(c) or 4(e)”; and

(ii) by striking “more than $3,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.” and inserting “more than $5,000, or imprisoned for not more than three years, or both, for each such violation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by striking “(2)”; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, and moving the margins of such paragraphs (as so redesignated) two ems to the left; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(4) Any person who knowingly fails to obey an order of disqualification shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than $5,000 for each failure to obey such an order, imprisoned for not more than three years, or both.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “section 5 of this Act” and inserting “section 5 or the regulations issued under such section”; by striking “$2,000” and inserting “$4,000”

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 143

To amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the natural gas tax.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2025

MR. CRUZ (for himself, MR. MARSHALL, MR. SHEEHY, MR. TUBERVILLE, MR. BUDD, MR. SCHMITT, MRS. BRITT, MR. RICKETTS, MR. BARRASSO, MR. LEE, MS. LUMMIS, MR. RISCH, MR. TILLIS, MRS. HYDE-SMITH, AND MR. HOEVEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the natural gas tax.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL.

Section 136 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7436) (relating to methane emissions and waste reduction incentive program for petroleum and natural gas systems) is repealed.

SEC. 3. RESCISSION.

The unobligated balance of any amounts made available under section 136 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7436) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) is rescinded.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4020

To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to certain entities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2024

MR. FETTERMAN (FOR HIMSELF, MS. ERNST, MR. CASEY, MR. BROWN, AND MR. COTTON) INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING BILL; WHICH WAS READ TWICE AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to certain entities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Banning Oil Exports to Foreign Adversaries Act".

SEC. 2. Prohibition on certain exports.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 163 (42 U.S.C. 6243) the following:

"SEC. 164. Prohibition on certain exports.

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, under any provision of law, to—

"(1) the People's Republic of China;

"(2) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

‘‘(3) the Russian Federation;

‘‘(4) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

‘‘(5) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

‘‘(6) the Syrian Arab Republic;

‘‘(7) the Republic of Cuba; and

‘‘(8) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

‘‘(A) a country referred to in any of paragraphs (1) through (7); or

‘‘(B) the Chinese Communist Party.

‘‘(b) Waiver.—The Secretary may issue a waiver of the prohibition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

‘‘(c) Rule.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Banning Oil Exports to Foreign Adversaries Act, the Secretary shall issue a rule to carry out this section.”.

(b) Conforming amendments.—

(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—Section 161(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(a)) is amended by inserting “and section 164” before the period at the end.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 163 the following:

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1185

To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2023

MR. DAINES (FOR HIMSELF, MR. BOOZMAN, MR. BRAUN, MR. WICKER, MR. RISCH, MR. CRAPO, MRS. HYDE-SMITH, MR. TILLIS, MR. MARSHALL, MS. LUMMIS, MR. SCOTT OF FLORIDA, MR. BARRASSO, MR. RICKETTS, MR. CRAMER, MR. MULLIN, MR. HOEVEN, MR. SULLIVAN, MRS. FISCHER, MR. COTTON, MR. THUNE, MR. BUDD, MRS. CAPITO, MR. ROUNDS, MR. HAWLEY, AND MR. TUBERVILLE) INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING BILL; WHICH WAS READ TWICE AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. Protecting access for hunters and anglers on Federal land and water.

(a) In general.—Except as provided in section 20.21 or 20.108 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), and subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the "applicable Secretary"), may not—

(1) prohibit the use of lead ammunition or tackle on Federal land or water that is—

(A) under the jurisdiction of the applicable Secretary; and

(B) made available for hunting or fishing activities; or

(2) issue regulations relating to the level of lead in ammunition or tackle to be used on Federal land or water described in paragraph (1).

(b) Exception.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a prohibition or regulations described in that subsection that are limited to a specific unit of Federal land or water, if the applicable Secretary determines that—

(1) a decline in wildlife population at the specific unit of Federal land or water is primarily caused by the use of lead in ammunition or tackle, based on the field data from the specific unit of Federal land or water; and

(2) the prohibition or regulations, as applicable, are—

(A) consistent with the law of the State in which the specific Federal land or water is located;

(B) consistent with an applicable policy of the fish and wildlife department of the State in which the specific Federal land or water is located; or

(C) approved by the applicable fish and wildlife department of the State in which the specific Federal land or water is located.

(c) Federal register notice.—The applicable Secretary shall include in a Federal Register notice with respect to any prohibition or regulations that meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) an explanation of how the prohibition or regulations, as applicable, meet those requirements.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5290

To address the effect of litigation on applications to export liquefied natural gas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

MR. CRUZ (for himself and MR. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To address the effect of litigation on applications to export liquefied natural gas, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Protect LNG Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Definitions.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED APPLICATION.—The term "covered application" means an application for—

(A) an authorization to export natural gas under section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(a)); or

(B) an authorization to site, construct, expand, or operate a covered facility under section 3(e) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(e)).

(2) COVERED FACILITY.—The term "covered facility" means a liquefied natural gas facility for which a proposal to site, construct, expand, or operate is required to be approved by—

(A) the Secretary; and

(B) (i) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; or

(ii) the Maritime Administration.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 3. Effect of litigation on applications to export liquefied natural gas.

(a) Effect of litigation.—A civil action relating to an environmental review under the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.) or the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to a covered facility shall not affect the validity of a permit, license, or approval issued to the covered facility that is the subject of the civil action.

(b) Remand; processing of covered applications.—If, in a civil action described in subsection (a), the environmental review for a permit, license, or approval issued to the covered facility that is the subject of the civil action is found by the applicable court to violate the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.) or the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)—

(1) notwithstanding chapter 5 or 7 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Administrative Procedure Act"), the applicable court shall not set aside or vacate the permit, license, or approval issued to the covered facility but instead remand the matter to the relevant Federal agency to resolve the violation; and

(2) the relevant Federal agency shall continue to process all covered applications.

SEC. 4. Action on covered applications.

(a) Judicial review.—Except for review in the Supreme Court of the United States, the court of appeals of the United States for the circuit in which a covered facility is, or will be, located pursuant to a covered application shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action for the review of an order issued by a Federal agency with respect to the covered application.

(b) Expedited review.—The applicable United States Court of Appeals under subsection (a) shall—

(1) set any civil action brought under this subsection for expedited review; and

(2) set the action on the docket as soon as practicable after the filing date of the initial pleading.

(c) Transfer of existing actions.—In the case of a covered application for which a petition for review has been filed as of the date of enactment of this Act, the petition shall be—

(1) on a motion by the applicant, transferred to the court of appeals of the United States in which the covered facility that is the subject of the covered application is, or will be, located; and

(2) adjudicated in accordance with this section.

(d) Limitation on claims.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by a Federal agency for a covered facility pursuant to a covered application shall be barred unless the claim is filed not later than 90 days after publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the permit, license, or approval is final pursuant to the law under which the agency action is taken, unless a shorter time is specified in the Federal law pursuant to which judicial review is allowed.

(e) Savings clause.—Nothing in this section establishes a right to judicial review or places any limit on filing a claim that a person has violated the terms of a permit, license, or approval.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1895

To require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue a final rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2023

MR. JOHNSON (for himself, MS. LUMMIS, MR. LEE, AND MR. BARRASSO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue a final rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Reissuance of rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall reissue the final rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (85 Fed. Reg. 69778 (November 3, 2020)).

(b) No judicial review.—Reissuance of the final rule described in subsection (a) shall not be subject to judicial review.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5439

To provide for water conservation, drought operations, and drought resilience at water resources development projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 2024

MR. KELLY (for himself and MR. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To provide for water conservation, drought operations, and drought resilience at water resources development projects, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the “Drought Resilient Infrastructure Act of 2024”.

SEC. 3. Declaration of policy.

(a) In general.—It is the policy of the United States for the Corps of Engineers, consistent with applicable statutory authorities—

(1) to maximize opportunities for water supply, water conservation measures, and drought resiliency efforts at and in the operation of water resources development projects;

(2) in accordance with section 301(a) of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b(a)), to participate and cooperate with States and local interests in developing water supplies for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other authorized purposes in connection with the construction, maintenance, and operation of water resources development projects; and

(3) in coordination with non-Federal interests, to enable the adoption of water conservation measures and drought resiliency measures that are in alignment with the authorized purposes of water resources development projects.

(b) Full consideration.—In support of subsection (a), the Secretary shall give full consideration to requests and proposals from non-Federal interests to utilize the authorities of the Corps of Engineers in furtherance of water supply features, water conservation measures, and drought resiliency efforts that are in alignment the authorized purposes of water resources development projects.

SEC. 4. Forecast-informed reservoir operations.

(a) In general.—In updating a water control manual for any reservoir constructed, owned, or operated by the Secretary, including a reservoir for which the Secretary is authorized to prescribe regulations for the use of storage allocated for flood control or navigation pursuant to section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the "Flood Control Act of 1944") (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 709), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate the use of forecast-informed reservoir operations, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(B) Assessment.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out an assessment of geographically diverse reservoirs described in subsection (a) to determine the viability of using forecast-informed reservoir operations at such reservoirs.

(2) PRIORITY AREAS.—In carrying out the assessment described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include an assessment of—

(A) each reservoir located in the South Pacific Division of the Corps of Engineers; and

(B) reservoirs located in each of the Northwestern Division and the South Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with relevant Federal and State agencies and non-Federal interests.

(C) Savings provision.—Nothing in this section preempts or affects any State water law or any interstate compact governing water, or otherwise restricts, affects, or amends any other law or the authority of any department, instrumentality, or agency of the United States related to the operation of reservoirs described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5. Updates to certain water control manuals.

Section 8109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (136 Stat. 3702) is amended by inserting "or that incorporate the use of forecast-informed reservoir operations into such manuals" before the period at the end.

SEC. 6. Emergency drought operations pilot program.

(a) Definition of covered project.—In this section, the term “covered project” means a project—

(1) that is located in the State of California, the State of Nevada, or the State of Arizona; and

(2) (A) of the Corps of Engineers for which water supply is an authorized purpose; or

(B) for which the Secretary develops a water control manual under section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 709).

(b) Emergency operation during drought.—Consistent with other authorized project purposes and in coordination with the non-Federal interest, in operating a covered project during a drought emergency in the project area, the Secretary may carry out a pilot program to operate the covered project with water supply as the primary project purpose.

(C) Requirements.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) operations described in that subsection—

(A) are consistent with water management deviations and drought contingency plans in the water control manual for the covered project;

(B) impact only the flood pool managed by the Secretary; and

(C) shall not be carried out in the event of a forecast or anticipated flood or weather event that would require flood risk management to take precedence;

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, the secretary uses forecast-informed reservoir operations; and

(3) the covered project returns to the operations that were in place prior to the use of the authority provided under that subsection at a time determined by the Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal interest.

(D) Contributed funds.—The Secretary may receive and expend funds contributed by a non-Federal interest to carry out activities under this section.

(E) Report.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program carried out under this section.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The Secretary shall include in the report under paragraph (1) a description of the activities of the Secretary that were carried out for each covered project and any lessons learned from carrying out those activities.

(F) Limitations.—Nothing in this section—

(1) affects, modifies, or changes the authorized purposes of a covered project;

(2) affects existing Corps of Engineers authorities, including authorities with respect to navigation, hydropower, flood damage reduction, and environmental protection and restoration;

(3) affects the ability of the Corps of Engineers to provide for temporary deviations;

(4) affects the application of a cost-share requirement under section 101, 102, or 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211, 2212, 2213);

(5) supersedes or modifies any written agreement between the Federal Government and a non-Federal interest that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(6) supersedes or modifies any amendment to an existing multistate water control plan for the Colorado River Basin, if applicable;

(7) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(8) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water;

(9) affects existing water supply agreements between the Secretary and a non-Federal interest; or

(10) affects any obligation to comply with the provisions of any Federal or State environmental law, including—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(C) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4985

To reform the process for listing a species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

MR. LANKFORD (for himself, MR. BARRASSO, and MS. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To reform the process for listing a species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "21st Century Wildlife Enhancement and Partnership Act".

SEC. 2. Definitions.

In this Act:

(1) CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT.—The term "Candidate Conservation Agreement" means a formal, voluntary agreement between the Service and 1 or more parties to address the conservation needs of—

(A) a candidate species; or

(B) a species that may become a candidate species in the near future.

(2) CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT WITH ASSURANCES.—The term "Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances" means a Candidate Conservation Agreement that provides incentives for persons that are parties to the Candidate Conservation Agreement to engage in the voluntary conservation activities described in the Candidate Conservation Agreement.

(3) CANDIDATE SPECIES.—The term “candidate species” means a species that is under consideration for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(4) CONSERVATION BENEFIT AGREEMENT.—The term “Conservation Benefit Agreement” means a conservation benefit agreement described in the final rule of the Service entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Enhancement of Survival and Incidental Take Permits” (89 Fed. Reg. 26070 (April 12, 2024)).

(5) ESTABLISHED CONSORTIUM.—The term “established consortium” means a State-based or multi-State-based group of individuals or organizations that—

(A) is established as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) operates under a functioning, as determined by the individuals or organizations that are parties to that consortium—

(i) conservation or recovery plan; or

(ii) conservation, recovery, or planning documents; and

(C) is an ongoing partnership organized principally for the conservation of a species that is not listed, or a species that is proposed to be listed, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 3. Independent review of proposed listings.

(a) Third-Party evaluator teams.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an established consortium requests that a third-party evaluator team be empaneled under subsection (b)(1)(B), the Secretary shall empanel a third-party evaluator team to review, evaluate, and determine the sufficiency of a proposed listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) by the Service of a species that is managed by the established consortium that objects to that proposed listing.

(2) MEMBERSHIP; STRUCTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The structure and membership of a third-party evaluator team shall be established by the Secretary, in consultation with Congress, subject to the condition that the Secretary shall have the final determination on the structure, membership, and scope of review of a third-party evaluator team.

(B) GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.—In establishing the membership of a third-party evaluator team under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall adhere to the following requirements:

(i) Not fewer than 5, but not greater than 9, individuals selected to serve on the third-party evaluator team shall have expertise in the following:

(I) Science or academic background necessary to render an expert opinion on the scientific studies and related materials submitted for review under paragraphs (5) and (6)(C) of subsection (b).

(II) Ability to provide economic analysis and economic impacts of a threatened or endangered species listing on local and regional economies, with a particular expertise on impacts on private landowners and small businesses.

(III) Voluntary conservation partnerships.

(IV) Natural resource-related industries, including oil and gas, mining, forestry, ranching, agriculture, and grazing.

(ii) No current or former employee of the Service shall be eligible to serve on the third-party evaluator team.

(C) CHAIR.—The Chair of a third-party evaluator team shall be determined by the members of the third-party evaluator team.

(b) Process.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 21 days after the date on which the Secretary publishes a notice of a proposed listing of a species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), an established consortium may—

(A) submit to the Secretary a letter objecting to the proposed listing; and

(B) request that a third-party evaluator team be empaneled.

(2) CEASE OF FEDERAL ACTION.—On receipt of an objection letter from an established consortium under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall cease all action with respect to the proposed listing.

(3) RESPONSE BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an objection letter from an established consortium under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall refer the matter to the third-party evaluator team.

(4) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—At such time and in such manner as the third-party evaluator team determines appropriate, the Service and the established consortium shall submit to the third-party evaluator team the scientific data, or any other material, that the Service and the established consortium, respectively, believes supports its position in opposition to, or support for, the proposed listing.

(5) REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the third-party evaluator team receives the information submitted under paragraph (5), the third-party evaluator team—

(i) shall conduct an initial review of the assertions made by the Service and the established consortium; and

(ii) may, as applicable, request additional information from—

(I) the Service or the established consortium; or

(II) outside parties, including the public, experts, or any other party, as determined by the third-party evaluator team.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting an initial review under subparagraph (A)(i), the third-party evaluator team shall consider, in addition to the information submitted under paragraph (5)—

(i) the current management plans in place for the applicable candidate species;

(ii) opportunities for achieving, or continuing, protection of the applicable species through the current, or enhanced, voluntary conservation actions;

(iii) the economic impacts of the proposed listing; and

(iv) such other factors, as determined by the third-party evaluator team.

(C) RESPONSE TO REQUEST.—If the third-party evaluator team requests additional information from the Service, the established consortium, or an outside party under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Service, established consortium, or outside party, as applicable, shall have 30 days to respond to that request.

(6) FINAL DECISION AND REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the later of the date on which the third-party evaluator team conducts an initial review under subparagraph (A)(i) of paragraph (6) and the date on which the third-party

evaluator team receives additional information under subparagraph (C) of that paragraph, the third-party evaluator team shall review the additional information, if applicable, and provide to the Secretary a final report that contains a binding determination describing whether the proposed listing shall—

(I) proceed;

(II) be terminated; or

(III) be remanded back to the Service for further action, in accordance with that determination.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—A final report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be made publicly available and of sufficient length and detail to provide members of the public with a clear and basic understanding of the decision and why the decision was rendered.

SEC. 5. Ensuring true critical habitat.

The final rule of the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Species and Designating Critical Habitat" (84 Fed. Reg. 45020 (August 27, 2019)) is enacted into law.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1427

To exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect to releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2023

MS. LUMMIS (for herself, MR. BOOZMAN, MR. CRAMER, MR. GRAHAM, MR. MULLIN, MR. RICKETTS, MR. SULLIVAN, and MR. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect to releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Agriculture PFAS Liability Protection Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS FROM CERCLA LIABILITY FOR RELEASES OF PFAS.

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE.—The term "covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance" means a non-polymeric perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance that contains at least 2 sequential fully fluorinated carbon atoms, excluding gases and volatile liquids, that is a hazardous substance (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601)).

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) PROTECTED ENTITY.—The term "protected entity" means a person engaged in the production or harvesting of agricultural products (as defined in section 207 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1626)).

(B) EXEMPTION.—No person (including the United States, any State, or an Indian Tribe) may recover costs or damages from a protected entity under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) for costs arising from a release to the environment of a covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

(C) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section precludes liability for damages or costs associated with the release of a covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance by a protected entity if that protected entity acted with gross negligence or willful misconduct in the discharge, disposal, management, conveyance, or storage of the covered perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 36

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2025

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) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

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.

Whereas 195 of the 198 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have acceded to the decision by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of Parties in Paris, France, adopted December 12, 2015 (referred to in this preamble as the "Paris Agreement");

Whereas the Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that—

(1) human activity has been the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century;

(2) human-caused climate change has led to widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere, and biosphere;

(3) vulnerable communities that have historically contributed the least to human-caused climate change are disproportionately affected by its impacts;

(4) adverse impact from human-caused climate change will continue to intensify;

(5) continued emissions will further impact all components of the climate system, and changes in weather and climate extremes will become larger;

(6) in the near term, global warming is more likely than not to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius even under low greenhouse gas emission scenarios;

(7) economic damages from climate change are present in climate-exposed sectors like agriculture, forestry, fishery, energy, and tourism;

(8) global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate;

(9) limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require rapid, deep, and immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions; and

(10) deep, rapid, and sustained mitigation and adaptation measures between 2020 and 2030 would help to reduce loss and damage for humans and ecosystems;

Whereas, in 2024, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported 27 disasters that each resulted in at least $1,000,000,000 in damages and, in total, an estimated amount of $182,700,000,000 in damages;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration determined that in 2020, the decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in the United States was due to the economic recession associated with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic;

Whereas, in 2021 and 2022, carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel consumption in the United States rose 8 percent relative to 2020 and 1 percent relative to 2021, returning to pre-pandemic levels;

Whereas, in 2022, the Energy Information Administration reported that renewable energy generated more power than coal for the first time in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 40 percent of the global electricity supply was provided by zero-carbon sources, according to the International Energy Agency;

Whereas, in 2024, automakers sold more than 1,300,000 electric vehicles in the United States, making up 8 percent of all new vehicles sales;

Whereas the State of California has a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 48 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by 2045;

Whereas, in the United States, 90 cities, 11 counties, 2 States, and the District of Columbia have adopted 100 percent clean and renewable energy goals, and 217 companies have committed to 100 percent renewable energy;

Whereas, since Public Law 117–168 (commonly known as the ‘Inflation Reduction Act’), the largest United States investment in climate and clean energy in history was passed in August 2022,

clean energy companies have announced or advanced nearly 750 projects, more than $422,000,000,000 in investments, and created more than 400,000 new clean energy jobs;

Whereas more than 85 percent of the investments from the Inflation Reduction Act were made in counties with below average college graduation rates and more than 75 percent of investments were made in areas with below average median household incomes;

Whereas the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) and the Inflation Reduction Act are estimated to create up to 1,700,000 new jobs by 2030 and 2,900,000 jobs by 2035;

Whereas, in 2024, the United States submitted a new nationally determined contribution, in accordance with the Paris Agreement, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States by 61 to 66 percent below 2005 levels by 2035, which is made possible in part by programs and investments supported by the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Law Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58);

Whereas, in 2023, more money was invested in solar energy than in oil for the first time globally;

Whereas, in 2023, more than 8,300,000 people in the United States worked in the energy sector in all 50 States, including in industries relating to wind energy, solar energy, energy efficiency, clean vehicles, and energy storage;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 495,871 people in the United States were working in the solar and wind industries, including roofers, electricians, and steel workers;

Whereas the 2024 U.S. Energy and Employment Jobs Report published by the Department of Energy found that new clean energy jobs are outpacing the rest of the energy sector and United States economy by more than 2 times;

Whereas the vehicle emissions standards updated by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2024 for vehicle model years 2027 through 2032 are predicted—

(1) to provide $13,000,000,000 in annual health benefits from air pollution reduction;

(2) to save drivers nearly $6,000 over the lifetime of a new vehicle from fuel and maintenance costs; and

(3) to prevent 25,000 premature deaths;

Whereas the America Is All In coalition—

(1) has evolved from the 2017 launched We Are Still In Coalition to become the largest subnational climate coalition in the United States composed of States, Tribal nations, cities, businesses, universities, healthcare organizations, faith groups, and cultural institutions;

(2) has committed to uphold the Paris Agreement and formally reaffirmed that commitment at the recent ninth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement;

(3) represents approximately 3⁄4 of the gross domestic product of the United States and 2⁄3 of the population of the United States through city and State partners; and

(4) has committed to supporting subnational climate leaders as they build climate resilience and sustainable supply chains;

Whereas on the day before President Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement on June 1, 2017, Hua Chunying, spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, which is the world's current largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, said "China will stay committed to upholding and promoting the global governance on climate change, and take an active part in the multilateral process on climate change and promote green, low-carbon and sustainable growth of the world.";

Whereas, according to the International Energy Agency, China has made more than $800,000,000,000 in foreign investment in clean energy and energy storage infrastructure around the world since 2016; and

Whereas the United States needs both a fully engaged Federal Government and States, cities, businesses, and all subnational actors working together to reduce emissions, avoid the worst effects of climate change, and compete in the global clean energy market: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States—

(1) Should remain a party to the Paris Agreement;

(2) Should support policies at the Federal, State, and local level that promote the reduction of global warming pollution and aim to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement; and

(3) Should support the clear intents and efforts of businesses, investors, and whole-of-American-society to take action on climate change.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5282

To restrict car manufacturers and other companies from selling consumer car-related data, increase transparency regarding data practices, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

---

A BILL

To restrict car manufacturers and other companies from selling consumer car-related data, increase transparency regarding data practices, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Car Privacy Rights Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Restricting the sharing or selling of consumer car-related data.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), it shall be unlawful for a covered entity to share or sell any consumer car-related data of a consumer unless—

(1) the covered entity provides the consumer—

(A) a notice that—

(i) the covered entity intends to share or sell such data;

(ii) is provided in a clear and conspicuous standalone disclosure that describes each instance the covered entity plans to share or sell such data;

(iii) states for each specific category of such data if the covered entity is sharing or selling such data in order to provide a service requested by the consumer or for another purpose;

(iv) is written in easy-to-understand language;

(v) is provided by a means that would be reasonably anticipated by the consumer given the relationship between the consumer and the covered entity; and

(vi) is accessible to persons with disabilities; and

(B) an opportunity to explicitly grant affirmative express consent to allow the covered entity to share or sell such data; and

(2) the consumer explicitly grants such affirmative express consent.

(b) REVOCATION OF CONSENT.—If a consumer grants affirmative express consent to allow a covered entity to share or sell the data of such consumer pursuant to subsection (a)(2), the covered entity shall allow such consumer to easily revoke such consent directly through the website of the covered entity, or application of the covered entity, or through direct mail.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any data a covered entity shares with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

SEC. 3. Reporting of consumer data privacy practices.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, each car manufacturer and motor vehicle insurance company shall submit a report to the Commission regarding their consumer data privacy practices, including any consumer car-related data that are being collected, the purpose behind such data being collected, what entities are being shared or sold such data, and an overview of their data sharing practices.

(b) FTC REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date described in subsection (a) and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to Congress and publish on the website of the Commission a report containing a summary of the information described in subsection (a).

SEC. 4. Guidance or rulemaking regarding car manufacturers addressing domestic violence issues related to their applications.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, shall issue guidance or promulgate regulations regarding how car manufacturers can address domestic violence issues related to any application of a car manufacturer that has the capability to determine the precise geolocation of an individual, consumer car, or device.

SEC. 5. Enforcement.

(a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this Act or a regulation promulgated under this Act shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this Act.

(2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this Act or a regulation promulgated under this Act shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(4) RULEMAKING.—The Commission shall promulgate in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, such rules as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2118

To clarify the inability of the President to declare national emergencies under the National Emergencies Act, major disasters or emergencies under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and public health emergencies under the Public Health Service Act on the premise of climate change, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 22, 2023

Mrs. Capito (for herself, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Marshall, Ms. Lummis, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Cramer, and Mr. Ricketts) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To clarify the inability of the President to declare national emergencies under the National Emergencies Act, major disasters or emergencies under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and public health emergencies under the Public Health Service Act on the premise of climate change, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Real Emergencies Act".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE INABILITY TO DECLARE CERTAIN NATIONAL EMERGENCIES, MAJOR DISASTERS, EMERGENCIES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.

(a) National Emergency.—The President may not declare a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) on the premise of climate change.

(b) Major Disaster; Emergency.—The President may not declare a major disaster or emergency under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191) on the premise of climate change.

(c) Public Health Emergency.—The President may not declare a public health emergency under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on the premise of climate change.

(d) Rule Of Construction.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to imply the authority of the President before the date of enactment of this Act to declare, on the premise of climate change—

(1) a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

(2) a major disaster or emergency under the under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191); or

(3) a public health emergency under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5289

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

---

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "White Oak Resilience Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition (referred to in this section as the "Coalition")—

(1) as a voluntary collaborative group of public, State, private, and nongovernmental organizations to carry out the duties described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with the charter entitled "White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter" adopted by the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the Coalition are—

(1) to coordinate public, State, local, private, and nongovernmental restoration of white oak in the United States;

(2) to make program and policy recommendations with respect to—

(A) changes necessary to address Federal and State policies that impede activities to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(B) adopting or modifying Federal and State policies to increase the pace and scale of white oak regeneration and resiliency of white oak;

(C) options to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration between forest land owners, particularly for cross-boundary projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(D) research gaps that should be addressed to improve the best available science on white oak;

(E) outreach to forest landowners with white oak or white oak regeneration potential.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make such personnel available to the Coalition for administrative support, technical services, and development and dissemination of educational materials as the Secretaries determine to be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. Forest Service pilot program.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak in those national forests through white oak restoration and natural regeneration practices.

(b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects required under subsection (a) shall be carried out in national forests reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. Department of the Interior white oak assessment and pilot projects.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary, including a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System and abandoned mine land.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out an assessment of covered land to evaluate—

(A) whether white oak is present on the covered land; and

(B) the potential to restore white oak forests on the covered land.

(2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary may use information from sources other than the Department of the Interior, including information from—

(A) the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition established by section 3(a); and

(B) the Chief of the Forest Service.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of the Interior, a report describing the results of the assessment carried out under paragraph (1).

(c) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date on which the Secretary submits the report required under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects on various areas of covered land, the purpose of which is to restore and naturally regenerate white oak.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 8. Natural Resources Conservation Service initiative.

The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall establish an initiative on white oak—

(1) to re-establish white oak forests where appropriate;

(2) to improve the management of existing white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak; and

(3) to provide technical assistance to private landowners to re-establish, improve management of, and naturally regenerate white oak.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4963

To support Federal, State, and Tribal coordination and management efforts relating to wildlife disease and zoonotic disease surveillance and ongoing and potential wildlife disease and zoonotic disease outbreaks, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

MS. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To support Federal, State, and Tribal coordination and management efforts relating to wildlife disease and zoonotic disease surveillance and ongoing and potential wildlife disease and zoonotic disease outbreaks, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Wildlife-Agriculture Disease Prevention Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Findings.

Congress finds that—

(1) zoonotic diseases are a significant threat to human populations, livestock, domestic animals, and wildlife, which is evidenced by the fact that—

(A) more than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in human populations originated in animals; and

(B) 3 out of every 4 new or emerging infectious diseases in human populations originate from animals;

(2) zoonotic diseases are capable of transmitting between wildlife, livestock, domestic animals, and human populations;

(15) increased coordination and collaboration between Federal, State, and Tribal agencies with respect to wildlife disease and zoonotic disease efforts is necessary to adequately monitor and respond to ongoing and potential wildlife disease and zoonotic disease outbreaks;

(16) establishing a Agriculture-Wildlife Disease Coordinator as an intermediary between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would facilitate communication, information sharing, and coordinated efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to wildlife disease and zoonotic disease outbreaks; and

(17) the coordinated efforts described in paragraph (16) are essential to protect public health, wildlife populations, and agricultural interests from the impacts of wildlife diseases and zoonotic diseases.

SEC. 3. Definitions.

In this Act:

(1) AGRICULTURE-WILDLIFE DISEASE COORDINATOR.—The term "Agriculture-Wildlife Disease Coordinator" means the individual appointed to the position established by section 4(a).

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) LIVESTOCK.—The term "livestock" has the meaning given the term in section 10403 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8302).

(4) WILDLIFE DISEASE.—The term "wildlife disease" means any infectious disease originating in wildlife that can be transmitted, directly or indirectly, from an infected animal, host or vector, inanimate source, or any other source to non-human animals, including wildlife, livestock, and domestic animals.

(5) ZOONOTIC DISEASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "zoonotic disease" means any disease that is naturally transmissible between animals and humans.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term "zoonotic disease" includes a wildlife disease.

SEC. 4. Agriculture-Wildlife Disease Coordinator.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a position, to be known as the "Agriculture-Wildlife Disease Coordinator", to be jointly appointed by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to serve as a liaison between the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Homeland Security, and other relevant Federal, State, and Tribal agencies, as determined necessary by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

(b) QUALIFICATION.—The Agriculture-Wildlife Disease Coordinator shall have expertise in wildlife health, agricultural animal veterinary science, epidemiology, or another related field.

(c) DUTIES.—The Agriculture-Wildlife Disease Coordinator shall—

(1) establish relationships with relevant Federal, State, and Tribal agencies to carry out the purposes of this Act;

(2) facilitate information sharing about existing and emerging wildlife disease, including disease in livestock and domestic animals, and zoonotic disease outbreaks between States, including State departments of agriculture, environment, natural resources, fish and wildlife, and public health and State animal health officials, Indian Tribes, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, the National Wildlife Health Center of the United States Geological Survey, the Department of Agriculture, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Homeland Security, and other relevant Federal agencies, as determined by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;

(3) assist States and Indian Tribes in accessing resources, including applying for funding, to work on wildlife disease issues, including diseases—

(A) with potential to transmit between wildlife and livestock or domestic animals; and

(B) with zoonotic potential;

(4) coordinate—

(A) between States, including State departments of agriculture, environment, natural resources, fish and wildlife, and public health and State animal health officials, and Federal agencies; and

(B) with other relevant entities engaged in wildlife disease and zoonotic disease testing, monitoring, surveillance, and management activities, including entities convened by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(5) develop and share best management practices relating to wildlife diseases and zoonotic diseases prepared by the Department of Agriculture, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and State and Tribal agencies between those Federal agencies and State and Tribal agencies, including State departments of agriculture, environment, natural resources, fish and wildlife, and public health and State animal health officials; and

(6) submit to Congress a report on recommendations for improving interagency coordination and additional resources necessary to address and prevent wildlife disease and zoonotic disease outbreaks.

(d) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—Best management practices developed and shared under subsection (c)(5) may include voluntary guidance relating to the humane dispatch of animals in the field, surveillance and monitoring techniques, biosecurity and biosafety measures, public education, and other information, as determined necessary by the Agriculture-Wildlife Disease Coordinator.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

119TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

S. 2504

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2023

MS. SMITH (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Enabling Farmers to Benefit from Processing Nutrition Programs Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. Streamlining applications for farmers.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED NUTRITION PROGRAM.—The term "covered nutrition program" means—

(A) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

(B) the senior farmers' market nutrition program established under section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007);

(C) the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), including the farmers' market nutrition program under that program; and

(D) the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program established under section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), as practicable with respect to the activities carried out by the Secretary under subsections (b) and (c).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined application process—

(A) for direct marketing farmers and ranchers to apply to be vendors under each of the covered nutrition programs; and

(B) by—

(i) developing a single application that a direct marketing farmer or rancher may use to apply to each of the covered nutrition programs; or

(ii) developing an information sharing system that—

(I) shares the information of a direct marketing farmer or rancher who is approved as an authorized vendor under a covered nutrition program with each of the other covered nutrition programs; and

(II) deems that direct marketing farmer or rancher as a prequalified eligible vendor for those other covered nutrition programs.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing progress made in carrying out paragraph (1).

(c) STREAMLINED PROCESSING OF BENEFITS.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for direct marketing farmers and ranchers that are vendors under any of the covered nutrition programs to process benefits under those programs through the use of standardized technology, such as a single piece of equipment or a mobile application.

SEC. 3. Support for wireless and mobile equipment for certain entities.

Section 7(f)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that equipment or systems made available to entities described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B) by a State agency or an implementing partner of a State agency is appropriate for the entity, including, with respect to farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer markets, wireless or mobile processing equipment and technology systems.".

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 3111

To amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize and improve that Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

October 24, 2023

Mr. Cramer (for Mr. Padilla (for himself, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Daines, Mrs. Gillibrand, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Ricketts, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Wyden, and Mr. Peters)) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

A BILL

To amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize and improve that Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Dam Safety Program Reauthorization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL DAM SAFETY PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions.—Section 2 of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (16) as paragraphs (14) through (17), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

"(13) SMALL DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term 'small disadvantaged community' means a community with a population of less than 50,000 that has a median household income of less than 80 percent of the statewide median household income.".

(b) Rehabilitation Of High Hazard Potential Dams.—Section 8A of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467f–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) GRANT ASSURANCE.—As part of a grant agreement under subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall require that each eligible subrecipient to which the State awards a grant under this section provides an assurance from the dam owner, with respect to the dam to be rehabilitated, that the dam owner will carry out a plan for maintenance of the dam during the expected life of the dam.";

(2) in subsection (d)(2)(C), by striking "commit" and inserting "for a project not including removal, obtain a commitment from the dam owner";

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) Floodplain Management Plans.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receipt of assistance under this section, an eligible subrecipient shall demonstrate that a floodplain management plan to reduce the impacts of future flood events from a controlled or uncontrolled release from the dam or management of water levels in the area impacted by the dam—

"(A) for a removal—

"(i) is in place; and

"(ii) identifies areas that would be impacted by the removal of the dam and includes a communication and outreach plan for the project and the impact of the project on the affected communities; or

"(B) for a project not including removal—

"(i) is in place; or

"(ii) will be—

"(I) developed not later than 2 years after the date of execution of a project agreement for assistance under this section; and

"(II) implemented not later than 2 years after the date of completion of construction of the project.

"(2) REQUIREMENT.—In the case of a plan for a removal, the Administrator may not impose any additional requirements or conditions other than the requirements in paragraph (1)(A).

"(3) INCLUSIONS.—A plan under paragraph (1)(B) shall address—

"(A) potential measures, practices, and policies to reduce loss of life, injuries, damage to property and facilities, public expenditures, and other adverse impacts of flooding in the area protected or impacted by the dam;

"(B) plans for flood fighting and evacuation; and

"(C) public education and awareness of flood risks.

"(4) PLAN CRITERIA AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Board, shall provide criteria, and may provide technical support, for the development and implementation of floodplain management plans prepared under this subsection.";

(4) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

"(f) Priority System.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Board, shall develop a risk-based priority system for States to use in prioritizing multiple applications each year for eligible high hazard potential dams for which grants may be made under this section.";

Committee on Foreign Relations

Chairman: James E. Risch
Pete Ricketts
Dave McCormick
Steve Daines
Bill Hagerty
Ted Cruz
Jerry Moran
Cindy Hyde-Smith
Jim Justice
Tim Sheehy

Ranking Member: Jeanne Shaheen
Chris Coons
Chris Murphy
Tim Kaine
Corey Booker
Brian Schatz
Chris Van Hollen
Ben R. Luján
Raphael Warnock

S. 5523	163	Booker	To provide clarification of assistance related to safeguarding and the elimination of landmines, other explosive remnants of war, and conventional arms.
S. 5344	167	Coons	To provide for international protection of digital freedom, and for other purposes.
S. 1428	171	Cruz	To require a report on efforts by Venezuelan state actors and transnational criminal organizations to capture and detain United States citizens as hostages.
S. 5303	173	Daines	To amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to provide for a prohibition on contributions to the United Nations related to discrimination against Israel.
S. 3083	175	Hagerty	To reallocate funding originally appropriated for Gaza to grants to Israel for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system.
S. 3624	177	Hyde-Smith	To restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry.
S. 3064	177	Justice	To limit funding to the United Nations until the Islamic Republic of Iran has been expelled and investigated for violations of the Genocide Convention, and for other purposes.
S. 4863	179	Kaine	To require an annual report on the unfunded programs, activities, and mission requirements within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.
S. 5119	185	Luján	To codify in statute certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.
S. 3491	189	McCormick	To prohibit United States contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Green Climate Fund.
S. 908	191	Moran	To oppose the provision of assistance to the People's Republic of China by the multilateral development banks.
S. 5076	195	Murphy	To require periodic updates to the comprehensive strategy to promote Internet freedom and access to information in Iran, to authorize grants to support and develop programs in Iran that promote or expand an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet, and for other purposes.
S. 4937	200	Ricketts	To require Senate approval before the United States assumes any obligation under a WHO pandemic agreement and to suspend funding for the WHO until such agreement is ratified by the Senate.
S. 436	202	Risch	To respond to the looming global food crisis precipitated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
S. 5009	207	Schatz	To provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

S. 280	209	Shaheen	To prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.
S. 160	211	Sheehy	To amend the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 to reauthorize the sale by the Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes, and for other purposes.
S. 5376	213	Van Hollen	To prohibit sales and the issuance of licenses for the export of certain defense articles to the United Arab Emirates, and for other purposes.
S. 4581	215	Warnock	To require the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and such other heads of departments and agencies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, to formulate a strategy for the Federal Government to secure support from foreign countries, multilateral organizations, and other appropriate entities to facilitate the development and commercialization of qualified pandemic or epidemic products, and for other purposes.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5523

To provide clarification of assistance related to safeguarding and the elimination of landmines, other explosive remnants of war, and conventional arms.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2024

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To provide clarification of assistance related to safeguarding and the elimination of landmines, other explosive remnants of war, and conventional arms.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Conventional Weapons Destruction and Legacy of Senator Patrick Leahy Act".

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE RELATING TO SAFEGUARDING AND ELIMINATION OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

The Department of State Authorities Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–472) is amended by inserting after section 11 (22 U.S.C. 2349bb–6) the following new section:

"SEC. 11A. PURPOSES OF ASSISTANCE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING AND ELIMINATION OR SECURING OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

"(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

"(1) Landmines and other explosive remnants of war threaten populations after conflicts end, and humanitarian demining is a fundamental part of recovery from conflict.

"(2) Clearing the land of explosive remnants of war provides quantifiable threat reduction and allows affected persons to return to their homes and utilize the land.

"(3) Agriculture is disproportionately impacted by unexploded ordnance, endangering farmers and exacerbating food security. Subsistence farming, larger-scale agriculture, grazing, and other related activities are improved through humanitarian demining.

"(4) Decontaminated land can be returned to use for critical infrastructure development, and many other uses that enhance sustainable recovery and development.

"(5) Risk education bolsters the life-saving benefits of humanitarian demining activities, helping to minimize preventable injuries through community engagement, which in turn creates local buy-in and awareness of this vital assistance being provided by the United States.

"(6) Many countries lack the equipment, resources and facilities, and technical capacity to properly manage weapons and ammunition stockpiles. Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) or Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) programs are security sector partnerships based on the shared objectives of preventing the diversion of weapons, ammunition, and explosives, as well as unplanned explosions.

"(7) These projects include armory and munitions store construction and rehabilitation, and other security improvements, weapons and ammunition disposal, stockpile management training and guidelines, needs assessments, stockpile risk assessments, mitigation and management plans, and marking and record-keeping.

"(8) This assistance, provided to a range of security forces including local police, is focused on providing necessary equipment and technical expertise in a sustainable way, allowing partners to establish, implement, and train in

WAM/PSSM best practices and compliance, as well as conduct their own safe disposal of obsolete weapons, ammunition, and munitions.

"(9) These programs not only reduce instability and civilian harm from armed violence caused by weapons diversion, but also provide the United States with key security partnerships. By reducing armed violence and instability, these programs can play a crucial role in addressing the root causes of migration and forced displacement, of particular interest to the United States as it pertains to its southern border.

"(10) Risk education expands the scope of WAM/PSSM programs beyond the principal partnerships, providing training to local police and communities on safer and more secure weapons storage and salvage through community engagement that also saves lives and creates buy-in and awareness of this vital assistance that is being provided by the United States.

"(b) PURPOSES OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ELIMINATION OR SECURING ACTIVITIES.—

"(1) HUMANITARIAN DEMINING ACTIVITIES.—The purposes of the activities authorized in section 11(b)(1) are—

"(A) to ensure the return of affected populations to the safe access to their homes and land;

"(B) to enable affected populations to safely and productively utilize land for agriculture;

"(C) to clear threats from land to permit and encourage critical infrastructure and other development;

"(D) to educate affected populations about the dangers of landmines and other unexploded ordnance as well as United States efforts to provide the lifesaving benefits of humanitarian demining activities; and

"(E) to integrate humanitarian demining and related activities with other assistance to ensure effective recovery from conflict.

"(2) CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ELIMINATION OR SECURING ACTIVITIES.—The purposes of the activities authorized in section 11(b)(3) are—

"(A) to ensure the safe securing and diversion prevention of weapons, ammunition, and explosives in the stores of foreign partners;

"(B) to build the capacity of the security sectors of foreign partners to properly eliminate or manage weapons and ammunition stockpiles through WAM, PSSM, and related programs;

"(C) to educate local police and other officials and the wider population at the local level on safer and more secure weapons storage and salvage as well as United States efforts to provide the lifesaving benefits of conventional weapons elimination, securing, and management;

"(D) to establish and strengthen security cooperation with foreign partners to reduce armed violence and instability in support of important United States national security and foreign policy objectives; and

"(E) to integrate conventional weapons elimination and securing and related activities with other assistance to ensure effective recovery from conflict.".

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5344

To provide for international protection of digital freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To provide for international protection of digital freedom, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Advancing Digital Freedom Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to ensure that technology is developed, deployed, and governed in accordance with universal human rights, the rule of law, and democratic values;

(2) to protect and promote digital freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy and prioritize digital freedom to the highest extent possible in diplomatic engagements with foreign countries;

(3) to cooperate and engage with like-minded countries committed to developing, deploying, and using technology in a manner that respects democracy, the rule of law, and human rights; and

(4) to lead global efforts to protect digital freedom, counter disinformation and misinformation, and advance democratic governance in the digital space consistent with guidelines outlined in the United States International Cyberspace and Digital Policy Strategy.

SEC. 3. COORDINATOR FOR DIGITAL FREEDOM DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "Coordinator for Digital Freedom" means the Coordinator for Digital Freedom in the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy in the United States Department of State.

SEC. 4. ROLE OF THE COORDINATOR FOR DIGITAL FREEDOM.

(a) Central Objective.—The central objective of the Coordinator for Digital Freedom shall be to promote efforts that—

(1) improve the state of digital freedom globally;

(2) ensure digital freedom remains a foremost foreign policy priority of the United States Government; and

(3) coordinate responses to concerning trends impacting digital freedom.

(b) Duties And Responsibilities.—The Coordinator shall—

(1) engage foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, and other actors to coordinate efforts to defend digital freedom against digital authoritarianism and other authoritarian approaches to governance and usage of technology;

(2) support multilateral efforts to protect and reinforce information integrity within the context of respect for freedom of expression;

(3) advance the development and maintenance of technology that is designed, governed, and deployed in manners consistent with democracy, the rule of law, and human rights;

(4) promote digital inclusion across the digital space;

(5) engage and advance discussions to promote the democratic governance of artificial intelligence and the implications of artificial intelligence governance on human rights and democracy;

(6) lead efforts within the Department of State to continue publishing guidelines for protecting digital freedom across the cyberspace, including through the Risk Management Profile for Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, as well as the Roadmap for Building Civil Resilience to the Global Digital Information Manipulation Challenge; and

(7) make recommendations regarding opportunities to advance digital freedom internally within the Department of State, as well as through diplomatic engagements with foreign countries.

(c) Additional Duties.—In addition to the duties and responsibilities specified in subsections (a) and (b), the Coordinator may carry out other duties that the Secretary of State may assign.

SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE OF DIGITAL FREEDOM IN THE WORLD.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the state of global digital freedom.

(b) Elements.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of concerning trends impacting digital freedom globally, including—

(A) digital authoritarianism and threats to democracy;

(B) censorship and propaganda;

(C) threats to information integrity;

(D) threats to digital inclusion;

(E) threats to privacy in the digital space; and

(F) risks to responsible management of artificial intelligence and democratic governance of artificial intelligence;

(2) a discussion of particular regions or countries of concern that are experiencing the greatest threats to digital freedom; and

(3) recommendations for how to protect and promote digital freedom in response to these concerning trends.

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 1428

To require a report on efforts by Venezuelan state actors and transnational criminal organizations to capture and detain United States citizens as hostages.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2023

Mr. CRUZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To require a report on efforts by Venezuelan state actors and transnational criminal organizations to capture and detain United States citizens as hostages.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO CAPTURE AND DETAIN UNITED STATES CITIZENS AS HOSTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on efforts by the Government of Venezuela to detain United States citizens and permanent residents.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, regarding the seizure and detainment of United States citizens or permanent resident aliens—

(1) the names and positions of Venezuelan persons or those acting on their behalf who have engaged in those activities;

(2) a description of any roles played by transnational criminal organizations, and an identification of those organizations; and

(3) where relevant, an assessment of whether and how United States citizens and permanent resident aliens have been lured to Venezuela.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but shall include a classified annex listing the total number of United States citizens and permanent resident aliens presently in custody of Venezuelan state actors operating in the hemisphere.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this Act, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

119th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 5303

To amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to provide for a prohibition on contributions to the United Nations related to discrimination against Israel.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BUDD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MARSHALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to provide for a prohibition on contributions to the United Nations related to discrimination against Israel.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stand with Israel Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELATED TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL.

The United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 13. PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL.

"No funds made available to the Department of State or any other Federal department or agency may be made available for contributions to the United Nations or any of its funds, programs, specialized agencies, or other related entities that expels, downgrades or suspends membership, or otherwise restricts the participation of Israel such that it may not participate fully and equivalently with other Member States of the United Nations or the respective fund, program, specialized agency, or other related entity.".

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 3083

To reallocate funding originally appropriated for Gaza to grants Israel for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To reallocate funding originally appropriated for Gaza to grants to Israel for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Resupply for Iron Dome Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR IRON DOME SHORT-RANGE ROCKET DEFENSE SYSTEM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 1659 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) and sections 482(b) and 531(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291a(b) and 2346(e)), the President shall transfer all unexpended balances of appropriations made available for assistance to Gaza—

(1) to the Department of Defense, to be available for grants to Israel for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system; or

(2) to the Foreign Military Financing Program authorized under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763), to be available for grants to Israel for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system.

SEC. 3. Accountability and Oversight

(1) The Department of Defense shall coordinate with the Department of State to submit an annual report to Congress that shall:
    (a) Detail the allocation and expenditure of the funds provided by this project
    (b) Provide a breakdown of the number of grants provided to Israel for the Iron Dome System
    (c) Assess the effectiveness of the funding in strengthening Israel's defense capabilities

119th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 3624

To restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 18, 2024

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. PAUL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act".

SEC. 2. RESTRICTION ON AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Federal funds may not be made available for purposes outside of the United States (including its territories and possessions) to—

(1) any foreign nonprofit organization, foreign nongovernmental organization, foreign multilateral organization, or foreign quasi-autonomous nongovernmental organization that—

(A) performs or promotes abortions, including providing referrals, counseling, lobbying, and training relating to abortions;

(B) furnishes or develops any item intended to procure abortions; or

(C) provides financial support to—

(i) any entity that conducts any of the activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(ii) any entity described in paragraph (2); or

(2) any domestic nonprofit organization or domestic nongovernmental organization that—

(A) performs abortions;

(B) furnishes or develops any item intended to procure abortions;

(C) within the scope of any program or activity that receives Federal funds—

(i) performs or promotes abortions, including providing referrals, counseling, lobbying, and training relating to abortions; or

(ii) fails to maintain a complete physical and financial separation from activities described in clause (i) and such failure includes co-locating such a program or activity at any site where activities described in clause (i) are conducted; or

(D) provides financial support to—

(i) any entity that conducts activities described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); or

(ii) any entity described in paragraph (1).

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The prohibitions described in subsection (a) include the transfer of Federal funds and goods financed with such funds.

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 3064

To limit funding to the United Nations until the Islamic Republic of Iran has been expelled and investigated for violations of the Genocide Convention, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2023

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To limit funding to the United Nations until the Islamic Republic of Iran has been expelled and investigated for violations of the Genocide Convention, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "U.N. Anti-Terrorism Accountability Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. OPPOSITION OF IRAN AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

The United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations—

(1) to urge member states to expel the Islamic Republic of Iran from the United Nations General Assembly; and

(2) to encourage member states to investigate potential violations by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted at Paris December 9, 1948 (commonly known as the "Genocide Convention").

SEC. 3. RESTRICTION ON FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS.

The United States may not make any voluntary or involuntary contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East until the Secretary of State certifies to Congress that the Islamic Republic of Iran—

(1) has been expelled from the United Nations General Assembly; and

(2) is being investigated for violations of the Genocide Convention.

119th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 4863

To require an annual report on the unfunded programs, activities, and mission requirements within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2024

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To require an annual report on the unfunded programs, activities, and mission requirements within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fully Funding our National Security Priorities Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A report issued by the Department of State in 2023 identified a $41,300,000,000 gap between the resources made available to the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development and the resources required to effectively counter the People's Republic of China in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) While the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development remain less than fully funded, the PRC has provided some $1,340,000,000,000 in grants and loans over the past 22 years. In October 2023, the PRC and President Xi announced an additional $100,000,000,000 for China’s development banks.

(3) As competitors like the PRC and Russia expand their global diplomatic footprints, the Department of State today has, on average, a 13 percent staffing gap.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States is a beacon of democracy and freedom in an increasingly fraught world;

(2) the Department of State, as a critical national security agency, remains chronically understaffed and underfunded at a time when geopolitical rivals, including the People’s Republic of China, are rapidly expanding their global diplomatic presences; and

(3) it is imperative to empower the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to ensure the United States can—

(A) effectively advance the national security interests of the United States;

(B) respond strategically to emerging technologies; and

(C) respond with flexibility to metastasizing global threats.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term "unfunded priority", with respect to a fiscal year, means a program, activity, or mission requirement of an element of the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as "USAID") that—

(1) is not funded in the budget for such fiscal year submitted by the President to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;

(2) is necessary to fulfill a foreign policy or national security objective or to satisfy an information requirement associated with a goal or objective outlined in the Joint Strategic Plan agreed upon by the Department of State and USA/ID; and

(3) would have been recommended for funding by the Secretary of State or the USAID Administrator if—

(A) additional resources had been available for such budget to fund such program, activity, or mission requirement; or

(B) the program, activity, or mission requirement has emerged since such budget was formulated.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the budget for any fiscal year is submitted by the President to Congress, the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator shall each prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives the unfunded priorities of the programs under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the Administrator, as applicable.

(c) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (b) shall include, with respect to each unfunded priority covered by such report—

(A) a summary description of such priority, including the objectives to be achieved if such priority is funded (whether in whole or in part);

(B) the additional amount of funds recommended to be made available to achieve the objectives referred to in subparagraph (A); and

(C) budget information with respect to such priority, including—

(i) the appropriation account;

(ii) the expenditure center; and

(iii) the project and, if applicable, any subprojects.

(2) PRIORITIZATION.—Each report submitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (b) shall present the unfunded priorities covered by such report in overall order of urgency of priority among unfunded priorities.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5119

To codify in statute certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. CARDIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To codify in statute certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each person listed or designated for the imposition of sanctions under an executive order described in subsection (b) as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain so designated, except as provided in sections 2 and 3.

(b) EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.—Executive orders specified in this subsection are—

(1) Executive Order 13849 (22 U.S.C. 9521 note; relating to authorizing the implementation of certain sanctions set forth in the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9401 et seq.));

(2) Executive Order 13883 (22 U.S.C. 5605 note; relating to administration of proliferation sanctions and amendment of Executive Order 12851 (22 U.S.C. 2797 note; relating to the administration of proliferation sanctions, Middle East arms control, and related congressional reporting responsibilities));

(3) Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation);

(4) Executive Order 14039 (22 U.S.C. 9526 note; relating to blocking property with respect to certain Russian energy export pipelines);

(5) Executive Order 14065 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to continued Russian efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine);

(6) Executive Order 14066 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports and new investments with respect to continued Russian Federation efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine);

(7) Executive Order 14068 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports, exports, and new investment with respect to continued Russian Federation aggression);

(8) Executive Order 14071 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting new investment in and certain services to the Russian Federation in response to continued Russian Federation aggression); and

(9) Executive Order 14114 (88 Fed. Reg. 89271; relating to taking additional steps with respect to the Russian Federation's harmful activities).

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.

The President may terminate the application of sanctions under section 1 with respect to a person if the President certifies to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that—

(1) such person—

(A) is not engaging in the activity that was the basis for such sanctions; or

(B) has taken significant, verifiable steps toward stopping the activity that was the basis for such sanctions; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurances that such person will not knowingly engage in any activity subject to sanctions in the future.

SEC. 3. EXCEPTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term "agricultural commodity" has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(2) GOOD.—The term "good" means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term "medical device" has the meaning given the term "device" in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(4) MEDICINE.—The term "medicine" has the meaning given the term "drug" in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(b) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—A requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property referred to in section 1 shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions specified in section 1 shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(1) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(2) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(d) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions specified in section 1 shall not apply 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.

(e) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions specified in section 1 shall not apply to—

(1) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(2) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in paragraph (1).

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 3491

To prohibit United States contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Green Climate Fund.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To prohibit United States contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Green Climate Fund.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "No Tax Dollars for the United Nations Climate Agenda Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, THEUNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds made available to any Federal department or agency may be used to make assessed or voluntary contributions on behalf of

the United States to or for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or the Green Climate Fund.

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 908

To oppose the provision of assistance to the People's Republic of China by the multilateral development banks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2023

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. LEE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. HOEVEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To oppose the provision of assistance to the People's Republic of China by the multilateral development banks.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OPPOSITION TO PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENTBANKS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The People’s Republic of China is the world’s second largest economy and a major global lender.

(2) In the third quarter of 2022, the foreign exchange reserves of the People’s Republic of China totaled more than $3,000,000,000,000.

(3) The World Bank classifies the People's Republic of China as a country with an upper-middle-income economy.

(4) On February 25, 2021, President Xi Jinping announced "complete victory" over extreme poverty in the People's Republic of China.

(5) The Government of the People's Republic of China utilizes state resources to create and promote the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, and the Belt and Road Initiative.

(6) The People's Republic of China is the world's largest official creditor.

(7) Through a multilateral development bank, countries are eligible to borrow until they can manage long-term development and access to capital markets without financial resources from the bank.

(8) The World Bank reviews the graduation of a country from eligibility to borrow from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development once the country reaches the graduation discussion income, which is equivalent to the gross national income. For fiscal year 2023, the graduation discussion income is a gross national income per capita exceeding $7,455.

(9) Many of the other multilateral development banks, such as the Asian Development Bank, use the gross national income per capita benchmark used by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to trigger the graduation process.

(10) The People's Republic of China exceeded the graduation discussion income threshold in 2016.

(11) Since 2016, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has approved projects totaling $9,610,000,000 to the People's Republic of China.

(12) Since 2016, the Asian Development Bank has continued to approve loans and technical assistance to the People's Republic of China totaling more than $10,600,000,000. The Bank has also approved non-sovereign commitments in the People's Republic of China totaling more than $2,400,000,000 since 2016.

(13) The World Bank calculates the People's Republic of China's 2019 gross national income per capita as $10,390.

(b) Statement Of Policy.—It is the policy of the United States to oppose any additional lending from the multilateral development banks, including the International Bank for

Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank, to the People's Republic of China as a result of the People's Republic of China's successful graduation from the eligibility requirements for assistance from those banks.

(c) OPPOSITION TO LENDING TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each multilateral development bank to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States—

(1) to oppose any loan or extension of financial or technical assistance by the bank to the People's Republic of China; and

(2) to end lending and assistance to countries that exceed the graduation discussion income of the bank.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the status of borrowing by the People's Republic of China from each multilateral development bank;

(2) a description of voting power, shares, and representation by the People's Republic of China at each such bank;

(3) a list of countries that have exceeded the graduation discussion income at each such bank;

(4) a list of countries that have graduated from eligibility for assistance from each such bank; and

(5) a full description of the efforts taken by the United States to graduate countries from such eligibility once they exceed the graduation discussion income at each such bank.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.—The term "multilateral development banks" has the meaning given that term in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)).

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5076

To require periodic updates to the comprehensive strategy to promote Internet freedom and access to information in Iran, to authorize grants to support and develop programs in Iran that promote or expand an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To require periodic updates to the comprehensive strategy to promote Internet freedom and access to information in Iran, to authorize grants to support and develop programs in Iran that promote or expand an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Iran Internet Freedom Act".

SEC. 2. UPDATES TO COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO PROMOTE INTERNET FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN IRAN.

(a) UPDATES.—Section 414 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8754) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "Not later than" and inserting the following:

"(a) INITIAL STRATEGY.—Not later than";

(2) in subsection (a), as redesignated—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and (12) as paragraphs (14) and (15), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

"(11) evaluate the use of virtual private networks by civil society and human rights activists in Iran and develop strategies for increasing the accessibility to such networks;

"(12) develop guidance for the Department of the Treasury to ensure that enforcement of sanctions does not prevent companies from providing Iranian civilians with the technology and other tools necessary to access the open Internet;

"(13) assess the ability of the Iranian regime to cut off all access to the Internet and develop a strategy to circumvent Internet blackouts for Iranian civil society;"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) MANDATORY UPDATE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Iran Internet Freedom Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall—

"(1) review and update the strategy to more effectively address the objectives described in subsection (a); and

"(2) submit the updated strategy to the appropriate congressional committees.

"(c) PERIODIC REVIEWS; UPDATES.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Treasury, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall—

"(1) periodically review the strategy submitted pursuant to subsection (a); and

"(2) whenever such review reveals the need to modify such strategy to more effectively address the objectives described in subsection (a), submit an updated strategy to the appropriate congressional committees.

"(d) FORM.—Each strategy required under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.".

SEC. 3. PROGRAMMING AND SUPPORT TO CIRCUMVENT IRANIAN INTERNET CENSORSHIP.

(a) GRANTS TO SUPPORT INTERNET FREEDOM TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS IN IRAN.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the President of the Open Technology Fund, as appropriate, may award grants and contracts to private organizations to support and develop programs in Iran that promote or expand—

(1) an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet; and

(2) the online exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms of individual citizens, activists, human rights defenders, independent journalists, civil society organizations, and marginalized populations in Iran.

(b) GOALS.—The goals of the programs developed with grants authorized under subsection (a) should be—

(1) to support unrestricted access to the Internet in Iran;

(2) to increase the availability of internet freedom tools in Iran;

(3) to scale up the distribution of such technologies and tools throughout Iran;

(4) to conduct research on repressive tactics that undermine internet freedom in Iran;

(5) to ensure information on digital safety is available to human rights defenders, independent journalists, civil society organizations, and marginalized populations in Iran; and

(6) to engage private industry, including e-commerce firms and social networking companies, regarding the importance of preserving unrestricted Internet access in Iran.

(c) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Grants authorized under this section shall be distributed to multiple vendors and suppliers through an open, fair, competitive, and evidence-based decision process—

(1) to diversify the technical base; and

(2) to reduce the risk of misuse by bad actors.

(d) SECURITY AUDITS.—New technologies developed using grants authorized under this section shall undergo comprehensive security audits to ensure that such technologies are secure and have not been compromised in a manner detrimental to—

(1) the interests of the United States; or

(2) individuals or organizations benefitting from programs supported by such funding.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Open Technology Fund, in addition to the amount appropriated for the Open Technology Fund pursuant to section 1299P(d) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283), $15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 and 2026 to carry out the grant program authorized under this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

119th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 4937

To require Senate approval before the United States assumes any obligation under a WHO pandemic agreement and to suspend funding for the WHO until such agreement is ratified by the Senate.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To require Senate approval before the United States assumes any obligation under a WHO pandemic agreement and to suspend funding for the WHO until such agreement is ratified by the Senate.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Defending American Sovereignty in Global Pandemics Act".

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES FUNDING FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION UNTIL PANDEMIC TREATY IS APPROVED BY THE SENATE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The United States shall not become a party to a convention, agreement, or other international instrument under the Constitution of the World Health Organization to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response except

pursuant to a treaty made under Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) FUNDING RESTRICTION.—The Government of the United States may not obligate or expend any funds for the World Health Organization beginning on the effective date of an agreement described in subsection (a) and ending on the date on which the Senate approves a resolution of ratification with respect to such convention, agreement, or instrument.

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 436

To respond to the looming global food crisis precipitated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To respond to the looming global food crisis precipitated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing Allies Food in Emergencies Act” or the “SAFE Act”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to respond to the looming global food crisis precipitated by the Russian Federation’s brutal, illegal invasion of Ukraine beginning in February 2022, which threatens to destabilize key partners and allies and push millions of people into hunger and poverty, particularly in areas of Africa and the Middle East that are already experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity, by taking immediate action to improve the timeliness and expand the reach of United States international food assistance.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY TO AVERT A GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, acting in the capacity of the President's Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance pursuant to section 493 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292b), shall develop and submit a strategy to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives for averting a catastrophic global food security crisis, particularly in areas of Africa and the Middle East that are already experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity, which has been driven by sharp increases in global prices for staple agricultural commodities, agricultural inputs (including fertilizer), and associated energy costs.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the strategy under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consider and incorporate an analysis of—

(1) the impact of the Russian Federation's brutal, illegal war in Ukraine on the cost and availability of staple agricultural commodities and inputs, including fertilizer—

(A) globally;

(B) in countries that rely upon commercial imports of such commodities and inputs from Ukraine or Russia; and

(C) in countries that are supported through the United Nations World Food Programme, which heavily relies upon purchases of wheat and pulses from Ukraine and has recently reported a price increase of more than $23,000,000 per month for its wheat purchases;

(2) the correlation between rising food costs and social unrest in areas of strategic importance to the United States, including countries and regions that experienced food riots during the 2007 to 2008 global food price crisis;

(3) the underlying drivers of food insecurity in areas experiencing emergency levels of hunger, including current barriers to food security development programs and humanitarian assistance;

(4) existing United States foreign assistance authorities, programs, and resources that could help avert a catastrophic global food crisis;

(5) recommendations to enhance the efficiency, improve the timeliness, and expand the reach of United States international food assistance programs and resources referred to in paragraph (4);

(6) opportunities to bolster coordination, catalyze and leverage actions by other donors and through multilateral development banks;

(7) opportunities to better synchronize assistance through well-coordinated development and humanitarian assistance programs within the United States Agency for International Development and alongside other donors;

(8) opportunities to improve supply chain and shipping logistics efficiencies in close collaboration with the private sector;

(9) opportunities for increased cooperation with the Department of State to strengthen diplomatic efforts to resolve global conflicts and overcome barriers to access for life-saving assistance;

(10) opportunities to support continued agricultural production in Ukraine, and the extent to which food produced in Ukraine can be used to meet humanitarian needs locally, regionally, or in countries historically reliant upon imports from Ukraine or Russia; and

(11) opportunities to support and leverage agricultural production in countries and regions currently supported by United States international agricultural development programs, including programs authorized under the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9301 et seq.), in a manner that—

(A) fills critical gaps in the global supply of emergency food aid commodities;

(B) enables purchases from small holder farmers by the United Nations World Food Programme;

(C) enhances resilience to food price shocks;

(D) promotes self-reliance; and

(E) opens opportunities for United States agricultural trade and investment.

SEC. 4. EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES TO EXPAND THE TIMELINESS AND REACH OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this section and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to procure life-saving food aid commodities, including commodities available locally and regionally, for the provision of emergency food

assistance to the most vulnerable populations in countries and areas experiencing acute food insecurity that has been exacerbated by rising food prices, particularly in countries and areas historically dependent upon imports of wheat and other staple commodities from Ukraine and Russia.

(b) PRIORITIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In responding to crises in which emergency food aid commodities are unavailable locally or regionally, or in which the provision of locally or regionally procured agricultural commodities would be unsafe, impractical, or inappropriate, the Administrator should prioritize procurements of United States agricultural commodities, including when exercising authorities under section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292).

(2) LOCAL OR REGIONAL PROCUREMENTS.—In making local or regional procurements of food aid commodities pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator, to the extent practicable and appropriate, should prioritize procurements from areas supported through the international agricultural development programs authorized under the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9301 et seq.) and from Ukraine, for the purpose of promoting economic stability, resilience to price shocks, and early recovery from such shocks in such areas.

(c) DO NO HARM.—In making local or regional procurements of food aid commodities pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator shall first conduct market assessments to ensure that such procurements—

(1) will not displace United States agricultural trade and investment; and

(2) will not cause or exacerbate shortages, or otherwise harm local markets, for such commodities within the countries of origin.

(d) EMERGENCY EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Commodities procured pursuant to subsection (b) shall be excluded from calculations of gross tonnage for purposes of determining compliance with section 55305(b) of title 46, United States Code.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 55305(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “shall” and inserting “should”.

(e) EXCLUSIONS.—The authority under subsection (a) shall not apply to procurements from—

(1) the Russian Federation;

(2) the People's Republic of China; or

(3) any country subject to sanctions under—

(A) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(B) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

(C) section 1754(c) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)).

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5009

To provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the "Providing Appropriate Recognition and Treatment Needed to Enhance Relations with ASEAN Act" or the "PARTNER with ASEAN Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.

The provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.

SEC. 3. SCOPE OF IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES

The immunities and privileges that may be granted under this section shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Immunity from legal process and from the jurisdiction of United States courts to the extent that the organization, its officials, or its members are acting within the scope of their official functions.
(b) Exemption from taxes, customs duties, and other fiscal obligations, except where the payment of such obligations is part of an agreement between the United States and ASEAN, or as otherwise specified under law.
(c) Exemption from taxes, customs duties, and other fiscal obligations, except where the payment of such obligations is part of an agreement between the United States and ASEAN, or as otherwise specified under law.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 280

To prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KING, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. GALLEGO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Global Health, Empowerment and Rights Act”.

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS UNDER PART I OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regulation, or policy, in determining eligibility for assistance authorized under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), foreign nongovernmental organizations—

(1) shall not be ineligible for such assistance solely on the basis of health or medical services, including counseling and referral services, provided by such organizations with non-United States Government funds if such services do not violate the laws of the country in which they are being provided and would not violate United States Federal law if provided in the United States; and

(2) shall not be subject to requirements relating to the use of non-United States Government funds for advocacy and lobbying activities other than those that apply to United States nongovernmental organizations receiving assistance under part I of such Act.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 160

To amend the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 to reauthorize the sale by the Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 2025

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

A BILL

To amend the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 to reauthorize the sale by the Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Aerial Firefighting Enhancement Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. Modification and reauthorization of authority for sale by Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes.

Section 2 of the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–307; 10 U.S.C. 2576 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking "a period" and inserting "the period"; and

(B) by inserting "or water" after "fire retardant";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "sold under subsection (a)" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "sold under subsection (a) may be used only for the provision of aircraft services for wildfire suppression purposes.";

(3) in subsection (c), by inserting "or water" after "fire retardant";

(4) in subsection (d)(1), in the second sentence, by striking "subsection (a)(1)" and inserting "subsection (g)"; and

(5) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

"(g) PERIOD FOR EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—The period specified in this subsection is the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on October 1, 2035.".

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5376

To prohibit sales and the issuance of licenses for the export of certain defense articles to the United Arab Emirates, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Mr. VAN HOLLEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To prohibit sales and the issuance of licenses for the export of certain defense articles to the United Arab Emirates, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON SALES AND EXPORTS OF COVERED DEFENSE ARTICLES TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may not sell or issue a license for the export of covered defense articles under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) to the United Arab Emirates, or any agency or instrumentality of the United Arab Emirates, until the President certifies to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that the United Arab Emirates is not providing materiel support to the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan.

(b) COVERED DEFENSE ARTICLES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered defense articles" means articles listed under Category I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, XIV, XVI, XVII, or XVIII of the United States Munitions List in part 121 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4581

To require the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and such other heads of departments and agencies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, to formulate a strategy for the Federal Government to secure support from foreign countries, multilateral organizations, and other appropriate entities to facilitate the development and commercialization of qualified pandemic or epidemic products, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2024

Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and such other heads of departments and agencies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, to formulate a strategy for the Federal Government to secure support from foreign countries, multilateral organizations, and other appropriate entities to facilitate the development and commercialization of qualified pandemic or epidemic products, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Saving Us from Pandemic Era Resistance by Building a Unified Global Strategy Act of 2024" or the "SUPER BUGS Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF QUALIFIED PANDEMIC OR EPIDEMIC PRODUCTS.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and such other heads of departments and agencies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, shall—

(A) formulate a strategy for the Federal Government to secure support from foreign countries, multilateral organizations, and other appropriate entities to facilitate the development and commercialization of qualified pandemic or epidemic products, including such products to address antimicrobial resistant pathogens—

(i) with pandemic potential; or

(ii) that are priority pathogens; and

(B) submit such strategy to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide for processes the Federal Government is using and would use to enter into arrangements with foreign countries, multilateral organizations, and other appropriate entities in certain circumstances to implement the strategy;

(B) strive to ensure that the arrangements described in subparagraph (A) promote equitable contributions based on the budgets and technical expertise of participating countries, organizations, and other entities, as appropriate;

(C) focus the arrangements described in subparagraph (A) on global priorities while enabling participating countries, organizations, and other entities to emphasize national or regional issues of importance;

(D) seek to ensure new and existing arrangements described in subparagraph (A) are harmonized with each other and with other relevant existing or planned efforts to amplify impact, address gaps, prevent duplication of effort, and efficiently distribute funds;

(E) provide for collaboration so that the arrangements described in subparagraph (A)—

(i) allocate joint or individual responsibility across participating countries, organizations, and other entities for the development and commercialization of particular qualified pandemic or epidemic products; and

(ii) describe such collaboration;

(F) encourage the stewardship of qualified pandemic or epidemic products developed pursuant to the strategy;

(G) ensure that priority actions are identified in the arrangements described in subparagraph (A) so that scarce domestic and international funds are allocated to develop and commercialize qualified pandemic or epidemic products that can achieve the greatest positive impact on human health, including unprecedented approaches to preventing, treating, and diagnosing infectious diseases;

(H) consider approaches including—

(i) securing development, production, and distribution contracts with the private sector;

(ii) entering into public-private partnerships;

(iii) implementing alternative payment models;

(iv) creating coverage and reimbursement pathways; and

(v) streamlining regulatory approval processes; and

(I) align with pandemic preparedness and response priorities of the United States, such as those articulated in—

(i) the National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (dated September 2014); and

(ii) the National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan (dated October 2022) and the associated Action Plan (dated October 2022).

(b) ARRANGEMENTS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and such other heads of departments and agencies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, shall seek to enter into arrangements with foreign countries, multilateral organizations, and other appropriate entities to implement the strategy required by subsection (a).

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Chairman: Bill Cassidy, M.D
Rand Paul
Susan Collins
Lisa Murkowski
Roger Marshall, M.D.
Tim Scott
Jim Banks
Ashley Moody
Bernie Moreno
Todd Young

Ranking Member: Bernie Sanders
Patty Murray
Tammy Baldwin
Maggie Hassan
John Hickenlooper
Andy Kim
Catherine Cortez-Masto
John Ossoff
Michael Bennet

S. 2093	222	Baldwin	To establish a program at BARDA for developing medical countermeasures for viral threats with pandemic potential.
S. 2983	225	Banks	To prohibit the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education receiving funding from the Department of Education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States.
S. 3206	228	Bennet	To provide for a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.
S. 4328	231	Cassidy	To require any labor organization that is or would be the collective bargaining representative for any employees to provide information regarding the amount of funds in any defined benefit plan of the labor organization before any labor organization election, and for other purposes.
S. 2047	236	Collins	To ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics.
S. 2439	237	Cortez-Masto	To establish a grant program to fund reproductive health patient navigators for individuals seeking abortion services.
S. 5586	241	Kim	To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, and for other purposes.
S. 2771	244	Hassan	To allow additional individuals to enroll in standalone dental plans offered through Federal Exchanges.
S. 2356	245	Hickenlooper	To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update guidance with respect to gene synthesis, and for other purposes.
S. 4349	248	Marshall	To require private health plans to provide for secure electronic transmission of prior authorization requests for prescription drugs.
S. 5103	252	Moody	To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan for the Human Foods Program of the Food and Drug Administration and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, and for other purposes.
S. 2799	256	Moreno	To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.
S. 282	258	Murkowski	To amend the market name of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes.
S. 1698	260	Murray	To require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives.
S. 4504	264	Ossoff	To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a public awareness campaign with respect to screening for type 1 diabetes, and for other purposes.
S. 2602	269	Paul	To limit the scope of regulations issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to control communicable diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 4289	270	Sanders	To cancel existing medical debt, and for other purposes.
S. 4127	276	Scott	To provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.
S. 305	279	Young	To authorize small business loans to finance access to modern business software, and for other purposes.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2093

To establish a program at BARDA for developing medical countermeasures for viral threats with pandemic potential.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2023

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To establish a program at BARDA for developing medical countermeasures for viral threats with pandemic potential.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Disease X Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. Medical countermeasures for viral threats with pandemic potential.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 319L(c)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7e(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking "; and" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (v); and

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

"(iii) the identification and development of platform manufacturing technologies needed for advanced development and manufacturing of medical countermeasures for viral families which have significant potential to cause a pandemic;

"(iv) advanced research and development of flexible medical countermeasures against priority respiratory virus families and other respiratory viral pathogens with a significant potential to cause a pandemic, with both pathogen-specific and pathogen-agnostic approaches; and"; and

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking "; and" at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in clause (iii), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) priority virus families and other viral pathogens with a significant potential to cause a pandemic.".

(b) FUNDING.—Section 319L(d)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7e(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "To carry out" and inserting the following:

"(i) IN GENERAL.—To carry out"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts appropriated under clause (i), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, which amounts shall be used solely for purposes of carrying out clauses

(iii) and (iv) of subsection (c)(4)(D), such amounts to remain available until expended.

"(II) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Any product developed using funding appropriated pursuant to subclause (I) shall be substantially manufactured in the United States. The Secretary may waive the requirements of this subclause with respect to individual entities if the Secretary determines that requiring domestic research and development operations would be inconsistent with the public interest.".

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2983

To prohibit the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education receiving funding from the Department of Education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2023

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To prohibit the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education receiving funding from the Department of Education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Schools Not Shelters Act".

SEC. 2. Definitions.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term "applicable program" has the meaning given such term in section 400(c) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1221(c)).

(2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The terms "elementary school" and "secondary school" have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(3) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The term "Federal financial assistance" has the meaning given such term in section 7501(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education"—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

(B) does not include an institution that is not located in a State.

(5) SHELTER OR HOUSING.—The term "shelter or housing"—

(A) means emergency shelter or housing provided exclusively to specified aliens under order of the Federal Government, a State, or a unit of local government; and

(B) does not include short-term emergency shelter made necessary by a specified disaster.

(6) SHORT-TERM.—The term "short-term" means a duration of not more than 72 hours.

(7) SPECIFIED ALIEN.—The term "specified alien"—

(A) has the meaning given the term "alien" in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)); and

(B) does not include any alien who has been admitted to the United States.

(8) SPECIFIED DISASTER.—The term "specified disaster" means—

(A) a fire on public or private forest land or grassland described in section 420(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187(a)); and

(B) any fire, flood, explosion, hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought for which a disaster declaration is made by the Federal Government or by a State.

(9) STATE.—The term "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SEC. 3. Prohibition on use of school or institution facilities to shelter specified aliens.

Notwithstanding subparagraphs (B) and (D) of section 401(b)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(b)(1)) and paragraphs (2) and (4) of section 411(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1621(b)), a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education may not receive Federal financial assistance under any applicable program if the facilities of such school or institution are used to provide shelter or housing for specified aliens.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3206

To provide for a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To provide for a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Agricultural Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Mental Health Care Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. Study on accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers; and

(2) submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(b) TOPICS ADDRESSED.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include an examination of the following topics:

(1) The availability and accessibility in rural areas of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services that are trained and dedicated to serve the needs of farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers, and their family members.

(2) Barriers and challenges faced by farmers and ranchers in accessing substance use disorder treatment and mental health care and health and wellness resources, including financial, geographic, and cultural barriers.

(3) Identification of best practices and successful programs at the State and local levels that can be replicated at the Federal level to address substance use disorder treatment and mental health care needs in agricultural communities, including the following:

(A) Hiring and training of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care professionals with expertise in working with agricultural communities.

(B) Accessing cultural competency training for substance use disorder treatment and mental health care professionals that lack expertise in working with agricultural communities.

(C) Developing certificate programs for paraprofessionals and coaches to offer peer-to-peer support programming.

(D) Researching effective curricula for youth and young adults to be offered in rural schools.

(E) Expanding telehealth and telemedicine services to improve access to care in rural areas.

(F) Developing outreach and educational programs to reduce stigma and increase awareness of mental health issues among farmers and ranchers.

(G) Enhancing coordination and collaboration between existing mental health providers and agricultural organizations.

(H) Conducting research and evaluation to measure the effectiveness of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care services provided to farmers and ranchers.

(4) Utilization of, and best practices among grantees through, the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network under section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).

(5) Recommendations for improving the accessibility and utilization of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care for farmers and ranchers.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4328

To require any labor organization that is or would be the collective bargaining representative for any employees to provide information regarding the amount of funds in any defined benefit plan of the labor organization before any labor organization election, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2024

Mr. CASSIDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To require any labor organization that is or would be the collective bargaining representative for any employees to provide information regarding the amount of funds in any defined benefit plan of the labor organization before any labor organization election, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Making All Fund Information Available Act".

SEC. 2. Requirement for labor organizations to provide information regarding defined benefit plans before any labor organization election.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) BENEFICIARY.—The term "beneficiary" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002).

(2) DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN.—The term "defined benefit plan" has the meaning given the term in such section of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1002).

(3) EMPLOYEE, EMPLOYER.—The terms "employee" and "employer" have the meanings given such terms in section 2 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152).

(4) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term "labor organization" has the meaning given the term in such section of such Act (29 U.S.C. 152).

(5) LABOR ORGANIZATION ELECTION.—The term "labor organization election" means any election described in section 9 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159), including an election for decertification described in subsection (e) of such section.

(6) PARTICIPANT.—The term "participant" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002).

(b) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING A DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A labor organization that is the representative of employees of an employer for purposes of collective bargaining in accordance with section 9(a) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159(a)) during a labor organization election, or that would become such a representative of such employees after a labor organization election, shall—

(A) not fewer than 3 days before the date of such labor organization election, provide to such employees the notice described in paragraph (2) regarding any defined benefit plan that is or would be available for enrollment by the employees because of representation by the labor organization for purposes of collective bargaining; and

(B) in the case of such a defined benefit plan that has a percentage of plan liabilities described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) that is less than 100 percent, provide to such employees access to a financial expert (described in paragraph (3)) who is, for the 3 days immediately preceding the date of such labor organization election, able to answer questions regarding such defined benefit plan.

(2) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The notice described in this paragraph is a statement that, with respect to a defined benefit plan described in paragraph (1)(A), provides—

(i) the percentage of plan liabilities funded, calculated as the ratio between the value of the plan's assets and liabilities, as of the end of the most recently completed plan year;

(ii) in the case of an employee who is not a participant in a defined benefit plan described in paragraph (1)(A), the percentage of each dollar of contribution by the employee, if the employee enrolls in such a plan, that—

(I) would be used to provide benefits to the employee (or a beneficiary of the employee); and

(II) would be used to provide benefits to participants of the defined benefit plan (or their beneficiaries) who are enrolled as of the date on which the labor organization election described in paragraph (1) occurs; and

(iii) in the case of a percentage of plan liabilities described in clause (i) that is less than 100 percent—

(I) the ratio between the estimated monthly benefit that a participant or beneficiary would receive at normal retirement age under the defined benefit plan and the estimated monthly benefit that a participant or beneficiary would receive at normal retirement age under the defined benefit plan if such percentage of plan liabilities was 100 percent; and

(II) the estimated amount of the monthly benefit amount that would be paid by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation if the plan is terminated with insufficient assets to pay benefits.

(B) INFORMATION PROVIDED IN AN ANNUAL REPORT.—The notice described in subparagraph (A) may quote, in plain language, from the most recently filed annual report provided to the Secretary of Labor or the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation under section 104 or 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1024, 1365) with respect to the defined benefit plan described in paragraph (1)(A).

(3) FINANCIAL EXPERT.—A financial expert provided by a labor organization in accordance with paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) shall be—

(i) independent from the defined benefit plan described in paragraph (1)(A) and the labor organization; and

(ii) provided at no cost to the employees;

(B) may not be compensated using any assets of the defined benefit plan.

(4) AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS AFTER ELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after a labor organization election described in paragraph (1), a labor organization shall provide to the Office of Labor-Management Standards all written materials (including the notice provided under paragraph (1)(A)), instructions, or handouts provided to employees with respect to the requirements of this Act.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30 days after receiving any written materials, instructions, or handouts under subparagraph (A), the Office of Labor-Management Standards shall make such materials, instructions, or handouts publicly available on the website of the Office of Labor-Management Standards.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR MISLEADING OR FALSE STATEMENTS.—

(A) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to lie to or mislead an employee in any notice provided under subsection (b)(1)(A) or with respect to any answers provided under subsection (b)(1)(B).

(B) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subparagraph (A) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

(2) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any employee who is adversely affected by an alleged violation of subsection (b) may commence a civil action against any person that violates such section in any court of competent jurisdiction for actual damages. The court may award costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, to an employee in a prevailing action under this paragraph.

(3) REFERRAL.—If the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employee Benefits Security obtains evidence that any person has engaged in conduct that may constitute a violation of paragraph (1)(A), the Assistant Secretary shall—

(A) refer the matter to the Attorney General for prosecution under such paragraph; and

(B) provide such evidence to the National Labor Relations Board.

(4) ENFORCEMENT BY THE NLRB.—Section 9 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) In any case in which the Board determines that the results of an election under this section were influenced by conduct that may constitute a violation of section 2(c)(1)(A) of the Making All Fund Information Available Act or that a labor organization that is, or would become, the representative of employees after such an election violated section 2(b)(1) of such Act—

"(1) the election shall be invalid;

"(2) the Board shall set aside the results of such election; and

"(3) a new election may not be held unless the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employee Benefits Security determines that the labor organization has fulfilled the requirements of section 2(b)(1) of such Act.".

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2047

To ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2021

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "No PFAS in Cosmetics Act".

SEC. 2. Ban on perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

(a) DIRECTED RULEMAKING.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall issue a proposed rule to ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics. Not later than 90 days after issuing the proposed rule, the Secretary shall finalize such rule.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance" means a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance that is man-made and has at least 1 fully fluorinated carbon atom.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2439

To establish a grant program to fund reproductive health patient navigators for individuals seeking abortion services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2023

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To establish a grant program to fund reproductive health patient navigators for individuals seeking abortion services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Reproductive Health Patient Navigator Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. Findings.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) As the legal hurdles to abortion services increase, so does the complexity of navigating access to these essential reproductive health services.

(2) Community-based organizations like abortion funds are connecting people to abortions, by working with individuals to navigate an ever-evolving landscape of reproductive health care.

(3) Abortion funds have been helping individuals navigate the complexity of abortion services for decades and are well placed to lead patient navigation programs.

SEC. 3. Establishment of grant program for reproductive health patient navigators.

Subpart V of part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 340A–1. Establishment of grant program for reproductive health patient navigators.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a grant program to support eligible entities for purposes of serving as reproductive health patient navigators for individuals seeking to access abortion services in order to connect those individuals to abortion services.

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall—

"(1) be an abortion fund or other nonprofit organization, a community-based organization, a State, local governmental entity, or Tribal government that, through programs, services, or activities that are unbiased and medically- and factually-accurate, assists individuals seeking abortion services; and

"(2) submit an application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a plan for—

"(A) establishing and operating a program of patient navigator services to help individuals seeking abortion services access abortion services, as described in subsection (c); and

"(B) ensuring that any personally identifiable patient data obtained through the operation of such program is kept confidential.

"(c) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use such funds for one or more of the following activities related to abortion services:

"(1) Offering individuals seeking abortion services medically-accurate, culturally- and linguistically-appropriate services and resources.

"(2) Coordinating financing resources for travel-related costs, including transportation, childcare, and lodging.

"(3) Coordinating abortion services, including identifying available abortion providers and scheduling appointments.

"(4) Providing emotional wellness and doula support to individuals accessing abortion services.

"(5) Providing individuals seeking abortion services with unbiased and medically and factually accurate reproductive health information to support individuals' informed decision making.

"(6) Developing partnerships with local community organizations providing services for which eligible entity provides assistance, abortion service providers, and other patient navigators, such as patient navigators receiving grants under section 340A.

"(7) Assisting with understanding reimbursement and health insurance coverage options, including completing eligibility and enrollment forms.

"(8) Assisting with understanding where abortion services are legal and the ways in which abortion services may be restricted.

"(d) PATIENT NAVIGATOR PROTECTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No individual, entity, or State may prevent, restrict, impede, or disadvantage an entity eligible to receive a grant under this section by nature of delivering services described in subsection (c), or any affiliate of such an entity or individual or other entity collaborating with such an entity, from—

"(A) providing or assisting a health care provider, or any other person, with eligible services described in subsection (c) related to reproductive health care services—

"(i) lawful in the State in which services are to be provided; or

"(ii) provided for an individual who does not reside in the State in which the services are to be provided; or

"(B) carrying out the activities described in this section in any State, including any State in which abortion services are not lawful.

"(2) ENFORCEMENT.—

"(A) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may commence a civil action on behalf of the United States against any State, or against any government official, individual, or entity that enacts, implements, or enforces a limitation or requirement that violates paragraph (1). The court shall hold unlawful and set aside the limitation or requirement if it is in violation of paragraph (1).

"(B) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any reproductive health patient navigator adversely affected by an alleged violation of paragraph (1) may commence a civil action against any State that violates this subsection, against any government official

that enacts, implements, or enforces a limitation or requirement that violates paragraph (1), or against any individual who, pursuant to State law, prevents, restricts, impedes, or disadvantages the entity from carrying out activities in violation of paragraph (1). The court shall hold unlawful and enjoin the limitation or requirement if it is in violation of paragraph (1).

"(C) EQUITABLE RELIEF.—In any action under this subsection, the court may award appropriate equitable relief, including temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive relief.

"(D) COSTS.—In any action under this subsection, the court shall award costs of litigation, as well as reasonable attorney's fees, to any prevailing plaintiff. A plaintiff shall not be liable to a defendant for costs or attorney's fees in any nonfrivolous action under this subsection.

"(E) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over proceedings under this subsection and shall exercise the same without regard to whether the party aggrieved shall have exhausted any administrative or other remedies that may be provided for by law.

"(F) ABROGATION OF STATE IMMUNITY.—Neither a State that enforces or maintains, nor a government official who is permitted to implement or enforce, any limitation or requirement that violates paragraph (1) shall be immune under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any other source of law, from an action in a Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction challenging that limitation or requirement.

"(G) RIGHT TO REMOVE.—Any party shall have a right to remove an action brought under this subsection to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending. An order remanding the case to the State court from which it was removed under this paragraph may be immediately reviewable by appeal or otherwise.

"(e) FUNDING.—There are appropriated, for fiscal years 2023 through 2027, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for purposes of carrying out this section.".

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5586

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act".

SEC. 2. Public service loan forgiveness program.

Section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ", except as provided in paragraph (5)," after "on any eligible Federal Direct Loan not in default"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) LOAN CANCELLATION FOR NEW LOANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning after the date of enactment of the Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act, after the conclusion of each employment period in a public service job, as described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall cancel the percent specified in such subparagraph of the total amount due on any eligible Federal Direct Loan made after the date of enactment of the Strengthening Loan Forgiveness for Public Servants Act for a borrower who is employed in such public service job and submits an employment certification form described in subparagraph (C).

"(B) PERCENT AMOUNT.—The percent of a loan that shall be canceled under subparagraph (A) is as follows:

"(i) In the case of a borrower who completes 2 years of employment in a public service job, 15 percent of the total amount due on the eligible Federal Direct Loan on the date the borrower commenced employment in such public service job.

"(ii) In the case of a borrower who completes 4 years of employment in a public service job, 15 percent of the total amount due on the eligible Federal Direct Loan on the date the borrower commenced employment in such public service job.

"(iii) In the case of a borrower who completes 6 years of employment in a public service job, 20 percent of the total amount due on the eligible Federal Direct Loan on the date the borrower commenced employment in such public service job.

"(iv) In the case of a borrower who completes 8 years of employment in a public service job, 20 percent of the total amount due on the eligible Federal Direct Loan on the date the borrower commenced employment in such public service job.

"(v) In the case of a borrower who completes 10 years of employment in a public service job, 30 percent of the total amount due on the eligible Federal Direct Loan on the date the borrower commenced employment in such public service job.

"(C) EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION FORM.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive loan cancellation under this paragraph, a borrower shall submit to the Secretary an employment certification form that is developed by the Secretary and includes self-certification of employment and a separate part for employer certification that indicates the dates of employment.

"(ii) DEFERMENT.—If a borrower submits to the Secretary the employment certification form described in clause (i), during the period in which the borrower is employed in a public service job for which loan cancellation is eligible under this paragraph, the borrower's eligible Federal Direct Loan shall be placed in deferment.

"(D) INTEREST CANCELED.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—If a portion of a loan is canceled under this paragraph for any year, the entire amount of interest on such loan that accrues for such year shall be canceled.

"(ii) INTEREST CANCELED DURING REVIEW.—The Secretary shall cancel any interest that accrues that is not otherwise canceled pursuant to this paragraph for a borrower who receives loan cancellation under this paragraph during the period beginning on the date the borrower submits an application for loan cancellation under this paragraph until the date the borrower receives loan cancellation pursuant to such application that is approved.".

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2771

To allow additional individuals to enroll in standalone dental plans offered through Federal Exchanges.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To allow additional individuals to enroll in standalone dental plans offered through Federal Exchanges.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Increasing Access to Dental Insurance Act".

SEC. 2. Standalone dental plans.

Section 1321 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18041) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) AVAILABILITY OF STANDALONE DENTAL PLANS.—The Secretary may not restrict any qualified individual from enrolling in a plan described in section 1311(d)(2)(B)(ii) offered through an Exchange established pursuant to subsection (c) on the basis of such qualified individual not being also enrolled in a qualified health plan offered through the Exchange.".

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2356

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update guidance with respect to gene synthesis, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2023

Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BUDD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update guidance with respect to gene synthesis, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Gene Synthesis Safety and Security Act".

SEC. 2. Gene synthesis.

(a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall update the Screening Framework Guidance for Providers of Synthetic Double-Stranded DNA to account for scientific and technological advancements with respect to mitigating risk of unauthorized individuals or individuals with malicious intent from using nucleic acid synthesis technologies to obtain biological agents or toxins of concern. Such guidance shall include recommendations related to—

(1) screening for sequences that the Secretary determines may contribute to toxicity, pathogenicity, or virulence;

(2) screening and verification of the identity and legitimacy of customers;

(3) the identification, evaluation, and use of appropriate software or other tools to enable the screening described in paragraphs (1) and (2);

(4) ensuring nucleic acid synthesis activities are carried out in compliance with existing regulations under part 73 of chapter 42, part 331 of chapter 7, part 121 of chapter 9, and part 774 of chapter 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

(5) implementing appropriate safeguards, which may include the use of such software or other tools, in gene synthesis equipment to facilitate screening of nucleic acid sequences and, as applicable, customers;

(6) maintaining records of customer orders, metadata, and screening system or protocol performance in specified formats, which may include standardized machine-readable and interoperable data formats; and

(7) other recommendations as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) SEQUENCES OF CONCERN.—The Secretary shall maintain a public docket to solicit recommendations on potential sequences of concern and, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies and non-Federal experts, as appropriate, review and update, on a regular basis, a list of sequences of concern to facilitate screening under subsection (a)(1).

(c) LANDSCAPE REVIEW.—The Secretary, in coordination with other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall conduct a landscape review of providers and manufacturers of gene synthesis equipment, products, software, and other tools with the purpose of understanding the number, types, and capabilities of products and equipment that exist domestically and to inform the development of any updates to the guidance under subsection (a).

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies, shall provide technical assistance upon request of a gene synthesis provider, manufacturer of gene synthesis equipment, or developer of software or other screening tools to support implementation of the recommendations included in the guidance under subsection (a).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GENE SYNTHESIS EQUIPMENT.—The term "gene synthesis equipment" means equipment needed to produce gene synthesis products.

(2) GENE SYNTHESIS PRODUCT.—The term "gene synthesis product"—

(A) means custom single-stranded or double-stranded DNA, or single-stranded or double-stranded RNA, which has been chemically or enzymatically synthesized or otherwise manufactured de novo and is of a length exceeding the screening threshold, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) does not include—

(i) base chemical subunits, such as individual nucleotides or nucleosides, or oligonucleotides shorter than the screening threshold typically used as polymerase chain reaction primers, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) by-products generated during sequencing that are not useful for assembly or cloning, as determined by the Secretary; or

(iii) products generated from cloning or assembling of existing gene or gene fragment material, in circumstances in which the gene synthesis provider has no access or notice to the sequence design, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) GENE SYNTHESIS PROVIDER.—The term "gene synthesis provider" means an entity that synthesizes and distributes gene synthesis products, including bacteria, viruses, or fungi containing recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, for delivery to a customer.

(4) MANUFACTURER OF GENE SYNTHESIS EQUIPMENT.—The term "manufacturer of gene synthesis equipment" means an entity that produces and sells equipment for synthesizing gene synthesis products.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4349

To require private health plans to provide for secure electronic transmission of prior authorization requests for prescription drugs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2024

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

=

A BILL

To require private health plans to provide for secure electronic transmission of prior authorization requests for prescription drugs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs.

(a) PHSA.—Part D of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–111 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 2799A–11. Electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall provide for the secure electronic transmission of—

"(1) a prior authorization request from the prescribing health care professional for coverage of a prescription drug for a participant, beneficiary, or enrollee in such plan or coverage to such plan or issuer; and

"(2) a response, in accordance with this section, from such plan or issuer to such professional.

"(b) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.—

"(1) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, a facsimile, a proprietary payer portal that does not meet standards specified by the Secretary, or an electronic form shall not be treated as an electronic transmission described in subsection (a).

"(2) STANDARDS.—In order to be treated, for purposes of this section, as an electronic transmission described in subsection (a), such transmission shall comply with technical standards adopted by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of the Treasury, the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, other standard-setting organizations as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and stakeholders, including group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage, health care professionals, and health information technology software vendors.

"(3) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of this section, the Secretary may require the use of standards adopted under paragraph (2) in lieu of any other applicable standards for an electronic transmission described in subsection (a) for prescription drugs for a participant, beneficiary, or enrollee described in such subsection.".

(b) ERISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part 7 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 726. Electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall provide for the secure electronic transmission of—

"(1) a prior authorization request from the prescribing health care professional for coverage of a prescription drug for a participant or beneficiary in such plan or coverage to such plan or issuer; and

"(2) a response, in accordance with this section, from such plan or issuer to such professional.

"(b) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.—

"(1) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, a facsimile, a proprietary payer portal that does not meet standards specified by the Secretary, or an electronic form shall not be treated as an electronic transmission described in subsection (a).

"(2) STANDARDS.—In order to be treated, for purposes of this section, as an electronic transmission described in subsection (a), such transmission shall comply with technical standards adopted by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of the Treasury, the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, other standard-setting organizations as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and stakeholders, including group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage, health care professionals, and health information technology software vendors.

"(3) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of this section, the Secretary may require the use of standards adopted under paragraph (2) in lieu of any other applicable standards for an electronic transmission described in subsection (a) for prescription drugs for a participant or beneficiary described in such subsection.".

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 725 the following:

"Sec. 726. Electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs.".

(c) IRC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 9826. Electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, a group health plan shall provide for the secure electronic transmission of—

"(1) a prior authorization request from the prescribing health care professional for coverage of a prescription drug for a participant or beneficiary in such plan to such plan; and

"(2) a response, in accordance with this section, from such plan to such professional.

"(b) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.—

"(1) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, a facsimile, a proprietary payer portal that does not meet standards specified by the Secretary, or an electronic form shall not be treated as an electronic transmission described in subsection (a).

"(2) STANDARDS.—In order to be treated, for purposes of this section, as an electronic transmission described in subsection (a), such transmission shall comply with technical standards adopted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, other standard-setting organizations as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and stakeholders, including group health plans, health care professionals, and health information technology software vendors.

"(3) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of this section, the Secretary may require the use of standards adopted under paragraph (2) in lieu of any other applicable standards for an electronic transmission described in subsection (a) for prescription drugs for a participant or beneficiary described in such subsection.".

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5103

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan for the Human Foods Program of the Food and Drug Administration and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan for the Human Foods Program of the Food and Drug Administration and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Food and Drug Administration Foods Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. Food and Drug Administration Foods Accountability Act.

(a) FDA HUMAN FOODS PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2025, and at least every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and post on the website of the Food and Drug Administration a strategic plan for the Human Foods Program of the Food and Drug Administration

and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations (or any successor programs of the Food and Drug Administration responsible for the regulation of human foods).

(2) CONTENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) strategic goals and priorities related to—

(i) food safety, including implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (Public Law 111–353) and coordination and engagement across the Food and Drug Administration with Federal, State, local, and Tribal entities and private sector entities, to improve food safety oversight;

(ii) food safety inspections, including coordination and engagement across the Food and Drug Administration to meet inspection goals and coordination with Federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Agriculture, and State, local, and Tribal entities to oversee food safety and conduct related inspections;

(iii) administration of the Office of Critical Foods and related activities of the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations and other offices or divisions of the Food and Drug Administration, including identification of any potential interruption in the supply of critical foods and what steps such Office would take in response, incorporating lessons from previous similar scenarios;

(iv) initiatives to support nutritional health, including initiatives and activities of the Center for Excellence in Nutrition designated by the Secretary under the Human Foods Program, evidence-based initiatives to address chronic diet-related diseases, and administration of food labeling requirements, engagement with the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee in years when the Committee is reviewing updates to the Dietary Guidelines, and any other programs related to nutrition;

(v) activities and programs to support recruiting, hiring, training, developing, and retaining a qualified workforce within the Human Foods Program and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, including any cooperative programs with other entities to support recruitment and training of food safety inspectors, and reviewers to support review of regulatory submissions for food products;

(vi) in the first such plan, specific metrics and other information identifying improvements made as a result of the reorganization of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and establishment of the Human Foods Program and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, including how any full-time equivalent positions within the Food and Drug Administration have been reallocated under the reorganization, and benchmarks against which to assess the performance of the Human Foods Program and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations; and

(vii) other priorities identified by the Secretary;

(B) specific activities and strategies for achieving the goals and priorities identified under subparagraph (A), and progress towards achieving such goals and priorities;

(C) specific activities and strategies for improving and streamlining internal coordination and communication within the Food and Drug Administration, including for activities and communications related to signals of potential public health concerns, as well as other agencies and offices of the Department of Health and Human Services and other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate;

(D) specific activities and strategies for improving and streamlining coordination and communication with non-Federal stakeholders, including steps to improve outreach regarding rulemaking activities; and

(E) challenges and risks the Human Foods Program is expected to face in meeting its strategic goals and priorities, and the activities the Human Foods Program will undertake to overcome those challenges and mitigate those risks.

(3) EVALUATION OF PROGRESS.—Not later than September 30, 2027, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and post on the website of the Food and Drug Administration a progress report that includes—

(A) a description of the progress the Secretary has made toward the goals and priorities identified under paragraph (2)(A) in the most recent strategic report submitted under paragraph (1); and

(B) whether actions taken in response to the most recently submitted strategic plan improved the capacity of the Food and Drug Administration to achieve the strategic goals and priorities set forth in previous strategic plans.

(4) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall, as appropriate, update the strategic plan to account for significant changes in the production and regulation of foods or the scientific evidence related to nutrition and food production, or other significant changes, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2028, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report assessing the initial strategic plan submitted under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of—

(A) the development and implementation of the strategic plan, including the sufficiency of the plan, progress of the Human Foods Program in meeting the results-oriented goals and priorities identified in such plan, and any gaps in such implementation;

(B) how the Human Foods Program applies hiring authorities under section 714A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379d–3a); and

(C) recommendations for the Human Foods Program to address the identified challenges, improve its implementation of the Human Foods Program strategic plan, and to otherwise improve the public health mandate of the Food and Drug Administration.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2799

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CDC Office of Rural Health.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention an office to be known as the Office of Rural Health, to be headed by a director selected by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(b) DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES.—The duties and authorities of the Director of the Office of Rural Health shall be limited to the following:

(1) Serving as the primary point of contact in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on matters pertaining to rural health.

(2) Assisting the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in conducting, coordinating, and promoting research regarding public health issues affecting rural populations, and in disseminating the results of such research.

(3) Working with all personnel and offices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop, refine, coordinate, and promulgate policies, best practices, lessons learned, and innovative, successful programs to improve care and services (including through telehealth) for rural populations.

(4) Coordinating and supporting rural health research, conducting and supporting educational outreach, and disseminating evidence-based interventions related to health outcomes, access to health care, and lifestyle challenges, to prevent death, disease, injury, and disability, and promote healthy behaviors in rural populations.

(5) Improving the understanding of the health challenges faced by rural populations.

(6) Identifying disparities in the availability of health care and public health interventions for rural populations.

(7) Awarding and administering grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to provide technical assistance and other activities as necessary to support activities related to improving health and health care in rural areas.

(8) Coordinating with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy of the Health Resources and Services Administration, as needed, to facilitate cooperation on rural health initiatives and avoid duplication of efforts.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 282

To amend the market name of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 30, 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To amend the market name of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act".

SEC. 2. Purposes.

It is the purpose of this Act to ensure that consumers in the United States can make informed decisions when purchasing salmon.

SEC. 3. Market name for genetically engineered salmon.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subtitle E of title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639 et seq.), or any other provision of law, for purposes of applying the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), the acceptable market name of any salmon that is genetically engineered shall include

the words “Genetically Engineered” or “GE” prior to the existing acceptable market name.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, salmon is genetically engineered if it has been modified by recombinant DNA (rDNA) techniques, including the entire lineage of salmon that contain the rDNA modification

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1698

To require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2023

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Affordability is Access Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this Act is to ensure timely access to affordable birth control by requiring coverage without cost-sharing for contraceptives that are approved, granted, or cleared by, or

otherwise legally marketed under regulation by, the Food and Drug Administration for use without a prescription.

SEC. 3. Findings.

The Senate finds the following:

(1) Birth control is critical health care that almost all women, as well as many trans men and nonbinary people, will use at some point in their lifetimes.

(2) Access to the full range of reproductive health care, including birth control coverage as guaranteed under Federal law, provides individuals with the opportunity to lead healthy lives and get the care they need to reach their goals.

(3) Contraceptive access is associated with health benefits for women, newborns, families, and communities and can lower the risk of harm to maternal and infant health.

(4) An estimated 73 million women of reproductive age (ages 15 through 49) live in the United States. Among the 46 million of such women who are sexually active and not seeking children, 89 percent use a form of birth control.

(5) The birth control benefit enacted under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148) has been a crucial step forward in advancing access to birth control and has helped ensure 58 million women have the power to decide for themselves if and when to become pregnant.

(6) Despite legal requirements for birth control coverage and access to services, gaps remain for millions of individuals. Nearly 1 in 5 women are not using their preferred method of contraception, and of those women, a quarter say it is because of cost. As a result, many women have gone without the birth control they want to use, also creating inconsistent use. Access to birth control is particularly difficult for the 19 million women of reproductive age with lower incomes who live in contraceptive deserts and lack reasonable access to a health center that offers the full range of contraceptive methods.

(7) Due to systemic discrimination, people paid low wages, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and people with disabilities are more likely to face barriers to, and lack access to, health coverage and health care providers.

(8) There are numerous social and economic factors that make it harder to access birth control, including rising income and wealth inequality, gaps in insurance coverage, and barriers to accessing health providers.

(9) Leading health experts support over-the-counter birth control pills.

SEC. 4. Sense of the Senate.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in order to increase access to oral birth control, such birth control must be both easier to obtain and affordable and, to make such birth control either easier to obtain or more affordable, but not both, is to leave unacceptable barriers in place;

(2) it is imperative that the entities that research and develop oral birth control and whose medical and scientific experts have developed clinical and other evidence that oral birth control for routine, daily use is safe and effective when sold without a prescription, apply to the Food and Drug Administration for review and approval for sale of such birth control without a prescription;

(3) upon the receipt of such an application, the Food and Drug Administration should determine whether the oral birth control meets the rigorous safety, efficacy, and quality standards for over-the-counter use under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), and if the product meets those standards, the Food and Drug Administration should approve the application without delay; and

(4) if and when the Food and Drug Administration approves an oral birth control that is available over-the-counter, such birth control should be covered by health insurance, without a prescription and without cost-sharing.

SEC. 5. Clarifying coverage requirements.

The Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury shall clarify that coverage of contraceptives pursuant to section 2713(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–13(a)(4)) includes coverage of over-the-counter contraceptives approved, granted, or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration, even if the enrollee does not have a prescription for the contraceptive.

SEC. 6. Rules of construction.

(a) NON-INTERFERENCE WITH FDA REGULATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify or interfere with Food and Drug Administration processes to review or approve, or otherwise determine the safety and efficacy of, and make available, non-prescription drugs or devices, modify or interfere with the scientific and medical considerations of the Food and Drug Administration, or alter any other authority of the Food and Drug Administration.

(b) NON-PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this Act preempts any provision of Federal or State law to the extent that such Federal or State law provides protections for consumers that are greater than the protections provided for in this Act.

SEC. 7. Duties of retailers to ensure access to contraception for use without a prescription.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any retailer that stocks contraception that is approved, granted, or cleared by, or otherwise legally marketed under regulation by, the Food and Drug Administration for use without a prescription may not interfere with an individual's access to or purchase of such contraception or access to medically accurate, comprehensive information about such contraception.

(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a retailer that stocks over-the-counter contraceptive products from refusing to provide an individual with such contraceptive product that is approved, granted, or cleared by, or otherwise legally marketed under regulation by, the Food and Drug Administration if the individual is unable to pay for the contraceptive product, directly, through insurance coverage, or through other payment mechanisms

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4504

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a public awareness campaign with respect to screening for type 1 diabetes, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2024

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

---

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a public awareness campaign with respect to screening for type 1 diabetes, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening Collective Resources for Encouraging Education Needed for Type 1 Diabetes Act of 2024" or the "SCREEN for Type 1 Diabetes Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Type 1 diabetes screening public awareness campaign.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 317H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–9) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"(c) TYPE 1 DIABETES PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall carry out a national campaign to increase awareness and knowledge of health care providers and the public with respect to type 1 diabetes detection, screening, and management.

"(2) WRITTEN MATERIALS.—In carrying out the national campaign under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall maintain a publicly accessible supply of written materials that provide information to the public relating to early detection and symptoms of type 1 diabetes and type 1 diabetes screening, including information relating to—

"(A) early symptoms and warning signs of type 1 diabetes;

"(B) the availability of screening for type 1 diabetes;

"(C) the benefits of getting screened for type 1 diabetes;

"(D) training and education regarding medically appropriate resources for those newly diagnosed; and

"(E) such other information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(3) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the national campaign under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop and issue public service announcements to provide education to the public on early detection and symptoms of type 1 diabetes and the importance of screening for type 1 diabetes.

"(B) MEDIA.—The Secretary shall issue public service announcements under subparagraph (A) through—

"(i) media, including social media, television, radio, print, the internet, and other media;

"(ii) in-person or virtual public communications; and

"(iii) recognized trusted figures.

"(4) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the national campaign under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with the National Academy of Medicine, health care provider associations, community health worker associations, nonprofit organizations, including nonprofit organizations that represent communities most impacted by type 1 diabetes, State, local, and Tribal public health departments, elementary and secondary education organizations, including student and parent organizations, and institutions of higher education, to solicit advice on evidence-based information for policy development and program development, implementation, and evaluation.

"(5) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The national campaign under paragraph (1) shall—

"(i) include the use of evidence-based media and public engagement;

"(ii) include the development of culturally and linguistically competent resources that shall be tailored to—

"(I) communities with the largest significant increases in incidence of type 1 diabetes; and

"(II) such other communities as the Secretary determines appropriate;

"(iii) include the dissemination of type 1 diabetes screening information and communication resources, including the information specified in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (2), to—

"(I) health care providers and health care facilities, including primary care providers, community health centers, and pediatric health care providers and facilities;

"(II) State, local, and Tribal public health departments;

"(III) elementary and secondary schools; and

"(IV) institutions of higher education;

"(iv) be complementary to, and coordinated with, any other Federal efforts with respect to type 1 diabetes awareness and management; and

"(v) include message testing to identify culturally and linguistically competent and effective messages.

"(B) GRANTS TO CARRY OUT CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary shall carry out the national campaign under paragraph (1) through grants to, or cooperative agreements with, 1 or more private, nonprofit entities with a history developing and implementing similar campaigns.

"(C) GRANTS TO INCREASE SCREENING.—The Secretary shall award grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, State, local, and Tribal public health departments—

"(i) to engage with communities described in subclauses (I) and (II) of subparagraph (A)(ii), local educational agencies, health care providers, community organizations, or other groups the Secretary determines are appropriate to develop and deliver effective strategies to increase type 1 diabetes screening; and

"(ii) to disseminate culturally and linguistically competent resources on where an individual can access type 1 diabetes screenings locally.

"(6) OPTIONS FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The national campaign under paragraph (1) may—

"(A) include the use of—

"(i) media, including social media, television, radio, print, the internet, and other media;

"(ii) in-person or virtual public communications; and

"(iii) recognized trusted figures; and

"(B) be targeted to the general public and communities described in subclauses (I) and (II) of paragraph (5)(A)(ii).

"(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.".

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) that contains a qualitative assessment of the campaign under subsection (c) of section 317H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–9) and the activities conducted under such campaign; and

(2) on, with respect to the impact on type 1 diabetes awareness and screening, the activities conducted under such subsection (c).

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2602

To limit the scope of regulations issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to control communicable diseases, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To limit the scope of regulations issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to control communicable diseases, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Limiting CDC to Disease Control Act".

SEC. 2. Limiting the scope of regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services to control communicable diseases.

Section 361(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264(a)) is amended by striking "The Surgeon General," and all that follows through "may be necessary." at the end and inserting the following: "To prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries into the States or possessions, or from one State or possession into any other State or possession, the Secretary may make and enforce regulations under this section—

"(1) for the measures authorized under subsections (b) through (d); or

"(2) to provide for such inspection, fumigation, disinfection, sanitation, pest extermination, or destruction of animals or articles found to be so infected or contaminated as to be sources of dangerous infection to human beings.".

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4289

To cancel existing medical debt, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2024

Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To cancel existing medical debt, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Medical Debt Cancellation Act".

SEC. 2. Grants to cancel medical debt owed by patients.

Section 2799B–10 of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 3, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) GRANTS TO CANCEL MEDICAL DEBT OWED BY PATIENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a grant program under which the Secretary, beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Medical Debt Cancellation Act, awards grants on a competitive basis to hospitals in the United States in order to eliminate all eligible medical debt owed by residents of the United States to such hospitals.

"(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a hospital shall—

"(A) submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

"(B) agree to submit to the Secretary such reports regarding the use of grant funds as the Secretary may require.

"(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

"(A) prioritize awards to hospitals that—

"(i) are safety net hospitals; and

"(ii) agree to cancel, at a minimum, all medical debt that is—

"(I) 15 months old or less;

"(II) owed by low-income and vulnerable patient populations; and

"(III) attributable to emergency and non-elective care; and

"(B) ensure that awards are distributed to hospitals across diverse geographical areas of the United States.

"(4) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grants awarded to a hospital under this subsection shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other sources of funding and investments made by the hospital for the purposes of providing financial assistance to patients.

"(5) EXPANSION OF MEDICAL DEBT CANCELLATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Medical Debt Cancellation Act, the Secretary shall expand the program under this subsection to allow providers and health care facilities other than hospitals, and individuals, to receive medical debt cancellation.

"(6) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Medical Debt Cancellation Act, the Secretary shall instruct Federal health care programs to eliminate medical debt collections.

"(7) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with relevant Federal agencies, departments, and health programs, patient advocates, community-based organizations with experience in medical debt cancellation, providers, and other key stakeholders.

"(8) REPORTING.—Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of the Medical Debt Cancellation Act, and annually thereafter until the date on which the program under this subsection sunsets pursuant to paragraph (10), the Secretary shall submit to relevant congressional committees a progress report on the implementation, administration, and impact of the program under this subsection.

"(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'eligible medical debt'—

"(i) means the out-of-pocket unpaid amount owed by a resident of the United States for items or services furnished to such individual by a hospital, provided that—

"(I) such medical debt is in compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations, including—

"(aa) the medical billing requirements of subsection (a);

"(bb) the medical debt collection requirements of subsection (b); and

"(cc) the contracting limitation under subsection (c);

"(II) such medical debt is with respect to items and services furnished to an individual on or before the date of enactment of the Medical Debt Cancellation Act; and

"(III) any dispute resolution process under section 2799B–7 is complete; and

"(ii) excludes—

"(I) any amount paid or payable by any Federal health care program; and

"(II) with respect to items and services furnished to an individual by the hospital, any amount that is in excess of the sum of the amount reimbursable by a Federal health care program or other payer and copayment amounts under such a program or other health insurance plan with respect to such items and services.

"(B) the term 'Federal health care program' has the meaning given such term in section 1128B(f) of the Social Security Act.

"(10) SUNSET.—The authorities under this subsection shall sunset on the date the Secretary certifies all eligible medical debt in the United States has been canceled under this subsection.".

SEC. 3. Requirements for medical billing practices and medical debt collection; medical payment assistance.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2799B–10. Requirements for medical billing and medical debt collection; medical payment assistance resource.

"(a) MEDICAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS.—In the case of a health care provider or facility that furnishes items or services to an individual, such provider or facility shall, not later than 45 days before the date on which payment for such items or services is due—

"(1) (A) determine whether such individual is eligible for assistance with respect to such payment pursuant to the charity care or financial assistance policy of such provider or facility; and

"(B) if such individual is eligible for such assistance, provide information to such individual regarding such assistance; and

"(2) on or after the date on which the medical payment assistance resource list under subsection (d)(1) is made available, provide such individual with such list.

"(b) MEDICAL DEBT COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a health care provider or facility that furnishes items or services to an individual, if payment for such items or services is past due, such provider or facility shall—

"(A) not later than 30 days after the date on which the payment was due, provide to such individual a statement (in clear and understandable language) that includes—

"(i) subject to paragraph (2)(A), the total amount of the payment that remains due;

"(ii) a description of the attempts made by such provider or facility to determine whether such individual is eligible for assistance (as described in subsection (a)(1)) with respect to the payment; and

"(iii) in each of the 15 most commonly language (other than English), as determined by the Secretary, information about language-assistance services related to the payment that are available to individuals with limited English proficiency; and

"(B) not later than 30 days after a payment related to such items or services is made, provide to such individual a detailed receipt of such payment and a statement of the amount that remains due, if applicable.

"(2) LIMITATIONS ON MEDICAL DEBT AMOUNTS.—

"(A) UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of items or services furnished to an uninsured individual by an organization that is described in section 501(r)(2) of the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of such Code, such organization may not collect payment from such individual with respect to such items or services in an amount greater than the amounts generally billed (within the meaning of section 501(r) of such Code).

"(B) INTEREST RATE.—A health care provider or facility may not collect interest on past-due payments for items or services furnished to an individual.

"(c) LIMITATION ON CONTRACTING FOR PURPOSES OF MEDICAL BILLING AND MEDICAL DEBT COLLECTION.—A health care provider or facility may not enter into a contract with an entity for purposes of collecting payment with respect to items or services furnished by such provider or facility unless such entity agrees to comply with the requirements described in subsections (a) and (b) for such provider or facility with respect to such payment.

"(d) MEDICAL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE RESOURCE LIST.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Medical Debt Cancellation Act, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services a comprehensive list of Federal, State, and local programs that provide financial assistance with respect to payment for items or services furnished by a health care provider or facility.

"(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the list described in paragraph (1) not less frequently than annually.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to items and services furnished on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) coordinate with relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Department of the Treasury; and

(2) consult with relevant stakeholders including patient advocates, community-based organizations with experience in medical debt cancellation, and health care providers.

SEC. 4. Medical debt collection.

(a) COLLECTION OF MEDICAL DEBT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 818 (15 U.S.C. 1692p) the following:

"§ 818A. Collection of medical debt

"(a) IN GENERAL.—No debt collector or creditor may collect or attempt to collect debt that arose from the receipt of medical services, products, or devices if such debt was incurred by a consumer before the date of enactment of this section.

"(b) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any consumer who is harmed by a violation of subsection (a) may bring a civil action in the appropriate United States district court against the debt collector or creditor that violated subsection (a) for—

"(1) compensatory damages, including for economic losses and for emotional harm;

"(2) punitive damages; and

"(3) reasonable attorney's fees and costs of the action to a prevailing plaintiff.".

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 818 the following:

"818A. Collection of medical debt.".

SEC. 5. Medical debt reporting.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 605(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(9) Any information related to debt that arose from the receipt of medical services, products, or devices accrued by a consumer.".

(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—Each credit reporting agency that removes information from the consumer report of a consumer to comply with section 605(a)(9) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall notify the consumer of the removal.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this section.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4127

To provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. Sense of Congress.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance;

(2) while such title does not cover discrimination based solely on religion, individuals who face discrimination based on actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics do not lose protection under such title for also being members of a group that share a common religion;

(3) discrimination against Jews may give rise to a violation of such title when the discrimination is based on race, color, or national origin, which can include discrimination based on actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics;

(4) it is the policy of the United States to enforce such title against prohibited forms of discrimination rooted in antisemitism as vigorously as against all other forms of discrimination prohibited by such title; and

(5) as noted in the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism issued by the White House on May 25, 2023, it is critical to—

(A) increase awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including its threat to America;

(B) improve safety and security for Jewish communities;

(C) reverse the normalization of antisemitism and counter antisemitic discrimination; and

(D) expand communication and collaboration between communities.

SEC. 3. Findings.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Antisemitism is on the rise in the United States and is impacting Jewish students in K–12 schools, colleges, and universities.

(2) The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (referred to in this Act as the "IHRA") Working Definition of Antisemitism is a vital tool which helps individuals understand and identify the various manifestations of antisemitism.

(3) On December 11, 2019, Executive Order 13899 extended protections against discrimination under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to individuals subjected to antisemitism on college and university campuses and tasked Federal agencies to consider the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism when enforcing title VI of such Act.

(4) Since 2018, the Department of Education has used the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism when investigating violations of that title VI.

(5) The White House released the first-ever United States National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism on May 25, 2023, making clear that the fight against this hate is a national, bipartisan priority that must be successfully conducted through a whole-of-government-and-society approach.

SEC. 4. Definitions.

For purposes of this Act, the term "definition of antisemitism"—

(1) means the definition of antisemitism adopted on May 26, 2016, by the IHRA, of which the United States is a member, which definition has been adopted by the Department of State; and

(2) includes the "[c]ontemporary examples of antisemitism" identified in the IHRA definition.

SEC. 5. Rule of construction for title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a violation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) on the basis of race, color, or national origin, based on an individual's actual or perceived shared Jewish ancestry or Jewish ethnic characteristics, the Department of Education shall take into consideration the definition of antisemitism as part of the Department's assessment of whether the practice was motivated by antisemitic intent.

SEC. 6. Other rules of construction.

(a) GENERAL RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed—

(1) to expand the authority of the Secretary of Education;

(2) to alter the standards pursuant to which the Department of Education makes a determination that harassing conduct amounts to actionable discrimination; or

(3) to diminish or infringe upon the rights protected under any other provision of law that is in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

119TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

S. 305

To authorize small business loans to finance access to modern business software, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2025

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

---

A BILL

To authorize small business loans to finance access to modern business software, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Technological Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. Additional uses for small business administration business loans.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(38) ACCESS TO MODERN BUSINESS SOFTWARE.—The Administration may provide loans under this subsection to finance, in whole or in part, business software or cloud computing services, or any such technology, that

facilitates business operations, product or service delivery, the processing, payment, or tracking of payroll expenses, human resources, sales and billing functions, or accounting or tracking of supplies, inventory, records and expenses, including business tools that utilize artificial intelligence.".

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be construed to—

(1) provide that loans made under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) before the date of enactment of this Act for the purposes described in paragraph (38) of such section 7(a), as added by subsection (a), were not permissible;

(2) authorize the use of loans made under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) for research and development purposes; or

(3) limit the definition of working capital under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.).

Committee on Judiciary

Chairman: Sheldon Whitehouse
Amy Klobuchar
Richard Blumenthal
Alex Padilla
Peter Welch
Adam Schiff
Ruben Gallego
Martin Heinrich
Mark Warner

Ranking Member: Chuck Grassley
Lindsey Graham
John Cornyn
Mike Lee
Josh Hawley
John Kennedy
Thom Tillis
Marsha Blackburn
Eric Schmitt
Katie Brit

S. 4439	284	Blackburn	To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.
S. 4167	287	Blumenthal	To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes.
S.348	291	Britt	To require asylum officers at United States embassies and consulates to conduct credible fear screenings before aliens seeking asylum may be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum, and for other purposes.
S. 2569	295	Cornyn	To amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful.
S.329	296	Gallego	To authorize grants to implement school-community partnerships for preventing substance use and misuse among youth.
S. 5233	300	Graham	To amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth, and for other purposes.
S. 5073	302	Grassley	To limit the use of funds for entities that take care for unaccompanied alien children and have been identified as engaging in misconduct towards children.
S. 457	303	Hawley	To establish a Federal tort against pediatric gender clinics and other entities pushing gender-transition procedures that cause bodily injury to children or harm the mental health of children.
S. 5271	307	Heinrich	To require the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration to temporarily exempt buprenorphine from the Suspicious Orders Report System for the remainder of the opioid public health emergency.
S. 878	309	Kennedy	To amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to modify the offenses relating to fentanyl, and for other purposes.
S. 4961	313	Klobuchar	To transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.
S. 2010	316	Lee	To subject professional baseball clubs to the antitrust laws.
S.3335	318	Padilla	To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.
S.193	321	Schiff	To repeal the Alien Enemies Act.
S.108	322	Schmitt	To make members of the Chinese Communist Party and their family members ineligible for F or J visas, and for other purposes.

S. 4258	324	Tilis	To amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.
S.4591	327	Warner	To permanently authorize the exemption of aliens working as fish processors from the numerical limitation on H–2B nonimmigrant visas.
S. 3714	329	Welch	To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.
S. 5220	333	Whitehouse	To establish a process for expedited consideration of legislation relating to decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4339

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2024

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Restoring Law and Order Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART PP

"SEC. 3062. ESTABLISHMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall award grants to eligible entities to—

"(1) hire and retain law enforcement officers, including by awarding bonuses to law enforcement officers;

"(2) combat interstate child trafficking;

"(3) prevent violent crime by prioritizing stringent sentences for repeat offenders;

"(4) use public safety tools such as bail and pretrial detention to prevent dangerous offenders from returning to communities;

"(5) acquire resources to better target drug and fentanyl crimes;

"(6) detain and deport illegal aliens who have committed criminal offenses in the United States;

"(7) eliminate investigatory backlogs and more quickly process criminal evidence; and

"(8) target, combat, and prosecute vehicle thefts, including carjackings.

"(b) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this part, the Attorney General shall award not less than 25 percent to eligible entities located in a rural county.

"SEC. 3063. APPROPRIATIONS; FUNDING.

"(a) RESCISSION.—Effective on the date of enactment of the Restoring Law and Order Act of 2024, any unobligated balances made available under clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 10301(1)(A) of the Act titled 'An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14' are rescinded.

"(b) APPROPRIATION.—Of the unobligated balances rescinded under subsection (a)—

"(1) $10,000,000,000 is appropriated to the Attorney General for fiscal year 2025 to carry out this part, to remain available until September 30, 2029; and

"(2) the remainder shall be deposited in the Treasury.

"(c) REDIRECTION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other law, the Attorney General shall use amounts appropriated to the Attorney General for the purpose of carrying out a diversity, equity, or inclusion initiative established pursuant to Executive Order 14035 (42 U.S.C. 2000e note; relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), including through the award of grants, to carry out this part.".

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the deficiencies—

(1) of law enforcement agencies in the United States in processing rape kits; and

(2) in the availability of rape kits.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4167

To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Judicial Ethics Enforcement Act of 2024’’.

SEC. 2. INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND DUTIES.—Part III of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘CHAPTER 60—INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

‘‘§ 1021. Establishment

‘‘There is established for the judicial branch of the Government the Office of Inspector General for the Judicial Branch (in this chapter referred to as the ‘Office’).’’

§ 1022. Appointment, term, and removal of Inspector General

‘‘(a) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the Office shall be the Inspector General, who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States after consultation with the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives.

‘‘(b) TERM.—The Inspector General shall serve for a term of 4 years and may be reappointed by the Chief Justice of the United States for any number of additional terms.

‘‘(c) REMOVAL.—The Inspector General may be re- moved from office by the Chief Justice of the United States. The Chief Justice shall communicate the reasons for any such removal to both Houses of Congress.

‘‘§ 1023. Duties

‘‘With respect to the judicial branch, the Office shall—

‘‘(1) conduct investigations of alleged mis- conduct in the judicial branch (other than the United States Supreme Court) under chapter 16 that may require oversight or other action within the judicial branch or by Congress;

‘‘(2) conduct investigations of alleged violations of the Code of Conduct for Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States or any other alleged mis- conduct in the United States Supreme Court that may require oversight or other action within the judicial branch or by Congress;

‘‘(3) conduct and supervise audits and investigations;

‘‘(4) prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse; and

‘‘(5) recommend changes in laws or regulations governing the judicial branch.

‘‘§ 1024. Powers

‘‘(a) POWERS.—In carrying out the duties of the Office, the Inspector General shall have the power to—

‘‘(1) make investigations and reports;

‘‘(2) obtain information or assistance from any Federal, State, or local governmental agency, or other entity, or unit thereof, including all information kept in the course of business by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the judicial councils of circuits, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and the United States Sentencing Commission;
‘‘(3) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the at- tendance and testimony of such witnesses, and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, which subpoena, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by civil action;

‘‘(4) administer to or take from any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit;

‘‘(5) employ such officers and employees, subject to the provisions of title 5, governing appointments in the competitive service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates;

‘‘(6) obtain services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5 at daily rates not to exceed the equivalent rate for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; and

‘‘(7) the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations Acts, to enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Office.

‘‘(b) CHAPTER 16 MATTERS.—The Inspector General shall not commence an investigation under section 1023(1) until the denial of a petition for review by the judicial council of the circuit under section 352(c) of this title or upon referral or certification to the Judicial Conference of the United States of any matter under section 354(b) of this title.

‘‘(c) LIMITATION.—The Inspector General shall not have the authority to—

‘‘(1) investigate or review any matter that is directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling by any judge, justice, or court; or

‘‘(2) punish or discipline any judge, justice, or court.

‘‘§ 1025. Reports

‘‘(a) WHEN TO BE MADE.—The Inspector General shall—

‘‘(1) make an annual report to the Chief Justice and to Congress relating to the activities of the Office; and

‘‘(2) make prompt reports to the Chief Justice and to Congress on matters that may require action by the Chief Justice or Congress.

‘‘(b) SENSITIVE MATTER.—If a report contains sensitive matter, the Inspector General may so indicate and Congress may receive that report in closed session.

‘‘(c) DUTY TO INFORM ATTORNEY GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties of the Office, the Inspector General shall report expeditiously to the Attorney General whenever the Inspector General has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of Federal criminal law.

‘‘§ 1026. Whistleblower protection

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—No officer, employee, agent, contractor, or subcontractor in the judicial branch may discharge, demote, threaten, suspend, harass, or in any other manner discriminate against an employee in the terms and conditions of employment because of any lawful act done by the employee to provide information, cause information to be provided, or otherwise assist in an investigation regarding any possible violation of Federal law or regulation, or misconduct, by a judge, justice, or any other employee in the judicial branch, which may assist the Inspector General in the performance of duties under this chapter.

‘‘(b) CIVIL ACTION.—An employee injured by a violation of subsection (a) may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate relief.’’.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.— The table of chapters for part III of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘60. Inspector General for the judicial branch ..... 1021’’.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 348

To require asylum officers at United States embassies and consulates to conduct credible fear screenings before aliens seeking asylum may be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To require asylum officers at United States embassies and consulates to conduct credible fear screenings before aliens seeking asylum may be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Asylum Abuse Reduction Act".

SEC. 2. ASYLUM INTERVIEWS.

(a) BORDER CROSSINGS.—Notwithstanding section 235(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)), if an alien who is seeking asylum in the United States attempts to enter the United States from Canada or Mexico at a land port of entry without a valid visa or other appropriate entry document, the immigration officer who is inspecting the alien—

(1) may not admit or parole the alien into the United States; and

(2) shall advise the alien to schedule an asylum hearing with the most convenient United States embassy or consulate in Canada or Mexico.

(b) CREDIBLE FEAR SCREENINGS.—An alien described in subsection (a) may only be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum if an asylum officer stationed at a United States embassy or consulate—

(1) has conducted an in-person or telephonic interview with the alien; and

(2) as a result of such interview, has concluded that the alien—

(A) (i) has been persecuted in the alien's country of nationality on account of the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion;

(ii) has a credible fear of persecution (as defined in section 235(b)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B))) if the alien returned to such country; or

(iii) would be subject to torture by a government or public official acting under the color of law if the alien returned to his or her country of nationality; and

(B) is otherwise eligible for asylum under section 208(a) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)).

SEC. 3. ASYLUM INELIGIBILITY.

Section 208(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) TRANSIT THROUGH THIRD COUNTRY.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), paragraph (1) shall not apply to any alien who, on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, enters, attempts to enter, or arrives in the United States through the Southern land border after transiting through, on the way to the United States, one or more countries other than the country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful habitual residence of the alien.

"(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply if—

"(I) (aa) the alien demonstrates that he or she applied for protection from persecution or torture in one or more countries (other than the country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful habitual residence of the alien) through which the alien transited on the way to the United States; and

"(bb) the alien received a final judgment denying the alien protection in such country;

"(II) the alien demonstrates that he or she is or has been subject to a severe form of trafficking in persons; or

"(III) the one or more countries through which the alien transited on the way to the United States were not, at the time of the transit, parties to—

"(aa) the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (as made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)); or

"(bb) the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984.

"(G) INTERNAL RELOCATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an alien interviewed by an asylum officer under section 2(b) of the Asylum Abuse Reduction Act if the asylum officer makes a determination that the alien may avoid purported persecution or torture in the alien's country of nationality by relocating to another part of such country.".

SEC. 4. CRIMINAL BENCH WARRANTS.

(a) ISSUANCE.—Each Federal judicial district shall appoint at least 1 magistrate or district court judge who, upon a showing of probable cause, shall issue a warrant of arrest for a violation of section 243(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1253(a)(1)).

(b) PROBABLE CAUSE.—An order of removal issued under any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) that has been in existence 90 days or more shall constitute prima facie evidence of probable cause to issue a warrant under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. INAPPLICABILITY OF FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT TO ALIENS SUBJECT TO DETENTION.

The stipulated settlement agreement filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California on January 17, 1997 (CV 85–4544–RJK) (commonly known as the "Flores settlement agreement"), shall not apply to the detention and custody of aliens subject to detention in the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2569

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2024

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. COTTON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fentanyl Safe Testing and Overdose Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION.

Section 422 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 863) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) CLARIFICATION.—This section does not apply to the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of equipment for which the intended use is to indicate the presence of fentanyl or xylazine in a compound.".

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 329

To authorize grants to implement school-community partnerships for preventing substance use and misuse among youth.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 30, 2025

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To authorize grants to implement school-community partner- ships for preventing substance use and misuse among youth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Keeping Drugs Out of Schools Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

(2) DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES FUNDED COALITION.—The term ''Drug-FreeCommunities funded coalition'' means a recipient of a grant under section 1032 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1532).

(3) EFFECTIVE DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—The term ''effective drug prevention programs'', with respect to a school-community partnership between a Drug-Free Communities funded coalition and a local school, means strategies, policies, and activities that—

(A) are tailored to meet the needs of the student population of the

school, based on the environment of the school and the community surrounding the school; and

(B) prevent and reduce substance use and misuse among local youth.

(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means a coalition (within the meaning of section 1032 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1532)) that—

(A) receives or has received a grant under subchapter I of chapter 2 of title I of the Anti- Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1523 et seq.); and

(B) has a memorandum of understanding in effect with not less than 1 local school to establish a school-community partnership.

(5) LOCAL SCHOOL.—The term ''local school'' means an elementary, middle, or high school located in an area served by an eligible entity.

(6) SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''school-community partnership'' means a partnership between a Drug-Free Communities funded coalition and not less than 1 local school for the purpose of implementing effective drug prevention programs.

(7) SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE.—The term ''substance use and misuse''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in paragraph (9) of section 1023 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1523); and

(B) includes the use of electronic or other delivery mechanisms to consume a substance described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of that paragraph.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) INITIAL GRANTS.—Subject to para- graph (2), the Director may award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of implementing a school-community partnership.

(B) RENEWAL GRANTS.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Director may award to an eligible entity who has received a grant under subparagraph

(A) an additional grant for each fiscal year during the 3-fiscal-year period following the fiscal year for which the grant was awarded under subparagraph (A), for the purpose of continuing the school-community partnership.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under this subsection may not exceed $75,000 for a fiscal year.

(B) RECIPIENTS.—Not more than 1 eligible entity may receive a grant
under this subsection to establish a school-community partnership with a particular local school.

(c) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Director may enter into an interagency agreement with a National Drug Control Program agency, as defined in section 702 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701), to delegate authority for—

(1) the execution of grants under this section; and

(2) other activities necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Director under this section.

(d) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section, in coordination with each local school with which the eligible entity has a school-community partnership, shall submit to the Director an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Director may require.

(2) PLAN.—The application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed, comprehensive plan for the school community partnership to implement effective drug prevention programs.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use funds from the grant—

(A) to implement the plan described in subsection (d)(2); and

(B) if necessary, to obtain specialized training and assistance from the organization receiving the grant under section 4(a) of Public Law 107–82 (21 U.S.C. 1521 note).

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grants provided under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds that are otherwise available for drug prevention programs in local schools.

(f) EVALUATION.—Section 1032(a)(6) of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1532(a)(6)) shall apply to a grant under this section in the same manner as that section applies to a grant under subchapter I of chapter 2 of subtitle A of title I of that Act (21 U.S.C.1531 et seq.).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 8 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) may be used by the Director for administrative expenses associated with the responsibilities of the Director under this section.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5223

To amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Birthright Citizenship Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. CITIZENSHIP AT BIRTH FOR CERTAIN PERSONS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (h) as paragraphs (1) through (8), respectively;

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by striking "The following" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The following"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) DEFINITION.—Acknowledging the Citizenship Clause in section 1 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a person born in the United States shall be considered 'subject to the jurisdiction' of the United States for purposes of subsection (a)(1) if the person is born in the United States of parents, one of whom is—

"(1) a citizen or national of the United States;

"(2) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States whose residence is in the United States; or

"(3) an alien performing active service in the Armed Forces (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code).".

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(3) may not be construed to affect the citizenship or nationality status of any person born before the date of the enactment of this Act.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5073

To limit the use of funds for entities that care for unaccompanied alien children and have been identified as engaging in misconduct toward children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To limit the use of funds for entities that care for unaccompanied alien children and have been identified as engaging in misconduct toward children.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ENTITIES CARING FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

None of the funds made available by any Act making appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2025 shall be obligated or expended on future contracts, grants, awards, or agreements with any entity that cares for or provides services, including housing or transportation, for unaccompanied alien children and has been identified by the Department of Justice in accordance with suspension and debarment procedures as facilitating actions that constitute illegal sexual abuse and harassment of, or illegal misconduct toward, children in the care of the entity unless the Attorney General certifies to Congress that the entity has successfully mitigated the conditions that led the Department of Justice to identify the entity as engaged in such actions.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 457

To establish a Federal tort against pediatric gender clinics and other entities pushing gender-transition procedures that cause bodily injury to children or harm the mental health of children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Mr. HAWLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judicia

---

A BILL

To establish a Federal tort against pediatric gender clinics and other entities pushing gender-transition procedures that cause bodily injury to children or harm the mental health of children.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Our Kids from Child Abuse Act".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL TORT FOR HARM TO CHILDREN CAUSED BY GENDER-TRANSITION PROCEDURES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term "gender-transition procedure" means—

(i) the prescription or administration of gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonists or any other puberty-blocking drugs for the purpose of changing the body of an individual so that it conforms to the subjective sense of identity of the individual, in the case such identity is at odds with the individual's biological sex of male or female;

(ii) the prescription or administration of testosterone (when prescribed to a female) or estrogen (when prescribed to a male) for the purpose of changing the body of an individual so that it conforms to the subjective sense of identity of the individual, in the case such identity is at odds with the individual's biological sex of male or female; or

(iii) a surgery to change the body of an individual so that it conforms to the subjective sense of identity of the individual, in the case such identity is at odds with the individual's biological sex of male or female.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The term "gender-transition procedure" does not include—

(i) an intervention described in subparagraph (A) that is performed on—

(I) an individual with biological sex characteristics that are inherently ambiguous, such as those born with 46 XX chromosomes with virilization, 46 XY chromosomes with undervirilization, or having both ovarian and testicular tissue; or

(II) an individual with respect to whom a physician has determined through genetic or biochemical testing that the individual does not have normal sex chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone production, or sex steroid hormone action, for a biological male or biological female;

(ii) the treatment of any infection, injury, disease, or disorder that has been caused or exacerbated by the performance of an intervention described in subparagraph (A) without regard to whether the intervention was performed in accordance with State or Federal law or whether the intervention is covered by the private right of action under subsection (c); or

(iii) any procedure undertaken because the individual suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the individual in imminent danger of death or impairment of major bodily function unless the procedure is performed.

(b) LIABILITY.—The following individuals and entities shall be liable in accordance with this section to any individual who suffers bodily injury or harm to mental health (including any physical, psychological, emotional, or physiological harm) that is attributable, in whole or in part, to a gender-transition procedure performed on the individual when the individual was a minor:

(1) A pediatric gender clinic where the gender-transition procedure was provided.

(2) Any medical practitioner who administered health care, at the time of the particular procedure, at the pediatric gender clinic where the gender-transition procedure was provided.

(3) An institution of higher education that hosts, operates, partners with, provides funding to, or is otherwise affiliated with the pediatric gender clinic where the gender-transition procedure was provided.

(4) A hospital that hosts, operates, partners with, provides funding to, or is otherwise affiliated with the pediatric gender clinic where the gender-transition procedure was provided.

(5) Any medical practitioner who performed the gender-transition procedure on the individual.

(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—An individual who suffers bodily injury or harm to mental health that is attributable, in whole or in part, to a gender-transition procedure provided to the individual when the individual was a minor may, not later than 30 years after the date on which the individual turns 18 years of age, bring a civil action against an individual or entity described in subsection (b), in an appropriate district court of the United States or a State court of competent jurisdiction for—

(1) compensatory damages;

(2) punitive damages; and

(3) attorney's fees and costs.

(d) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—It shall be an affirmative defense to an action brought by or on behalf of an individual upon whom a gender-transition procedure was performed under subsection (c) that the pediatric gender clinic or medical practitioner who performed the gender-transition procedure on the individual, at all relevant times, did not know and had no reason to know that the individual in question was a minor.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING.

No Federal funds may be made available—

(1) to a pediatric gender clinic;

(2) to an institution of higher education or hospital that hosts, operates, partners with, provides funding to, or is otherwise affiliated with, a pediatric gender clinic; or

(3) for any gender-transition procedure performed on a minor.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5271

To require the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration to temporarily exempt buprenorphine from the Suspicious Orders Report System for the remainder of the opioid public health emergency.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration to temporarily exempt buprenorphine from the Suspicious Orders Report System for the remainder of the opioid public health emergency.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Broadening Utilization of Proven and Effective Treatment for Recovery Act’’ or the ‘‘BUPE for Recovery Act’’.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF BUPRENORPHINE PRODUCTS FROM SORS DURING OPIOID PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

(a) TEMPORARY EXEMPTION.—The Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration shall temporarily exempt any buprenorphine product approved for the treatment of opioid use disorder from the Suspicious Orders Report System established under 312 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 832), including subsection (a)(3) of that section, until that date that is 270 days after the date on which the public health emergency with respect to opioids declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on October 26, 2017, expires.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the expiration of the public health emergency described in subsection (a), the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) conduct a comprehensive report that indicates if the temporary exemption under subsection

(a) resulted in increased access to buprenorphine treatment for patients experiencing opioid use disorder; and
(2) make a recommendation to the White House and Congress about whether buprenorphine should remain in the Suspicious Orders Report System and be subject to related reporting requirements after the expiration of the public health emergency described in subsection (a).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress is concerned by reports of patients not being able to fill buprenorphine prescriptions for the treatment of opioid use disorder at pharmacies. Reports indicate that pharmacies are unable or unwilling to stock sufficient buprenorphine products, in part because of the Suspicious Orders Report System and related reporting requirements. A temporary exemption of buprenorphine products approved for the treatment of opioid use disorder from Suspicious Order Report System requirements would allow the Federal Government to collect relevant data and assess whether a permanent exemption should be established.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 878

To amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to modify the offenses relating to fentanyl, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, and Mrs. BRITT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to modify the offenses relating to fentanyl, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fairness in Fentanyl Sentencing Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT AMENDMENTS.

Section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(vi)—

(A) by striking "400" and inserting "20";

(B) by striking "100" and inserting "5"; and

(C) by inserting “scheduled or unscheduled” before “analogue of”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(vi)—

(A) by striking “40” and inserting “2”;

(B) by striking “10” and inserting “0.5”; and

(C) by inserting “scheduled or unscheduled” before “analogue of”.

SEC. 3. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT AMENDMENTS.

Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(F)—

(A) by striking “400” and inserting “20”;

(B) by striking “100” and inserting “5”; and

(C) by inserting “scheduled or unscheduled” before “analogue of”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(F)—

(A) by striking “40” and inserting “2”;

(B) by striking “10” and inserting “0.5”; and

(C) by inserting “scheduled or unscheduled” before “analogue of”.

SEC. 4. DIRECTIVE TO THE SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) DIRECTIVE TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION.—Pursuant to the authority of the Commission under section 994(p) of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the Commission shall review and amend, if appropriate, the guidelines and policy statements of the Commission applicable to a person convicted of an offense under section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841) or section 1010 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960) to ensure that the guidelines and policy statements are consistent with the amendments made by sections 2 and 3 of this Act.

(b) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—The Commission shall—

(1) promulgate the guidelines, policy statements, or amendments provided for in this Act as soon as practicable, and in any event not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with the procedure set forth in section 21(a) of the Sentencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C. 994 note), as though the authority under that Act had not expired; and

SEC. 5. INTERDICTION OF FENTANYL, OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, AND OTHER NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section—

(1) the term "chemical screening device" means an immunoassay, narcotics field test kit, infrared spectrophotometer, mass spectrometer, nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, Raman spectrophotometer, or other scientific instrumentation able to collect data that can be interpreted to determine the presence of fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances;

(b) INTERDICTION OF FENTANYL, OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, AND OTHER NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.—

(1) CHEMICAL SCREENING DEVICES.—The Postmaster General shall—

(A) increase the number of chemical screening devices that are available to the United States Postal Service; and

(B) make additional chemical screening devices available to the United States Postal Service as the Postmaster General determines are necessary to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into the United States, including such substances that are imported through the mail or by an express consignment operator or carrier.

(2) PERSONNEL TO INTERPRET DATA.—The Postmaster General shall dedicate the appropriate number of personnel of the United States Postal Service, including scientists, so that those personnel are available during all operational hours to interpret data collected by chemical screening devices.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Postmaster General $9,000,000 to ensure that the United States Postal Service has resources, including chemical screening devices, personnel, and scientists, available

during all operational hours to prevent, detect, and interdict the unlawful importation of fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4961

To transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DUR- BIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOL- LEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUJA´N, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act’’ or the ‘‘NO BAN Act’’.

SEC. 2. TRANSFER AND LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR RESTRICT THE ENTRY OF A CLASS OF ALIENS.

Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(f) AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR RESTRICT THE ENTRY OF A CLASS OF ALIENS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), if the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, determines, based on specific and credible facts, that the entry of any aliens or class of aliens into the United States would undermine the security or public safety of the United States or the preservation of human rights, democratic processes or institutions, or international stability, the President may temporarily—

‘‘(A) suspend the entry of such aliens or class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants; or

‘‘(B) impose any restrictions on the entry of such aliens that the President deems appropriate.
‘‘(2) LIMITATIONS.—In carrying out paragraph the President, the Secretary of State, and the

(1), Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

‘‘(A) only issue a suspension or restriction when required to address specific acts implicating a compelling government interest in a factor identified under paragraph (1);

‘‘(B) narrowly tailor such suspension or restriction, using the least restrictive means, to achieve such compelling government interest;

‘‘(C) specify the duration of such suspension or restriction;

‘‘(D) consider waivers to any class-based restriction or suspension and apply a rebuttable presumption in favor of granting family-based and humanitarian waivers; and

‘‘(E) comply with all provisions of this Act.

‘‘(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

‘‘(A) IN GENERAL.—Before the President may exercise the authority under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with Congress and provide Congress with specific evidence supporting the need for the proposed suspension or restriction and its proposed duration.

‘‘(B) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—Not later than 48 hours after the President exercises the authority under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a briefing and submit a written report to Congress that describes—

‘‘(i) the action taken pursuant to paragraph (1) and the specified objective of such action;

‘‘(ii) the estimated number of individuals who will be impacted by such action;

‘‘(iii) the constitutional and legislative authority under which such action took place; and

‘‘(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

‘‘(iii) the constitutional and legislative authority under which such action took place; and

‘‘(iv) the circumstances necessitating such action, including how such action complies with paragraph (2) and any intelligence informing such actions.

‘‘(C) TERMINATION.—If the briefing and report described in subparagraph (B) are not provided to Congress during the 48 hour period beginning when the President exercises the authority under paragraph (1), the suspension or restriction shall immediately terminate absent intervening congressional action.

‘‘(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publicly announce and publish an unclassified version of the report described in paragraph (3)(B) in the Federal Register.

‘‘(5) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

‘‘(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual or entity who is present in the United States and has been harmed by a violation of this subsection may file an action in an appropriate district court of the United States to seek declaratory or injunctive relief.

‘‘(B) CLASS ACTION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to preclude an action filed pursuant to subparagraph (A) from proceeding as a class action.

‘‘(6) TREATMENT OF COMMERCIAL AIRLINES.— Whenever the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that a commercial airline has failed to comply with regulations of the Secretary of Homeland Security relating to requirements of airlines for the detection of fraudulent documents used by passengers traveling to the United States (including the training of personnel in such detection), the Secretary of Homeland Security may suspend the entry of some or all aliens transported to the United States by such airline.

‘‘(7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as authorizing the President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security to act in a manner inconsistent with the policy decisions expressed in the immigration laws.’’.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2010

To subject professional baseball clubs to the antitrust laws.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2024

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To subject professional baseball clubs to the antitrust laws.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Competition in Professional Baseball Act".

SEC. 2. PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL SUBJECT TO ANTITRUST LAWS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "antitrust laws"—

(1) has the meaning given the term in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12); and

(2) includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45) to the extent that such section applies to unfair methods of competition.

(b) REMOVAL OF EXEMPTION.—Professional baseball clubs shall not be exempt from the antitrust laws.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 27 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 26b) is repealed.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3335

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Retired Law Enforcement Officers Continuing Service Act’’.

SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended by adding 13 at the end the following:

‘‘PART PP—CIVIL LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK GRANTS

‘‘SEC. 3061. DEFINITIONS.

‘‘In this part:

‘‘(1) CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK.—The term ‘civilian law enforcement task’ includes—

‘‘(A) assisting in homicide investigations;

‘‘(B) assisting in carjacking investigations;

‘‘(C) assisting in financial crimes investigations;

‘‘(D) reviewing camera footage;

‘‘(E) crime scene analysis;

‘(F) forensics analysis; and

‘‘(G) providing expertise in computers, computer networks, information technology, or the internet.

‘‘(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency.

‘‘SEC. 3062. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

‘‘The Attorney General may award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of hiring retired personnel from law enforcement agencies to—

‘‘(1) train civilian employees of the eligible entity on civilian law enforcement tasks that can be performed on behalf of a law enforcement agency; and

‘‘(2) perform civilian law enforcement tasks on behalf of the eligible entity

.

‘‘SEC. 3063. ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS.

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under this part 19 shall be subject to the accountability requirements of this section.

‘‘(b) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

‘‘(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in a final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that an audited

grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

‘‘(2) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year 6 beginning after the date of enactment of the Retired Law Enforcement Officers Continuing Service Act,

and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this part to prevent

waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

‘‘(3) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this part that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this part during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in paragraph (1).

‘‘(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this part, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this part.

‘‘(c) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the fiscal year during which audits commence under subsection (b)(2), the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual certification—

‘‘(1) indicating whether—

‘‘(A) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice under subsection (b) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director; and ‘‘(B) all mandatory exclusions required under subsection (b)(3) have been issued; and‘‘(2) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under subsection (b)(3) from the previous year.

119TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

S. 193

To repeal the Alien Enemies Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2025

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To repeal the Alien Enemies Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Neighbors Not En- emies Act’’.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF ALIEN ENEMIES ACT.

Sections 4067 through 4070 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (50 U.S.C. 21–24) are repealed.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 108

To make members of the Chinese Communist Party and their family members ineligible for F or J visas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. SCHMITT introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To make members of the Chinese Communist Party and their family members ineligible for F or J visas, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting Higher Education from the Chinese Communist Party Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. INELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN VISAS OF MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

(a) GROUNDS FOR EXCLUSION.—An alien may not be accorded status or receive a visa under subparagraph (F) or (J) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) if the alien is a person who is, as of the date of enactment of this Act or at any time thereafter—

(1) any member of the Chinese Communist Party, including such a member who has served on the National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party; or

(2) a family member of a person described in paragraph (1).

(b) FAMILY MEMBER.—For purposes of this section, the term ''family member'' means, with respect to a person, that person's spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, niece, or nephew.

(c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to an individual if admitting the individual to the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, and other applicable international obligations.

(d) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President, or a designee of the President, may waive the application of subsection (a) if the President or such designee certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4258

To amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2024

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. CAPITO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protect and Serve Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. CRIMES TARGETING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 120. Crimes targeting law enforcement officers

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, in any circumstance described in subsection (b), knowingly assaults a law enforcement officer causing serious bodily injury, or attempts to do so—

"(1) shall be imprisoned not more than 10 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both; and

"(2) shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life, fined in accordance with this title, or both, if—

"(A) death results from the offense; or

"(B) the offense includes kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, or an attempt to kill.

"(b) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subsection (a), the circumstances described in this subsection are that—

"(1) the conduct described in subsection (a) occurs during the course of, or as the result of, the travel of the defendant or the victim—

"(A) across a State line or national border; or

"(B) using a channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce;

"(2) the defendant uses a channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in connection with the conduct described in subsection (a);

"(3) in connection with the conduct described in subsection (a), the defendant employs a firearm, dangerous weapon, explosive or incendiary device, or other weapon that has traveled in interstate or foreign commerce;

"(4) the conduct described in subsection (a)—

"(A) interferes with commercial or other economic activity in which the victim is engaged at the time of the conduct; or

"(B) otherwise affects interstate or foreign commerce; or

"(5) the victim is a Federal law enforcement officer.

"(c) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—No prosecution of any offense described in this section may be undertaken by the United States, except under the certification in writing of the Attorney General, or a designee, that—

"(A) the State does not have jurisdiction;

"(B) the State has requested that the Federal Government assume jurisdiction;

"(C) the verdict or sentence obtained pursuant to State charges left demonstratively unvindicated the Federal interest in protecting the public safety; or

"(D) a prosecution by the United States is in the public interest and necessary to secure substantial justice.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 4591

To permanently authorize the exemption of aliens working as fish processors from the numerical limitation on H–2B nonimmigrant visas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2024

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To permanently authorize the exemption of aliens working as fish processors from the numerical limitation on H– 2B nonimmigrant visas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Save Our Seafood Act’’.

SEC. 2. EXEMPTION OF ALIENS WORKING AS FISH PROC- ESSORS FROM THE NUMERICAL LIMITATION ON H–2B NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(g)(10) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(10)) is amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘The numerical limitations of paragraph (1)(B)’’ and inserting ‘‘(A) The numerical limitation under paragraph (1)(B)’’; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(B)(i) The numerical limitation under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to any nonimmigrant alien issued a visa or otherwise provided status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) who is employed (or has received an offer of employment)—

(I) as a fish roe processor, a fish roe technician, or a supervisor of fish roe processing; or

(II) as a fish processor.

(ii) As used in clause (i)—

(I) the term ‘fish’ means fresh or saltwater finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of aquatic animal life, including the roe of such ani- mals, other than marine mammals and birds; and

(II) the term ‘processor’—

(aa) means any person engaged in the processing of fish, including handling, storing, preparing, heading, eviscerating, shucking, freezing, changing into different market forms, manufacturing, preserving, packing, labeling, dockside unloading, holding, and all other processing activities; and

(bb) does not include any person engaged in—

(AA) harvesting or transporting fish or fishery products without otherwise engaging in processing;

(BB) practices such as heading, eviscerating, or freezing intended solely to prepare a fish for holding on board a harvest vessel; or

(CC) operating a retail establishment..

(b) REPEAL.—Section 14006 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287) is repealed.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3714

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2024

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Guaranteed Refugee Admission Ceiling Enhancement Act’’ or the ‘‘GRACE Act’’.

SEC. 2. ADMISSION OF REFUGEES.

Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub- section (b), the number of refugees who may be ad- mitted under this section in any fiscal year shall be such number as the President determines is—

‘‘(A) justified by humanitarian concerns or otherwise in the national interest; and

‘‘(B) not fewer than 125,000.

‘‘(2) ABSENCE OF DETERMINATION.—If the President does not issue a determination under paragraph (1) before the beginning of a fiscal year, the number of refugees who may be admitted under this section shall be 125,000.’’;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (7), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

‘‘(3) NUMERICAL GOALS.—Each officer of the Federal Government responsible for refugee admis- sions or refugee resettlement shall treat as the numerical goals for refugee admissions under this section for the applicable fiscal year—

‘‘(A)(i) a determination under paragraph (1); or

‘‘(ii) in the absence of a determination under paragraph (1), the number under paragraph (2); and

‘‘(B) a determination under subsection (b).’’; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (4), as redesignated, the following:

‘‘(5) CONSIDERATION OF RESETTLEMENT NEEDS.—In making a determination under paragraph (1), the President shall consider the number of refugees who, during the calendar year beginning immediately after the beginning of the applicable fiscal year, are in need of resettlement in a third country, as determined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the most recently published projected global resettlement needs report.

‘‘(6) REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS.—The President shall determine regional allocations for admissions under this subsection, which shall—

‘‘(A) consider the projected needs identified by the United Nations High Commissioner ‘‘ for Refugees in the projected global resettlement needs report for the calendar year beginning immediately after the beginning of the applicable fiscal year; and

‘‘(B) include an unallocated reserve that the Secretary of State, after notifying the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, may use for 1 or more regions in which the need for additional refugee admissions arises.’’; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON ADMISSIONS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each quarter, the President shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following:

(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

‘‘(A) The number of refugees admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter.
‘‘(B) The number of refugees admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of the number of refugees authorized to be admitted in accordance with the determinations under subsections (a) and (b) for the applicable fiscal year.

‘‘(C) The cumulative number of refugees admitted to the United States during the applicable fiscal year, as of the last day of the preceding quarter.

‘‘(D) The number of refugees to be admitted to the United States during the remainder of the applicable fiscal year so as to achieve the numerical goals set forth in the determinations under subsections (a) and (b) for such fiscal year.

‘‘(E) The number of refugees from each region admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of the allocation for each region under subsection (a)(6) for the applicable fiscal year.

‘‘(2) ALIENS WITH SECURITY ADVISORY OPINIONS.—

‘‘(A) The number of aliens, by nationality, for whom a Security Advisory Opinion has been requested who were security-cleared during the preceding quarter, expressed as a percentage of all cases successfully adjudicated by the Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the applicable fiscal year.

‘‘(B) The number of aliens, by nationality, for whom a Security Advisory Opinion has been requested who were admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter.

‘‘(3) PROCESSING.—For the preceding quarter—

‘‘(A) the average number of days between—

‘‘(i) the date on which an individual is identified by the United States Government as a refugee; and

‘‘(ii) the date on which such individual is interviewed by the Secretary of Homeland Security;

‘‘(B) the average number of days between—

‘‘(i) the date on which an individual identified by the United States Government as a refugee is interviewed by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

‘‘(ii) the date on which such individual is admitted to the United States; and

‘‘(C) with respect to individuals identified by the United States Government as refugees who have been interviewed by the Secretary of Homeland Security, the approval, denial, and hold rates for the applications for admission of such individuals, by nationality.

‘‘(4) PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—

‘‘(A) A plan that describes the procedural or personnel changes necessary to ensure the admission of the number of refugees authorized to be admitted to the United States in accordance with determinations under subsections (a) and (b), including a projection of the number of refugees to be admitted to the United States each month so as to achieve the numerical goals set forth in such determinations.

‘‘(B) Additional information relating to the pace of refugee admissions, as determined by the President.

‘‘(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

‘‘(1) to inhibit the expeditious processing of refugee and asylum applications; or

‘‘(2) to restrict the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to admit aliens to the United States under any other Act.’’.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 5220

To establish a process for expedited consideration of legislation relating to decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

A BILL

To establish a process for expedited consideration of legislation relating to decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Supreme Court Review Act of 2024’’.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—
(1) "covered joint resolution" means a resolution that—

(A) is reported by a committee of the Senate within 30 days of referral; or

(B) is placed on the Senate calendar in accordance with procedures in Section 3.

(2) "covered Supreme Court decision" refers to a Supreme Court ruling that:

(A) interprets a federal statute; or

(B) reinterprets constitutional provisions to diminish previously recognized rights.

(3) "joint resolution" means a resolution introduced within 10 days of a covered Supreme Court decision.

(4) "Supreme Court" refers to the Supreme Court of the United States.

SEC. 3. RECONSIDERATION OF COVERED SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

(a) DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE IN THE SENATE.— (1) MOTION TO DISCHARGE.—Upon a motion by the minority leader or the ranking member of a committee to which a joint resolution with respect to a covered Supreme Court decision has been referred, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar, if such motion by the minority leader or the ranking member of such committee is made during the period—

(A) beginning 30 days of session after the date on which such joint resolution is referred to such committee; and

(B) ending on the date that is 10 days of session after the date described in subpara- graph (A).

(2) LIMITATIONS.—Only 1 covered joint resolution with respect to a particular covered Supreme Court decision may be placed on the calendar in the Senate pursuant to this subsection.

(b) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(1) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, in the Senate, it shall be in order to move to proceed to a covered joint resolution not later than 10 days of session after the date on which the covered joint resolution is placed on the calendar.

(B) PROCEDURE.—Subject to the limitations under subparagraph (C), for a motion to proceed to the consideration of a covered joint resolution—

(i) all points of order against the motion are waived;

(ii) the motion is not debatable;

(iii) the motion is not subject to a motion to postpone;

(iv) a motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order; and

(v) if the motion is agreed to, the covered joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(C) LIMITATIONS ON MOTIONS TO PROCEED.— The procedures set forth in subparagraph (B) shall apply only to—

(i) for a covered joint resolution re- ported by a committee, a motion to proceed made by the majority leader, the chair of such committee, or a designee;

(ii) for a covered joint resolution placed on the calendar under subsection (a)(1), a motion to proceed made by the majority leader, the minority leader, the ranking member described in subsection (a)(1), or a designee; or

(iii) for a covered joint resolution received from the House, a motion to proceed made by the majority leader, the chair of the committee with jurisdiction of the covered joint resolution, or a designee.

(i) all points of order against the covered joint resolution (and against consideration of the covered joint resolution) are waived, except for points of order relating to non-germane matters;

(B) consideration of the covered joint resolution, and all amendments, debatable motions, and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees;

(C) a motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable;

(D) the only amendments in order to the covered joint resolution are—

FLOOR CONSIDERATION GENERALLY.—(1) All points of order against the covered joint resolution (and against consideration of the covered joint resolution) are waived, except for points of order relating to non-germane matters.

(2) Consideration of the covered joint resolution, and all amendments, debatable motions, and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

(3) The only amendments in order are:

(A) germane amendments proposed by a committee;

(B) not more than five germane amendments proposed by the majority leader or a designee; and

(C) not more than five germane amendments proposed by the minority leader or a designee.

(4) A motion to postpone or a motion to recommit the covered joint resolution is not in order.

(5) A motion to proceed to the consideration of other business is not in order.

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider and enact legislation relating to a provision of Federal statute interpreted for the first time or reinterpreted by a covered Supreme Court decision or rights under the Constitution of the United States under other applicable procedures.