

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Business Meeting**  
*Wednesday, May 3, 2023*

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Wednesday, May 3, 2023*

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m., in S-116, The Capitol,  
Hon. Robert Menendez, Chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Menendez [presiding], Cardin, Shaheen, Coons, Murphy,  
Kaine, Booker, Schatz, Van Hollen, Duckworth, Risch, Rubio, Paul, and Scott.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

**The Chairman:** This business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee will come to order.

Today we are considering a robust agenda that includes several nominations  
and legislative items, as well one Foreign Service Office promotion list. And let me say  
I appreciate the work of the Ranking Member and his staff and their efforts towards  
organizing this meeting, and it is the type of robust agenda I hope we will continue to  
promote.

Before I get to the agenda, I just have to note that we are holding this meeting at  
a critical time for the Nation, just weeks away from a potential catastrophic default.  
And while we are facing the challenge of this century and the strategic competition  
with China, it is critical that we maintain our economic strength to win this

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competition. But there are those who want to take us down a different and dangerous path, proposing and insisting on a budget proposal that would undermine national economic security, including our ability to out-compete China. Most importantly, preserving the full faith and credit of the United States and the American currency, as the currency reserve is critical to our national interests and security. This brinksmanship has consequences far beyond our shores, and I hope we can get to the point that we get beyond that. It is too important, and we all know better.

Let me first turn to nominations. While I will not speak about all of them individually, I would note that we are working to fill critical positions, including the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, and I urge my colleagues to support these nominations today and work towards their swift confirmation. On legislation, we will vote on a number of bills and resolutions that reflect good, bipartisan work of many members of the committee and the Senate, including Senators Risch, Cardin, Rubio, Shaheen, Kaine, Cruz, and Tillis, and I will just highlight a few.

I am pleased we are considering four important bills related to the Western Hemisphere. The Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act, which I authored working with Senators Rubio, Kaine, Cruz, and Booker; Senator Risch's Western Hemisphere Partnership Act; Senator Kaine's Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act; and Senator Rubio's Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Act.

Hemispheric relations could not be more important as we face challenges from China, a number of countries where we see democratic backsliding and, of course,

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migration issues, so I want to commend all the Senators and their co-sponsors for their solid work on these bills. With regard to Haiti, I note that S. 396 seeks to address the ongoing security crisis in that country. Since the assassination of President Moïse in 2021, the Haitians have suffered one of the worst humanitarian, political, and security crises in decades. Horrific waves of gang violence have forced schools to close, prevented elections from occurring, led to a significant rise of extortion, sexual assaults, and kidnappings, including of American citizens, and forced thousands to flee their homeland. This tragedy has been exacerbated by Haitian elites, who have colluded with these criminal groups to advance their political and economic interests. It is time these bad actors are held accountable, and this legislation provides the tools to do that. I look forward to working with all of our colleagues to get this and other Western Hemisphere bills on the agenda enacted into law.

I am also pleased that we will mark up the PARTNER with ASEAN Act. This legislation recognizes the strategic importance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, seeks to deepen engagement and cooperation with such a critical partner. I want to thank the Ranking Member, Senators Duckworth and Romney, for working with me on this. Today's agenda also includes legislation to bolster the Millennium Challenge Corporation's global impact by reforming the metrics used to determine candidate countries that could be considered for assistance and, thus, broadening the

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reach of MCC's contracts to new, deserving communities. I commend Senator Risch on this effort, which I proudly join him in, and look forward to its enactment.

We are also considering a number of important resolutions, including one on Russia's unlawful detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza, who I am proud to support, and another on China's unjust and arbitrary detention of Mark Swidan. Of course, these are just two of the many individuals unjustly detained abroad, from Paul Whelan and Evan Gershkovich to Ka Li and David Lin, among many others, who are deserving of a relentless effort to bring them home. Especially this week, as families of hostages and wrongful detainees are gathered here in Washington to shine a spotlight on the plight of their loved ones, we all need to keep the focus on bringing Americans home and work to prevent future hostage taking.

Turning to other parts of the agenda, I am pleased that we are voting on the Greek Independence Day resolution and the Good Friday Agreement resolutions. I want to thank Senator Barrasso for his co-sponsorship on the Greece resolution. I thank Senator Collins in particular for championing the Good Friday resolution. Finally, I applaud Senators Risch, Cardin, Shaheen, Cruz, and Tillis for their initiative in working on their respective resolutions, and I am pleased to support their passage.

With that, let me turn to Senator Risch for opening remarks.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

**Senator Risch:** Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly, this is a robust agenda, and there are plenty of kudos to go around on both sides of the aisle. I think

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it indicates the working relationship on a bipartisan basis on foreign relations matters, and I think everyone appreciates that.

Regarding your comments on the deficit and the budget proposal, there is no doubt this is a serious matter, and it is really unfortunate that every time we get to this, it seems to devolve into a partisan bickering issue, each side trying to get the upper hand. But as you point out, this is really harmful to our country and to our economy, and it has got to be resolved. It will be resolved -- it always is -- but it is painful and difficult to get there, and it should not be.

I am glad to see a handful of bills on the Western Hemisphere space on this agenda. In particular, I want to thank the Chairman for working me on the Western Hemisphere Partnership Act. This bill encourages the Biden administration to promote a more competitive environment for U.S. businesses in the Western Hemisphere, improve technical capacity and military and police forces in the region, and strengthen the capacity of institutions to govern dramatically -- democratically and dramatically. There is no question that there are things happening in the Western Hemisphere that are not going in the right direction. Hopefully we can turn that around.

I would also like to thank the Chairman for his partnership on another important bill regarding the Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC. MCC's model for development is widely considered the most transparent, efficient, and effective globally. However, with more countries now hovering around the income category

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lines that define its candidate country pool, MCC's selection process has become less stable. This bipartisan bill fixes that by redefining the candidate country pool group with countries eligible for lending through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which uses subjective criteria to measure poverty rather than a hard-dollar amount.

I am glad to see Senate Resolution 106 on Hong Kong on this agenda with 40 co-sponsors. This resolution condemns Beijing's destruction of Hong Kong's democracy and rule of law. We must continue to put pressure on China for its human rights abuses. Beijing is bringing false charges against brave Hong Kongers to tarnish their reputations ahead of their national security law trials. This is the behavior of a country that calls itself a great power, but it is actually paranoid and afraid.

Regarding nominations, I plan to support all the nominations except the Murthy nomination, which I will oppose regretfully. WHO is a deeply flawed institution in need of serious reform, and this administration's liberal views on abortion have no place in that reform agenda. Although I like Dr. Murthy personally, and he certainly has the necessary qualifications, I have deep concerns about Dr. Murthy's views on abortion as well as gun control, and I am on the record opposing Dr. Murthy's nomination for surgeon general for these reasons. I am also concerned that this administration will not commit to submitting any legally binding WHO agreement on future pandemics to this committee and to the Senate for advice and consent.

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As always, I ask that members of the committee be permitted to submit a request to the clerk to be recorded as "no" on any items on today's agenda. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**The Chairman:** Without objection.

So, with objection, we will now consider en bloc all of the nominations listed on the agenda and one Foreign Service officer list. Would any members like to comment on any of these nominations before we vote?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** If not, is there a motion --

**Senator Cardin:** So move.

**The Chairman:** So moved. Is there a second?

**Senator Shaheen:** Second.

**The Chairman:** Moved and seconded.

All those in favor will say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

**The Chairman:** All those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** The ayes have it, and the nominees are recommended to the full Senate for the Senate's consideration, and whatever Senator wishes to be listed separately from that will be so recognized.

**Senator Risch:** I would personally like to be recorded as "no" on Dr. Murthy.

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**The Chairman:** Senator Risch will be "no" on Dr. Murthy.

**Senator Paul:** So would I.

**Senator Rubio:** Mr. Chairman, if we could do it in writing to save time, but just for the record, if I could be recorded "no" on Allen, Murthy, Theriot, Jarin, Matthews. There are two Jarins, so both of those.

**The Chairman:** Okay.

**Senator Paul:** If I could be a "no" on Murthy.

**The Chairman:** Okay. So Senator Paul will be a "no" on Murthy. Senator Rubio, if you -- if you would just submit the list to the clerk through your staff --

**Senator Rubio:** Yes.

**The Chairman:** -- so we will make sure we got it right.

**Senator Risch:** Senator Scott has a name --

**Senator Scott:** Same list as well.

**The Chairman:** Same list as Senator Rubio?

**Senator Scott:** No. Well, Shortino, Murthy, Jarin, Matthews, Botello. Those names.

**The Chairman:** Okay. Thank you. All right. So, the nominations are passed out to the Senate and affirmative votes, so now let me move to legislation.

Without objection, we will -- I will move to consider en bloc all the legislative on the -- items on the agenda, including any substitute and manager's amendment.

Would any member like to comment on any item on the agenda before we vote?

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**Senator Paul:** Does this -- does this include Resolution 99?

**The Chairman:** It would include all of them, yes.

**Senator Paul:** Yeah. I have an amendment to Resolution 99.

**The Chairman:** Okay. Let us call up your amendment.

**Senator Paul:** Resolution 99 -- you ready for me?

**The Chairman:** Go ahead, please.

**Senator Paul:** Resolution 99 is a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. My amendment is consistent with the goal of the underlying resolution supporting women. To that end, the need to preserve integrity and fairness in women's sports is of utmost importance as biological males increasingly seek to compete against biological females.

The World Athletic Council, the international governing for track and field, recently issued a ruling preventing biological males from competing in elite events. Specifically, World Athletics stated, "The purpose of these regulations is to give equal opportunities to all athletes to participate in and excel in sports and to provide them with fair and meaningful competition conditions so that they are motivated to make the huge commitment and sacrifice required to excel in the sport and so inspire new generations to join the sport and aspire to the same excellence."

The regulations also expressly stated that the "Substantial sex difference in sports performance that emerge from puberty onwards means that the only way to achieve the objectives of exceling in a sport and inspiring future generations is to

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maintain separate competition categories for male and female athletes because of the physical advantages conferred on male athletes." After issuing the regulations, World Athletics president, Sebastian Coe, stated that his organization believes the integrity of the female category in athletics is paramount, and World Athletics is not the only governing body to insist on separate categories for males and females. Last year, the world governing body for swimming, FINA, prohibited biological men from participating in female swimming competitions. In 2020, World Rugby determined the physiological differences between males and females necessitate dedicated men's and women's contact rugby categories for safety and performance reasons.

If the Senate is going to support women, it should support women athletes as well. I ask you for support for my amendments, and I think we passed around the wording, but we, briefly, just added a couple of whereas clauses. It says, "Whereas, the opportunity to compete fairly in sports helps many women and girls reach their full potential, yet women and girls around the world are often denied such opportunities." The second part of the clause says, "Whereas, on March 23rd, 2023, the World Athletics Council, the governing body for international track and field, announced that transgender women -- that is, biological males -- will not be allowed to compete in league categories for women citing the need to prioritize fairness and integrity.

Because of our rules, it is divided into two amendments. There is one other insertion into the -- I guess into the "resolved" part of the resolution that says --

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Number 9 -- that, "The consensus is that we support the right of women to compete fairly in sports and affirms that the integrity of women's sports must be protected." And if you need them to be done as votes or if you agree to do it unanimously, we can do it as one vote, Mr. Chairman.

**Voice.** Take it up as one vote.

**The Chairman:** Okay. If you say so, Senator.

[Laughter.]

[Cross talking.]

**The Chairman:** I think we will be fine in taking as a -- as one vote, right? We do not have any problem with that. Anyone who wants to speak to the amendment? Senator Shaheen.

**Senator Shaheen:** Yes. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Risch, for including the resolution on our International Women's Day. It is a little late, but I think particularly given what is happening for women around the world today, it is particularly important. We have schoolgirls in Iran who are being attacked in classroom. Afghan women are, across the board, being denied participation in Afghan society. A woman in Latin America is killed because of her gender every two hours. So, I think it is important for us -- because the rest of the world looks at what Congress does, it is important for us to make a statement about why empowering women and recognizing the contributions of women is so important.

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And that is why I am really disappointed by Senator Paul's amendments. I participated in intercollegiate sports when I was in college. I am very committed to making sure that women have a fair shot in participating in sports, but these amendments are not really about that. I believe these amendments are about an attempt to score points at the expense of a vulnerable population that is already being marginalized by rhetoric -- malicious rhetoric -- daily attacks against the LGBTQI community. I do not think this amendment is about the integrity of women's sports. I do not think it is about parental rights. I do not think it is about protecting children. I think it is about attacking a group of people in a way that is not inclusive of what this country is about.

So, I hope all of my colleagues will vote against this amendment. I do not think this resolution is a place to wage war against the LGBTQI community.

**Senator Paul:** Mr. Chair?

**The Chairman:** Let me just see if there is anybody else first. Anyone else?

**Senator Cardin:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Senator Cardin?

**Senator Cardin:** First, let me thank Senator Shaheen. This resolution is about recognizing the advancement of human rights defenders in regards to gender issues. It is not the place that we should be dealing with attacking human rights on the transgender community. I strongly oppose the amendment.

**The Chairman:** Senator Paul.

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**Senator Paul:** The argument made by opponents of the amendment that this is not about children or not about fairness or basically casting aspersion at my motives are, I think, ill placed and wrongheaded and really should not be a part of a debate, to basically accuse a person of presenting something of wrong motives. I know several athletes who have had to compete directly with males.

Riley Gaines went to the University of Kentucky and swam and had to swim against a 6-foot-3 guy who was a very average male swimmer and then ends up in the women's sports. In a marathon recently, there was a man running in the women's section of the marathon who ended up beating the women handily, beating 14,000 women. And many women have come out, and these aren't necessarily people who are Republican or who are concerned with things from the perspective of a Republican: Martina Navratilova, J.K. Rowling. There are many people who are actually from the left, who are feminists, who think that this is very, very destructive to women's sports.

There is a certain amount of irony that we as a body have been very good on both sides of the aisle to condemn things like genital mutilation around the world, and it is done largely through these terrible cultural practices of sort of, you know, saying that this is the accepted thing and this is what you are supposed to. And believe it or not, some of the women are not held down. They do it and submit it because of the traditions of the tribe or the traditions of the culture. It does not make it right, but it is because of everybody saying it is the right thing to do.

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We now have people saying that it is the right thing to do for a 15-year-old to have her breasts removed. We have people now arguing that they should be allowed to do this without their parents' permission. This is happening. There are people now who regretted their 18-year-old girls -- there is a very prominent 18-year-old girl who had her breasts removed and then took so many cross hormones that her voice is so low and will never be the same again. Most of the things that are done to people, to their genitalia, are things that make them useless. They do not work for urination, they do not work for sexual pleasure, but we are allowing these things to happen to minors without their parents' permission.

Then there is the whole issue of sports. There is a valid argument here, but to cast aspersions and say, oh, I have terrible motives, that this is some sort of game, no. I have a young woman who works in my office -- we just hired her recently -- who swam for George Mason, and she had to compete against men as well. It is just, frankly, not fair, and never was even thought anywhere appropriate until about a year ago. This is sort of the world changing when five years ago, nobody thought that this was an appropriate thing to do to children, and now we are wanting to do them to children.

So, it is a valid debate, it is an uncomfortable debate, but we ought to have the discussion, and I think we should. I would ask for a recorded vote.

**Senator Shaheen:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Senator Shaheen.

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**Senator Shaheen:** I certainly agree with my colleague that this is a discussion that we should have. I do not think that this resolution is the place to have that discussion, and I certainly -- while I do have questions about the motives, I did not mean to impugn my colleague's motives in this resolution. I think there are questionable motives for why some of -- this kind of amendment has been introduced in places like the New Hampshire legislature, but, again, I do not think this resolution, where we are trying to recognize the challenges that women have and the importance of women's contributions around the world, is the place to have this debate. So, again, I hope my colleagues will oppose the amendment.

**The Chairman:** Anyone else seeking recognition?

**Senator Booker:** If I -- I am sorry.

**The Chairman:** Senator Booker.

**Senator Booker:** In our country, transgender youth, about half of them, admit to considering suicide. About 1 in 5 transgender kids in America have attempted suicide. If you just look at the LGBTQ population as a whole, children who are LGBTQ in America, I mean, some of -- a third of them report missing a day in school because of fear. God, this -- there is a time and a place for this, but this is something that should unify us. It is a non-controversial resolution about women. I agree with my conservative colleagues often about government overreach or bringing things in that should not be in or unintended consequences.

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This should be a celebration, not bringing us into an issue in which, yes, there are strong passions being whipped up in our country right now, but so many LGBTQ kids in our country are at serious risk for violence. And so, I hope this could be a resolution where we can leave the divisive politics of the day out of it and just celebrate women because right now, yeah, I am worried about kids in America. And, in particular, I am worried about what the data shows. The most violence, the most hate, the most hate crimes, the most suicides, and things like this, I think, are far more contributory towards that than it is about affirming the safety of our children. And so, again, I am hoping this non-controversial amendment should really bring us together to celebrate women, should not -- should not be undermined by this.

**Senator Paul:** Mr. Chair?

**The Chairman:** Let me acknowledge others who have not spoken yet.

**Senator Paul:** That is fine.

**The Chairman:** Senator Coons?

**Senator Coons:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to recognize and celebrate Senator Shaheen's long leadership on this committee on women's issues and thank her for bringing forward this resolution. I look forward to supporting it and moving it forward. I know a thing or two about transgender youth, and they are the most vulnerable of the LGBT community, and they are, in many ways, the most often attacked and the most often marginalized in their communities.

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And I think our colleague brings forward a challenging issue about the definition of "male" and "female" in sports that is worthy of some discussion and debate, but I suspect it will take a long and heated discussion and debate and one where I would tend to stand up for transgender youth and their rights. I think we should defeat this amendment and move forward with recognizing International Women's Day.

**Senator Scott:** Mr. Chairman, sir?

**The Chairman:** Yes?

**Senator Scott:** I will vote for the amendment. I have to depart before the discussion ends, it sounds like. I was a college athlete. Cory was a college athlete. Marco, he was a college athlete.

**Senator Shaheen:** Shaheen was a college athlete, just to be clear.

**Senator Scott:** I was -- I was putting it on the -- thank you very much. I appreciate your passion and the interruption. You were a college athlete. The question I have is the question that we should bifurcate the discussion between the violence that vulnerable people are experiencing and the competitive environment that we are trying to protect for women. That is what this is about for me. Thank you.

**The Chairman:** All right, Senator Scott. Senator Paul?

**Senator Paul:** Very briefly on the statistics on suicide. I think they are important, and we need to try to look at them as dispassionately as possible. When you look at the statistics on suicide and psychiatric illness, there is definitely a co-existence or a comorbidity of psychiatric disease and this gender dysphoria, and that

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has been known for a long time. It is much more common in women and in young girls than it is in boys. Cutting is part of the syndrome as well. Suicide is part of the syndrome as well. But you also find that after people have done the surgery, there is still a significant and elevated rate of suicide among these people.

You could say that that is a reaction of society to them, but actually society's reaction is actually the opposite now. Society has become much more encouraging of this type of surgery and of this type of position, and so what we have is actually a nurturing and a society that is actually encouraging people at very young ages to consider this -- 3, 4, 7, 8 -- are going to these clinics. And when you get to a gender dysphoria clinic, there is no way the clinic disagrees with them having surgery. Everybody in the clinic is someone who is in favor of this very much. It is appreciated and applauded, and we have a huge upsurge in this.

And you could make arguments. You can say, well, we have always had 10 percent of the public be transgender, or you could argue that we are encouraging or rewarding people who are confused. The American College of Pediatrics has looked at this, and left alone without doing surgery to minors, 90-some-odd percent, 95, 98 percent of people go ahead and choose to live in their own skin and do not do these types of surgeries.

So, there are these arguments, and obviously nobody wants people to commit suicide. Nobody wants anybody to be abused, but there is a question of whether or not it is part of an illness and that people are very confused about it. They embrace

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this surgery because now the whole community and society is saying you are great person, embrace this and do this, and then there is a significant number -- there is a whole cohort of people now who are very unhappy with what happened. And it is gruesome, but people should read what happens with the surgery.

None of this stuff works. What you were created with works pretty well. None of this stuff works very well, it just does not, and these people have lifelong problems. They have dozens and dozens of surgeries to have their urinary tract working functionally. None of the sexual parts work as they once did. None of it really works. What a man can and what the surgeons do is not very good, but should we be encouraging this, or should there be a valid discussion back and forth on this, and there is the sports part of it.

But nobody wants people to commit suicide. Nobody wants these people to suffer. But there is a question of whether or not it is part of the syndrome or caused by society, or it is actually something that is part of the syndrome.

**Senator Schatz:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Senator Schatz, and then after Senator Schatz, I will close this out. We have had a significant debate on it.

**Senator Schatz:** I appreciate what Senator Scott said. I believe we need to separate these questions. I think the question in competitive sports is a real one, but the NCAA, or a local sports league, or an international sports league, or the NBA, or whoever, they can sort that out. This is not the purview of the United States Senate

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Foreign Relations Committee. And to me, Senator Paul just made Senator Shaheen's point, which is Senator Paul just went on a two-minute rant about trans issues. I do not agree with hardly anything he said, and then he said at the end, "And then the sports thing."

And so, to the extent that Senator Shaheen appeared to be impugning your motives, I do not want to impugn your personal motives, but I do want to point out that trans people in sports is an entre into, hey, what is happening with these people over here. And so, what I object to is we are trying take this normal, bipartisan, and important resolution to just give ourselves a platform to have opinions about trans issues. To the extent that there are legitimate competitive questions regarding kids or adults in sports, they can be sorted out by people who do sports policy and league policy and competitiveness policy. This has absolutely nothing to do with the underlying resolution, and I think it should be decisively --

**The Chairman:** So, let me just say it is a shame that we are in the midst of taking advantage of a longstanding day of recognition for women fighting for basic freedoms around the world and turning it into an opportunity to push an anti-trans agenda. Trans people are increasingly becoming victims of hate crimes. We continue to see trans children suffering from high rates, as has been said, bullying, depression, anxiety, and, yes, suicide. These are vulnerable children.

I have heard a lot of my colleagues talk about children and protecting children. Children, to me, are children. They are children whether they are black or white,

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Hispanic or Asian. They are children whether they are straight or gay or trans. They are children, and we as a society should be working to protect them and not to change the course of events of international recognition of the rights of women to engage. Finally, many sports governing bodies, including the NJSIAA, NCAA, and the International Olympic Committee, allow trans athletes to compete consistent with their gender identity.

The Senator has asked for a roll call vote. The clerk will call the roll.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cardin?

**Senator Cardin:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mrs. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Coons:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Murphy:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Kaine:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**The Chairman:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Booker:** No.

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**The Clerk:** Mr. Schatz?

**Senator Schatz:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Van Hollen?

**Senator Van Hollen:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mrs. Duckworth?

**The Chairman:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Risch?

**Senator Risch:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Rubio?

**Senator Rubio:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Romney?

**Senator Risch:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ricketts?

**Senator Risch:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Paul?

**Senator Paul:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Young?

**Senator Risch:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Barrasso?

**Senator Risch:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cruz?

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**Senator Risch:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Hagerty?

**Senator Risch:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Scott?

**Senator Scott:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** No. The clerk will report.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 10, and the noes are 11.

**The Chairman:** Senator Duckworth was previously recorded by proxy. She will be recorded as a "no" in person, and the amendment is not agreed to.

Are there any other amendments and/or remarks about any of the remaining agenda? Senator Rubio?

**Senator Rubio:** And I am not -- it is not an amendment. I know I was late on this, but I do want to raise for us to start thinking about, and that is there are a number of countries, not just in Western Hemisphere but around the world, that are increasingly asking for help, often privately, in standing up an investment screening procedure comparable to our CFIUS. And this is particularly true in Latin America and the Western Hemisphere where you have, you know, Huawei comes in or what have you, and they simply do not have a method by which they can screen, the way we do, the risks -- systemic risk that might be associated with that investment.

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So, I came late to the game in this in terms of offering amendments, so it is not part of this. But I do hope we will consider it, whether it is in the future on this vehicle or some other vehicle, that we can work together here to figure out what can we do to be of assistance to countries, particularly as it relates to the Western Hemisphere, who are asking for guidance and help standing up to their own investment strategy.

**The Chairman:** Very happy to work with you, Senator, on that, and I agree with you.

If there are no further -- we have to tell people, though, right? Okay. If there are no further comments, I will entertain a motion that the legislative agenda be approved as has been listed in the notice.

**Senator Cardin:** So move.

**The Chairman:** So moved. Seconded?

**Senator Shaheen:** Second.

**The Chairman:** Seconded.

All those in favor will say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

**The Chairman:** All those opposed will say no.

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** The ayes have it, and the legislation is favorably reported to the Senate.

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This completes the committee's business.

I ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

Without objection, so ordered.

With the thanks of the committee, the Chair, and the ranking, this hearing is adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 10:37 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]**