

## IMPORTANT LAWS ENACTED DURING THE 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF 2021-2022

David R. Mayhew, 1/10/23

Using media coverage as read by me as the criterion, here are the congressional laws enacted during 2021-2022 that seem to stand out as notably important. They are listed in chronological order for each of the two calendar years. There are 13 items, of which 3 stand out among the 13 as extraordinarily important and accordingly appear upfront in each year's list and are printed in capital letters. Below the two annual lists are the following entries: a note on partisanship in the various enactment processes; cites to general media wrapup accounts for the two years; lists of cites for the 13 individual 2021 and 2022 entries.

### CALENDAR 2021:

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT** - \$1.9 trillion packed into a single measure targeted for pandemic relief and welfare state expansion: \$1400 relief checks to many Americans; extension of \$300 weekly jobless aid; testing and contact tracing; support for vaccine distribution, schools and universities, state and local governments, struggling pension plans, restaurants, mortgage assistance, child care, small business; new child tax credit plan (see below), changes to Affordable Care Act. This is the sixth in the series of COVID relief acts following the five enactments during calendar 2020. April.

**INFRASTRUCTURE** – a historic \$1.2 trillion for investment in highways, railroads, pipes, bridges, ports, airports, waterways, broadband, the electricity grid. Bipartisan compromise. November.

**Child Tax Credit Plan.** Major expansion of existent child tax credit program in size and making it fully refundable; \$3600 annually for children under age six, \$3000 for those under age 17. Enacted as part of American Rescue Plan Act, but widely singled out as an independently notable expansion of U.S. safety net. (The plan was allowed to lapse in 2022.) April.

**Emergency aid to refugee 'Afghan allies.'** \$1.1 billion to help resettle Afghans who worked alongside U.S. troops. July.

**Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act** – Overhaul of Defense Department process for handling sexual assault cases. Enacted as provision in annual Defense authorization act. December.

### CALENDAR 2022:

**INFLATION REDUCTION ACT.** Portmanteau healthcare and climate package, the residue of Biden's original "Build Back Better" plan. \$490 billion in new spending and tax credits, offset by a predicted \$764 billion revenue increase across a decade. A mandate to cut prescription drug prices, increase Medicare benefits, boost the renewable energy sector through subsidies and incentives, and levy new taxes on large corporations. August.

***Post Office overhaul.*** \$107 billion to finance and upgrade USPS. March.

***\$110 billion military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.*** In four installments. March, May, October, December.

***Gun safety act.*** Expanded background checks, mental health programs, encouragement of state red-flag laws. June.

***CHIPS and Science Act.*** \$280 billion to boost semiconductor industry to counter China. August.

***Medical benefits for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits.*** August.

***Federal protection of same-sex marriage.*** December.

***Electoral Count Act.*** Amends the Electoral Count Act of 1887 to specify the vice president has only a ministerial role in counting electoral votes. An ingredient of mammoth budget package. December.

#### **A NOTE ON PARTISANSHIP IN THE ENACTMENT PROCESSES:**

--3 measures won passage backed in roll calls by all (or almost all) Democrats and no Republicans. These were the American Rescue Plan, the child tax credit (formally an ingredient of the ARP), and the Inflation Reduction Act.

--5 measures won passage backed by majorities of both Democrats and Republicans in both houses (call it BPBH). That pattern is clear in the cases of the Afghan refugees, military justice, post office overhaul, and veterans' benefits. It is muddled a bit in the case of the four Ukraine installments, but clear enough given the narrative accounts.

--5 measures failed the BPBH standard due to considerable GOP opposition, but owed their enactment, or at least their content, to compromises struck between the majority Democrats and a moderate-flavored minority of Senate Republicans. These were infrastructure, gun safety, computer chips, same-sex marriage, and the Electoral Count Act. This pattern of compromise was a motif of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. (Another sideways instance of this is the Military Justice Act of 2021, which won passage piggybacking on an omnibus military bill cheered on by roll call behavior of both parties, hence its BPBH rating as above, but the MJA got into that bill in its final form thanks to a Senate compromise of the sort specified in this paragraph.)

#### **MEDIA WRAPUP ACCOUNTS FOR 2021:**

--Jonathan Weisman, "Congress Slinks Home as Bitterly Divided as Ever After a 'Horrible Year'" NYT, 12/19/21, page 15.

--Liz Zhou, "Democrats' unfinished to-do list: Voting rights, police reform, and immigration reform are among the priorities they failed to pass in 2021," VOX, 12/25/21.

#### **MEDIA WRAPUP ACCOUNTS FOR 2022:**

- William A. Galston, "Divided Congress Makes Bipartisan Progress: On semiconductors, infrastructure and electoral reform, the system is working," WSJ, 7/27/22, A15.
- Diego Areas Munhoz, "Congress Clocks Bipartisan Achievements Despite Partisan Divide: Democrats see election-year boon, but GOP benefits as well; Infrastructure, Chips and guns among issues getting consensus," Bloomberg, 8/14/22
- Catherine Lucey & Ken Thomas, "Democrats Hope Legislation Moves Voters," WSJ, 8/15/22, A6
- Sarah Stockman, "The Most Productive Dysfunctional Congress Ever: For a gridlocked capital, Washington has gotten a lot accomplished," NYT, 8/15/22, A19
- William A. Galston, "Democracy Made a Comeback in 2022: Dictators had a bad year, and Congress worked together and supported Ukraine," WSJ, 12/28/22, A10
- Lauren Gambino, "What Democrats Achieved—and didn't—in two years controlling Congress: From same-sex marriage protections to veterans' aid, Joe Biden's party used its thin majority to deliver many campaign promises," Guardian, 1/1/23

#### **CITES FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT 2021 (except for its included child credit plan; see below)**

- Emily Cochrane, "Partisan Vote After All-Night Session," NYT, 3/7/21, 1, 22.... "includes an extraordinary increase in safety net spending in the largest antipoverty effort in a generation." "It would potentially cut child poverty in half, through a generous expansion of tax credits for Americans with children—which Democrats hope to make permanent."
- Jim Tankersley, "Biden Lifts Up Poor to Jolt Recovery," NYT, 3/7/21, 1, 23. "Researchers predict it could become one of the most effective laws to fight poverty in Washington."
- Andrew Duehren & Kristina Peterson, "Congress Passes Virus-Relief Bill: President's \$1.9 trillion package, with a raft of antipoverty measures, is to be signed Friday," WSJ, 3/11/21, A1, A4. "one of the largest aid bills in U.S. history."
- Emily Cochrane, "A Larger Safety Net and New Direct Payments—No GOP Support," NYT, 3/11/21, A1, A19
- Jeanna Smialek & Ana Swanson, "Did the Stimulus Fuel Inflation Rates? A Policy Debate Heats Up," NYT, 1/23/22, 1, 20
- Andrew Duehren & Amara Omeokwe, "Amid Criticism, Party Says Rescue Plan Spurs Growth: Inflation is casting a shadow over the American Rescue Plan's Legacy," WSJ, 3/12-13/22, A4
- Alexander Burns, "A 'New Deal' Spent \$1.9 Trillion in Aid. Voters Didn't Notice. Democrats Struggle to Get Credit for Plan," NYT, 4/21/22, A1, A17
- Mabinty Quarshie, "For voters, inflation is top of mind; Biden's signature legislation doesn't register," msn.com, 4/22/22

#### **CITES FOR CHILD TAX CREDIT PLAN 2021 (a major provision of American Rescue Plan Act)**

- Emily Cochrane, "Partisan Vote After All-Night Session," NYT, 3/7/21, pp. 1, 22.... "includes an extraordinary increase in safety net spending in the largest antipoverty effort in a generation." "It would potentially cut child poverty in half, through a generous expansion of tax credits for Americans with children—which Democrats hope to make permanent."

--Jason DeParle, "With \$300 Monthly, Relief Bill Ushers Revolution in Child Aid," NYT, 3/8/21, A1, A6. "The child benefit has the makings of a policy revolution...it is essentially a guaranteed income for families with children, akin to children's allowances that are common in other rich countries."

--"The Covid Welfare State: The \$1.9 trillion Democratic bill provides a guaranteed income unlinked to work," Wall Street Journal editorial, 3/8/21, A16. "But now people could collect more from the child tax credit than they pay in taxes and even earn in wages."

--Eric Levitz, "Biden's COVID-Relief Bill Is a Big F\*\*king Deal," New York Magazine, 3/9/21

--Jeff Stein et al., "Democrats' messaging shifts as they pass Biden relief bill: From economic crisis rescue to poverty relief," Washington Post, 3/10/21

--Jim Tankersley & Jason DeParle, "Stimulus Signals Shifting Politics of Poverty Fight: Support for Direct Aid: Risk of GOP Backlash as Democrats Bet on Big Government," NYT, 3/14/21, 1, 20.

--Alice Crites et al., "How Biden quietly created a huge social program," Washington Post, 3/22/21. The child credit: "This under-the-radar success created what could be the most consequential piece of the \$1.9 trillion package—one that, if made permanent, could approach the impact of the programs established under President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty."

--Emily Cochrane & Catie Edmondson, "How Two Stalwart Democrats Got Child Poverty Into the Rescue Act," NYT, 3/29/21, A15. Rosa DeLauro & Patty Murray.

--"When policy works: America is substantially reducing poverty among children," Economist, 9/18/21, 23-24

--Ezra Klein, "America Has Turned Its Back on Its Poorest Families: The Death of Biden's child tax credit expansion is a tragedy," NYT, 4/30/22, A23

--Jason DeParle, "Uphill Battle for Reviving Child Credit," NYT, 11/26/22, A1, A15

--Scott A Hodge, "The Child Tax Credit Is a Failed Experiment: I introduced the idea in a 1993 Heritage Foundation paper. It was a lot better in theory than in practice," WSJ, 11/29/22, A19

#### CITES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE MEASURE 2021:

--Jim Tankersley, "Biden Signs Bill for Bolstering Infrastructure: 'Shovel-Worthy' Work: Early Funds Will Improve Broadband and Lead Pipes," NYT, 11/16/21, A1, A14

--Tony Romm, Marianna Sotomayor & Mike DeBonis, "Congress approves \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, sending measure to Biden for enactment," Washington Post, 11/6/21. The House approval.

--Tony Romm, "Senate approves bipartisan, \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, bringing major Biden goal one step closer: Democrats along with 19 Republicans approved the public-works package in a Tuesday morning vote, teeing it up soon for the House," Washington Post, 8/10/21

--Tony Romm & Cat Zakrzewski, "Senate infrastructure bill sets stage for massive effort to make broadband more available and affordable," Washington Post, 8/6/21

--Luz Lazo, "The infrastructure package puts \$66 billion into rail. It could power the biggest expansion in Amtrak's 50-year history: The funding would help rebuild the Northeast

**Corridor, but is also a path to bringing service to new cities and towns nationwide,” Washington Post, 11/9/21**

**--Scott Calvert, “States Draw Up Their Infrastructure Wish Lists,” WSJ, 9/20/21, A3**

**--Paul Kiernan, “Infrastructure Spending Brings Delayed Gains,” WSJ, 8/9/21, A4. “The bipartisan infrastructure bill is unlikely to have a big impact on growth in the next few years, economists say. Longer term, though, investments in highways, ports and broadband could make the economy more efficient and productive.”**

**--“Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill will boost competitiveness for decades to come,” Economist, 11/13/21, page 34.**

**--Tanya Snyder, “Biden’s incredible shrinking infrastructure plan: Inflation has already shaved billions in value off Democrats’ biggest legislative achievement, just seven months after it was signed into law,” Politico, 6/17/22**

**“Democrats have another infrastructure problem: The landmark bipartisan bill is popular with voters, but recent polling shows the vast majority of them don’t even know it’s now a law,” Politico, 7/22/22**

#### **CITES FOR MILITARY JUSTICE OVERHAUL 2021:**

**--Lindsay Wise & Nancy A. Youssef, “Support Is Wide for Military Justice Bill,” WSJ, 8/14/21, A4. “A sweeping overhaul of the military-justice system has earned the backing of 61 senators from both parties, clearing a critical threshold needed to advance the legislation after years of resistance from the Pentagon.”**

**--Catie Edmondson, “House Races to Pass Bill for Defense After Deal,” NYT, 12/8/21, A16. “contains a painstakingly negotiated compromise to strip military commanders of authority over sexual assault cases and other many other serious crimes, placing them under independent military prosecutors in a move that had long been opposed by military leaders and presidents.”**

**--Lindsay Wise, “Defense-Policy Bill Passes in the Senate,” WSJ, 12/16/21, A4. “historic changes to the military-justice system.”**

**--Karoun Demirjian, “Reforms, review of Afghanistan war included,” BGlobe, 12/16/21, A2. “The bill contains several historic measures, including provisions to move prosecutions of sexual assault and related crimes involving military personnel outside their chain of command...”**

**--Ellie Kaufman & Annie Grayer, “House passes bill authorizing \$770 billion in Pentagon funding the setting Defense policy,” CNN, 12/19/21. “Each service will now have an Office of the Special Trial Counsel to handle prosecution of those crimes, including sexual assault, that will report to each service secretary.”**

**--Glenn Thrush, “Biden Ratifies Defense Bill, in Blow to Antiwar Liberals,” NYT, 12/28/21, A10. On the military justice reform: Those provisions “‘are the most transformative thing that has been done by the House Armed Services Committee in my 25 years of service,’ said Representative Adam Smith, Democrat of Washington and chairman of the committee.”**

#### **CITES FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES 2021:**

**--Luke Broadwater, “U.S. Pushes Bill to Hasten Visa Process for Afghans,” NYT, 6/30/21, A6**

--Luke Broadwater, "American Lawmakers Rush to Provide Visas for Afghans Who Assisted U.S. Forces: Interpreters, drivers and other allies face Taliban retaliation," NYT, 6/19/21, A7  
--Ellen Knickmeyer, "House votes to evacuate Afghan allies: U.S. withdrawal of troop nears Sept. 11 deadline," BGlobe, 7/23/21, A5  
--Lindsay Wise, "Congress Passes Measure to Boost Capitol Security, Aid Refugees," WSJ, 7/30/21, A4  
--Luke Broadwater & Emily Cochrane, "\$2.1 Billion for Security and Afghans Is Approved," NYT, 7/30/21, A10. "including the addition of more than \$1.1 billion for Afghan refugees."

#### **CITES FOR INFLATION REDUCTION ACT 2022:**

--Tony Romm, "Manchin says he has reached deal with Democrats on economy, climate bill," DCPost, 7/27/22  
--Emily Cochrane, Jim Tankersley & Lisa Friedman, "Manchin, in Shift, Supports Climate and Tax Measures; Package Includes Lower Health Costs—Democrats Aim to Ease Inflation," NYT, 7/28/22, A1, A13  
--Jess Gidgood & Tal Kopan, "With Manchin on board, spotlight turns to Sinema; Arizona Democrat hasn't said if she'll back climate deal," BGlobe, 7/29/22, A1, A5  
--Tony Romm & Jeff Stein, "The two-week scramble that saved Democrats' climate agenda; Inside the private talks and public pressure that led to a deal between Joe Manchin and Charles Schumer," DCPost, 7/30/22  
--Brad Plumer & Lisa Friedman, "Turning Manchin's No to Yes Helped Fossil Fuel Industry and His State," NYT, 8/1/22, 16  
--Andrew Duehren, "Democrats, Sinema Agree to Move Forward on Bill: Majority Leader Schumer said the changes would keep the measure on track," WSJ, 8/3/22, A4  
--Emily Cochrane, "'It's a Gun to Your Head': Liberals Grit Teeth to Back Senate Deal," NYT, 8/6/22, A15  
--Sheryl Gay Stolberg & Rebecca Robbins, "Democrats Near Longtime Goal of Cutting Cost of Prescriptions; Limits on Out-of-Pocket Prices for 1.4 Million People on Medicare," NYT, 8/6/22, A1, A15  
--Alan Rappeport, "Democrats are Proposing a Major Shift in the Way U.S. Corporations Are Taxed," NYT, 8/7/22, 23. A new corporate minimum tax.  
--Andrew Duehren & Siobhan Hughes, "Senate Passes Climate, Health Measure: Party-line approval for key parts of Biden's agenda sets up House vote later in the week," 8/8/22, A1, A4  
--Burgess Everett & Marianne Levine, "The Sinema-Manchin split that shaped Dems' deal; The West Virginia centrist spent months with Chuck Schumer molding Democrats party-line agenda. In the final hours, he had to accept several of his Arizona colleague's demands," Politico, 8/8/22  
--Emily Cochrane, "Path of a Shrunken Bill: From Grand Ideals to Compromise," NYT, 8/9/22, A15  
--Nina Lakhani, "Landmark US climate bill will do more harm than good, groups say: Bill makes concessions to the fossil fuel industry as frontline community groups call on Biden to declare climate emergency," Guardian, 8/9/22

--Jan Puzzanghera, "Inflation Reduction Act may be a misnomer; Little immediate impact on rate, although it'll have other economic effects, analysts say," *BGlobe*, 8/11/22, A1, A6

--Jonathan Bernstein, "How the Democrats' Big Bill Finally Succeeded; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi deserves credit, as do party participants who eventually put climate front and center," *Bloomberg*, 8/12/22

--Siobhan Hughes, "House Passes Climate, Healthcare Bill: The party-line 220-207 vote sends measure to President Biden, in a win for Democrats," *WSJ*, 8/13-14, 22, A6

--Jim Tankersley, "Biden Signs Bill on Taxes and Climate; New Law Falls Short of Uplifting Workers," *NYT*, 8/17/22, A1, A17

--Francesca Paris et al., "A Closer Look at What's Inside the Inflation Reduction Act," *NYT*, 8/17/22, A16

--Andrew Restuccia, "Health, Climate, Tax Bill Signed; Legislation, smaller than earlier versions, is major win for Biden, but now he has to sell it," *WSJ*, 8/17/22, A4

--Zack Colman, "'We've been sold out': Enviro justice advocates slam Biden's climate compromise; Even members of one of the president's advisory councils say communities burdened by pollution are being shortchanged by Democrats' grandest achievement on climate change," *Politico*, 8/18/22

#### **CITES FOR POST OFFICE OVERHAUL 2022:**

--Emily Cochrane, "Lawmakers Vote to Avert Postal Insolvency; though popular, the service regularly fails to turn a profit," *NYT*, 2/9/22, A13

--Siobhan Hughes, "Senate Clears Postal Service Overhaul," *WSJ*, 3/9/22, A4

--Jacob Bogage, "Senate passes \$107 billion overhaul of USPS, lauding mail agency's role in pandemic response: Biden is expected to sign the Postal Service Reform Act, a cornerstone of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's controversial 10-year restructuring plan," *DCP*, 3/9/22

--Siobhan Hughes, Paul Ziobro & Lindsey Wise, "Postal Service Bill Took a Long Route," *WSJ*, 3/4/22, A4

#### **CITES FOR UKRAINE AID 2022:**

--Siobhan Hughes & Teresa Mettela, "Senate Passes Spending Package; Vote on omnibus bill is 68-31 as \$13.6 billion in Ukraine aid unifies both sides of the aisle," *WSJ*, 3/11/22, A4.

--Catie Edmondson & Emily Cochrane, "U.S. Sending Billions to Kyiv, With Little Debate: Both Sides in Congress Expanding Spending on Wartime Support," *NYT*, 5/11/22, A1, A10. "The House on Tuesday night passed a \$40 billion military and humanitarian aid package for Ukraine in an overwhelming 368 to 57 vote, weeks after lawmakers overwhelmingly approved \$13.6 billion in emergency aid for the war effort."

--Emily Cochrane, "Spending Bill Is Approved, With More Aid for Ukraine and a Patch to the Budget," *NYT*, 10/1/22, A17. "The budget included a third tranche of aid to Ukraine for its battle with Russia, on top of a total of about \$54 billion approved earlier this year."

--Michael Crowley, "Congress Approves \$44 Billion for Ukraine," *NYT*, 12/21/22, A12. "The new wave of aid for Ukraine—billions more than President Biden requested in mid-November...." "....U.S. aid to Kyiv since Russia invaded in February will amount to more than \$100 billion, allocated over four emergency spending packages."

#### **CITES FOR GUN CONTROL 2022:**

- Emily Cochrane & Annie Karni, "Senators Agree on Framework for Gun Safety; Rare Bipartisan Deal; Narrow Set of Measures Secures the Backing of 10 Republicans," NYT, 6/13/22, A1, A15**
- Carl Hulse, "Gun Deal Is Less than Democrats Wanted, but More Than Expected," NYT, 6/14/22, A13**
- Burgess Everett & Marianne Levine, "How a centrist, a liberal and 2 conservatives achieved a 4-part harmony on guns," Politico, 6/15/22**
- Annie Karni, "Within Work on Bipartisan Gun Legislation, a Political Divide; Republicans say a bill is limited; Democrats call it 'significant,'" NYT, 6/16, 22, A20**
- Annie Karni, "Senate Passes Bipartisan Gun Bill After a Decades-Long Impasse," NYT, 6/24/22, A16, "a small group of Republicans joined Democrats to break through their party's longstanding blockade of gun safety measures and shatter nearly three decades of congressional paralysis on toughening the nation's gun laws," NYT, 6/24/22, A16**
- Eliza Collins, Siobhan Hughes & Teresa Mettela, "Senate Passes Measure on Firearms," WSJ, 6/24/22, A6. "most sweeping firearms legislation in decades."**
- Burgess Everett & Marianne Levine, "'Unwilling to Accept Defeat,': How Sinema and Murphy clinched guns deal for Dems; They're not party leaders and they don't chair committees. But their tenacity and chemistry ended up sealing an unexpected bipartisan victory," Politico, 6/24/22**
- Sarah Ferris & Jordain Carney, "House sends bipartisan gun safety bill to Biden; The vast majority of House Republicans opposed the bill. The final vote was 234-193," Politico, 6/24/22**
- Gabriel Debenedetti, "How 4 Senators Finally Got Bipartisan Gun Control Done," msn.com, 6/25/22**
- Annie Karni & Emily Cochrane, "Four Weeks of Fraught Talk That at Last Broke Impasse on New Gun Legislation," NYT, 6/25/22, A19**
- Emily Cochrane & Zolan Kanno-Youngs, "Biden Signs Bipartisan Gun Bill, Ending Years of Stalemate in Congress," NYT, 6/16/22, 23**

#### **CITES FOR SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS 2022:**

- "Congress is set to make a down-payment on innovation," Economist, 6/5/21, 25**
- Thomas Franck, "Senate passes \$250 billion bipartisan tech and manufacturing bill aimed at countering China," CNBC, 6/9/21**
- John D. McKinnon, Natalie Andrews & Yuka Hayashi, "Competitiveness Bill Faces Hurdles After House Passage," WSJ, 2/5-6/22, A4**
- Asa Fitch, "Congress Gridlock Stalls Chip Plans," WSJ, 7/18/22, B1**
- Siobhan Hughes, "Lawmakers to Move Forward on Chip Bill; Congress looks to pass measure to boost semiconductor makers, lower drug costs," WSJ, 7/25/22, A4**
- John D. McKinnon & Natalie Andrews, "Senate Advances Chip, Tech Bill," WSJ, 7/27/22, A5**
- Catie Edmondson, "In Bid to Counter China, Senate Passes a Sweeping Industrial Bill; Bipartisan Vote Tries to Bolster Chip Making," NYT, 7/28/22, A1, A19**
- Daniel Flatley & Erik Wasson, "Chipmakers Get \$52 Billion in Senate Bill in Big Win for Biden," Bloomberg, 7/27/22**



--"New Chips Act Could Become a \$280 Billion Boondoggle; Without added reforms and careful oversight, Congress's gift to the semiconductor industry could make things worse," Bloomberg, 8/2/22

--Zolan Kanno-Youngs, "Biden Signs Bill to Bolster U.S. Computer Chip Industry; An effort to counter Beijing and galvanize the Democratic base," NYT, 8/10/22, A15

#### **CITES FOR VETERANS' BENEFITS 2022:**

--Stephanie Lai, "Senate Votes to Approve Bill Offering Benefits to Veterans Who Were Exposed to Toxins," NYT, 8/3/22, A19. "a new entitlement program."

--Lindsay Wise & Ben Kesling, "Senate Passes Veterans Health Measure," WSJ, 8/3/22. "the largest expansion of veteran healthcare benefits in decades."

--Any B. Wang, Matt Viser & Paul Kane, "Biden signs bill to aid burn pit victims; Cites son's death as 'Pact Act' becomes law," BGlobe, 8/11/22, A7

--John Ismay, "Why a Law Was Enacted to Aid Post-9/11 Veterans; Hundreds of Thousands Became Ill," NYT, 8/12/22, A15

--Michael D. Shear, "Bill Signed to Help Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits; A 'Sacred Obligation' and a Personal Issue for President Biden," 8/12/22, A12

#### **CITES FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE 2022:**

--Amy B. Wang, "Senate advances bill to protect same-sex marriage in federal law; Democrats have warned that marriage equality and other rights could be at risk after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade," DCPost, 11/16/22

--Katy Stech Ferek, "Same-Sex Marriage Bill Takes Key Step," WSJ, 11/17/22, A1, A7

--Katy Stech Ferek, "Senate Passes Same-Sex Marriage Bill," WSJ, 11/30/22, A5

--Annie Karni, "Marriage Bill Clears Senate and Heads to Likely Approval in the House," NYT, 11/30/22, A11

--Liz Goodwin, "How a bipartisan group of senators got same-sex marriage protections passed: A group of Democrats and Republicans, led by Sen. Tammy Baldwin, spent months working to get 12 Republicans onboard with the legislation," DCPost, 11/30/22

--Jarrell Dillard, "Same-Sex Marriage Bill Passes House, Goes to Biden for Signature; Measure requires states to honor same-sex marriage licenses; Senate revised bill to include religious liberty provisions," Bloomberg, 12/8/22

--Katy Stech Ferek, "Same-Sex Marriage Bill Goes to Biden," WSJ, 12/9/22, A4

--Annie Karni, "Congress Passes a Bill to Protect Marriage Rights; Same-Sex Measure, Once Thought Dead, Received Bipartisan Support," NYT, 12/9/22, A1, A15

--Michael D. Shear, "Biden Signs Bill to Protect Same-Sex Marriage," NYT, 12/14/22, A15

#### **CITES FOR ELECTORAL COUNT ACT:**

--Blake Hounshell & Leah Askarinam, "The 135-Year-Old Act Jeopardizing Democracy," NYT, 2/8/22, A13

--"Preventing Another Jan. 6: The best fix for the Electoral Count Act is take Congress out of it," WSJ editorial, 2/17/22, A16

--Carl Hulse, "Bipartisan Support Grows for Overhauling the Rules on Tallying Electoral Votes," NYT, 8/4/22, A17

**--Carl Hulse, "In Response to Riot, House Passes Revamp of Electoral Count," NYT, 9/22/22, A18**

**--Amy B. Wang & Liz Goodwin, "Senate passes Electoral Count Act overhaul in response to Jan. 6 attack," DCPost, 12/22/22**

**--Carl Hulse, "Voting Flaw Exposed by Jan 6. Spurred Senators: Urgent Need to Act Led to Electoral Revamp," NYT, 12/23/22, A1, A16**