

conditions, such as brownout, allowing special operations aviation assets to execute missions in nearly any environmental condition. DVEPS utilizes using three-dimensional (3D) imaging technology. DVEPS produces imagery, 3D conformal symbology, and system alerts to aid pilots in maintaining spatial awareness during and after transition from visual meteorological conditions (VMC) to DVE conditions. DVEPS includes a synthetic vision avionics backbone (SVAB), light detection and ranging (LiDAR) system, removable storage device, infrared camera, power distribution unit, and inertial measurement unit. The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items mentioned.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 31, 2025.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, on January 5, 2026, I missed roll-call vote No. 1 on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 70, Keith Bass of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

SUNSET SECTION 230 ACT

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, this bipartisan bill is a crucial first step to bring Members of Congress, industry, civil society, and families to the table to discuss the future of the internet. It does not aim to end the conversation.

Social media, and the internet broadly, continue to evolve. We need to keep up. Tech platforms must be appropriately incentivized to address the harmful content that has been allowed to proliferate online and influence our children, our communities, and our country as a whole.

Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 was passed into law during the early days of the internet, with the intent of incentivizing an environment where platforms could innovate. Section 230 also immunized platforms that engaged in good-faith moderation of content they deem to violate their platform's terms and conditions or community standards.

While section 230 played a central role in the growth of the internet as we know it today, the legislation could not have anticipated the growth and popularity of social media platforms we are now grappling with. For nearly 30 years, social media platforms have enjoyed blanket immunity for the content they host. They have failed to adequately police harmful content on their sites, despite their terms and conditions mandating them to do so.

While most of the conversation surrounding section 230 focuses on Big Tech, it is important to take into consideration small community-based platforms that are also protected by section 230. These platforms do not use algorithmic recommendations, do not

contain live feeds, like buttons, and are not in the business of keeping people online. Rather, they serve as a platform for community engagement. I believe these platforms can serve as a model for content moderation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to find ways to continue to provide protection for platforms that promote respectful exchange among users.

I have long advocated for free speech and believe that all communities should have the right to express themselves online. But tech platforms have made billions while ignoring violent and exploitative content and disinformation that lives on their platforms. It is time for Congress to act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD A. SILVER

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career of Richard A. Silver. Rick has long been recognized as a model of excellence in Connecticut's legal profession and as a national leader and champion for victims of wrongful harm and injustice. His specialties are in medical malpractice, personal injury, and complex civil litigation, but he is truly a tireless advocate of fairness and decency in a wide variety of causes.

Rick was born and raised in Stamford, CT, and became interested in the law as a means to give back to his community and help others. After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1960, he returned to Connecticut to begin work at the law firm of David Goldstein.

Rick was an immediate success—in fact, winning his very first case despite being given less than a week to prepare. In 1965, he set out on his own, eventually joined in his new firm by partners David Golub in 1975 and Ernie Teitell in 1978. From the outset, he sought to stay small and excel. His model has been so successful that many of his cases are referrals from other lawyers, a testament to the firm's extraordinary record and reputation.

Rick's legal advocacy has changed the landscape of medical malpractice law in Connecticut. His arguments before the Connecticut Supreme Court for the 1976 case of *Katsetos v. Stamford Hospital* were pathbreaking in the assessment of medical expert testimony and cemented a statewide standard of care. His victories in many other cases like *Pisel v. Stamford Hospital* and *Oram v. DeCholnoky* have been precedent setting and historic in imposing accountability and access to legal remedies.

Rick has been widely and repeatedly recognized and honored, and his leadership has been instrumental in raising standards of professional excellence. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in

America under Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, and Product Liability Litigation since 1987 and has been included in Connecticut Super Lawyers since its inception. He is also on the board of governors for the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, where he is co-chairman of the medical malpractice committee, previously served as president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and is a member of both the American Law Institute and the American Association for Justice.

Equally important, Rick has been an extraordinary mentor and model, generously devoting his skill to developing talent in others and finding opportunities for others to excel. He has helped young lawyers to achieve success and public service.

Rick's lifelong commitment to giving back includes numerous worthy causes and organizations. His generosity is longstanding and legendary. He is a major supporter of the Silver Education Center, named in honor of his family, at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, CT. He is also engaged in supporting higher education as a member of the board of trustees at Quinnipiac University and a member of the advisory boards for both the Quinnipiac University School of Law and Medical School.

Having recently celebrated his 90th birthday and more than six decades of remarkable public service, he shows no sign of slowing down. Now, as ever, the legal profession relies on him—as do countless clients seeking justice—for his dedication, courage, and skill. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the remarkable career and work of Richard A. Silver. ●

TRIBUTE TO MARY HIGHTOWER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished career of Mary Hightower, chief communications officer for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, upon her retirement after 23 years of exemplary service.

Mary's tenure with the division of agriculture has been marked by a tireless dedication to connecting the public with the vital research and extension work carried out across Arkansas. Her passion and skill for telling the stories of agriculture in the Natural State created a better understanding of the ongoing, critical work in support of our State's producers.

She was an integral force in elevating the organization's messaging efforts, strengthening the visibility and impact of both the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service through innovative storytelling, strategic outreach, and a deep commitment to the land-grant mission.

Her leadership transformed the division of ag's communications team, expanded its media reach, and brought