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Senate

The Senate met at 10:02 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, the fountain of wisdom and strength, we praise You for the gift of this day. You sustain us with the strength we need to fulfill Your purposes for such a time as this. Lead our lawmakers to new levels of wisdom, providing them with faith for their perplexities, insights for their decisions, and light for the path ahead.

Lord, use our Senators this day as instruments of Your powerful providence. Replenish the wells of their spirit with Your peace that passes understanding. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline Your ears to us and give us Your peace.

We pray in Your faithful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY). The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. today. During that period of time, Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Following morning business, the Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m., to allow for weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 p.m. the Senate will proceed to rollcall votes on confirmation of the Baran and Burns nominations, followed by several voice votes on executive nominations.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. today be under the control of the majority and the time from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. be under the control of the Republicans.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A FLAWED APPROACH

Mr. President, the 18th century French philosopher Voltaire once said:

One day everything will be well, that is our hope. Everything's fine today, that is our illusion.

There is no better portrayal of the Republican Party's flawed approach to governance than what Voltaire said. Senate Republicans deceive themselves by thinking their obstruction is good for the Nation, that the status quo is helping American families. Meanwhile, the Republicans are out stumping and promising the American people that if they just put Republicans in charge, everything will be better. What are those promises based on? Certainly not recent history.

Let's take a look at what Republicans in this body have done for American families: Republicans have blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act not once, not twice, not even three times but four times, thereby preventing American women from receiving a fair wage for their work. Remember, this is simply making it possible for a woman who does the exact same work as a man to get paid the exact same amount of money. Republicans have blocked legislation to prevent companies from denying their workers specific health benefits, including birth control, as required by Federal law.

Republicans also blocked a bill allowing Americans with student debt to refinance their loans at lower interest rates. The student loan debt stands at $1.3 trillion. It is higher than credit card debt. It is higher than any other debt.

Republicans rejected an increase in the minimum wage, essentially relegating millions of hard-working

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Americans to poverty. Republicans even refused to give unemployment benefits to the very long-term unemployed. Republicans rejected the Bring Jobs Home Act which would end the absurd practice of American workers bankrolling the outsourcing of their very own jobs.

Republicans even filibustered an extension of tax credits that help American families. The Republicans have repeatedly refused to pass commonsense immigration reform that keeps families together, spurs the economy, and reduces our national debt by $1 trillion. Let's not forget, Republicans in Congress shut down the Federal Government. Too often Republicans have rebuffed Democrats' attempts to give American families a fair shot. Republicans must know their obstruction is hurting our country. The Republicans must know the status quo is not working.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NAVY YARD TRAGEDY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 1 year ago today, just a few blocks from here, a lone gunman slipped into the Navy Yard and tragically took 12 lives. It was one of the deadliest such attacks on a U.S. military base in American history. We have not forgotten those who fell that day in Building 197, and all of us in the Senate send our condolences to their families and everyone who loved them. They are not forgotten.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, the Democrats who run Washington have had almost 6 years to fix the economy. They have already tried just about everything their ideology will allow to fix it. They raised taxes on everything from lifesaving medical devices to personal medical expenses. They have piled up record debt and shoveled billions in subsidies to the well connected, and they have empowered bureaucrats to cancel health care plans for the middle class, declared war on the jobs of vulnerable Kentucky families and—through EPA's Waters of the United States proposed rule—they are trying to regulate every last pond and ditch in our country. None of this has worked.

According to a recent Gallup survey, a solid majority of Americans believes the economy is actually getting worse, not better. Let's not forget that for several years the Democrats had supermajority control of Washington, could have passed anything they wanted, and all too often they did.

Since then, a Republican-led House of Representatives has tried to advance solutions on its own by passing dozens of jobs bills—many with strong bipartisan support over in the House. But the Democratic majority in the Senate simply refuses to take them up, and it is hard to understand why. It is hard to know if today's Washington Democratic Party is blinded by ideology or if they are so obsessed with the never-ending campaign that they cannot be bothered to govern.

Whatever the reason, the simple truth is this: Washington Democrats had a choice between helping the middle class and bowing to campaign pollsters and the left. It is obvious whom they chose.

The American people are worried about ISIL and the continuing threat of terrorism. They see a humanitarian crisis at the border. Many struggle every month to pay the bills. Millions still can't find work.

How do Democrats respond? They bring up a bill that would take an eraser to the First Amendment. So the hard left is clearly in the driver's seat on the other side. That is clear every time the Democratic majority ignores the concerns of our constituents to turn to yet another one of their so-called messaging bills, such as the recent one on eroding free speech, and it is truly a shame. That is not why the American people sent us.

It is long past time for Democrats to drop all the designed-to-fail bills and turn to serious job-creation ideas instead. There are literally dozens of House-passed jobs bills on the majority leader's desk. Why not pick up some of them and pass them. Let's get them to the President. Let's work together on a serious energy policy. Let's join hands to erase the strain on working moms and dads. Let's work toward sensible health care reform that doesn't hurt the middle class as ObamaCare does. Let's help college graduates find full-time work and start marching toward the careers they have always dreamed of. That is just a start.

If the Democratic Party is truly interested in getting serious, they should look at the many commonsense policy ideas advocated by Senators on my side of the aisle.

NLRB REFORM

Mr. President, my friend the senior Senator from Tennessee has always been a strong advocate for smart reform policies. He will discuss another one of those in just a moment. It is a bill that would go a long way toward remedying a serious problem that has been caused by the politics-at-all-cost mentality I have just described.

Here is the issue: Everybody is familiar with the President's unconstitutional effort to pack the National Labor Relations Board with liberal partisans back in early 2012. Some people are also familiar with the NLRB's more recent effort to undermine secret ballots for union elections, allow labor bosses access to sensitive employee information without their consent, and prevent companies from building factories in States with laws the President's picks don't like.

The NLRB is trying to destroy the franchisee model that has allowed so many Americans to own and operate their own businesses. They want to take away independence from small business men and women—such as decisions on whom to hire, how much to pay them, and how to run their business—and put it in the hands of corporate bosses. The so-called joint employer standard is all about politics and appeasing the left.

Big Labor bosses want it because it helps them expand and acquire more dues at the cost of small business owners who employ so many Americans. This is simply not right. For many in the middle class franchising represents a ticket to the dream of opening their own business. For many it may be their only chance to live that dream.

This is how one single mom and second-generation franchisee put it:

> To have my franchiser take over greater control of my daily operations would not only change my relationship with them, but it would ruin the dream of small business ownership for many hardworking Americans.

This is what a hotel franchise in Lexington had to say:

> My family came to the United States in search of the American dream and we found it as hoteliers and franchisees. The current franchise model has been instrumental in providing my family and me with opportunities for entrepreneurship and the ability to employ over 300 hardworking Kentuckians.

But this Kentuckian warned that this action by the NLRB could end his independence as a small business owner by ceding decisions to a far-off corporate headquarters. The NLRB action could have ''devastating impacts on my ability to create jobs, grow my businesses and support my community,'' he said.

Extreme, politically motivated proposals such as these hurt our constituents.

It is time to restore the balance to the National Labor Relations Board. Let's take the politics out of it. That is just what the legislation of my friend from Tennessee seeks to do. I will let him explain it, but here is the key: It would restore the NLRB to its proper role as an umpire instead of an advocate for the right or the left. It is the kind of thing our constituents want to see us doing—standing up for reform and against entrenched political interests.

I am asking our Democratic friends to please shelve the designed-to-fail playbook and work with Republicans on a designed-to-succeed agenda instead. Six years of failure is quite enough.

EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Today President Obama will visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to announce new efforts to contain the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. The U.S. Africa Command will stand up a Joint Force Command in Monrovia, Liberia, to provide command and control of U.S. military activities and help coordinate international relief efforts. Current estimates are that 3,000 military personnel will establish an intermediate staging base for supplies and equipment, set up a training site to prepare 500 health care workers per week to provide medical care to patients, and stand up a

field Defense Department hospital to care for any of our health care workers who become ill. Also contributing to our national reaction to this epidemic is the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The CDC has deployed personnel to Africa, and the National Institute of Health is developing an investigational Ebola vaccine. CDC is also working with Customs and Border Patrol to identify travelers showing any signs of infectious disease.

I support these efforts to contain the Ebola epidemic and know we will monitor this humanitarian crisis in the weeks ahead.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Tennessee.

EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, before discussing the legislation involving the National Labor Relations Board which the Republican leader mentioned, I wish to align myself with his comments on the Ebola epidemic. In my view, he is right to support the President's effort for a more urgent response to this epidemic.

I am not given to making overstatements—I think that would be a fair reputation in this body—but I believe we should treat the Ebola epidemic as seriously as we treat the danger of ISIS. Why would I say that? Because the head of the Centers for Disease Control and our United Nations Ambassador, who is working with other countries to get them involved, say this: This is one of the most deadly, explosive epidemics in modern times. It moves rapidly. There is no vaccine, and there is no cure. One sick person can fairly quickly infect 20 other persons within a family in these West African countries where it is now a problem. One can see how quickly this could spread and become hundreds of thousands of cases or even millions of cases.

This is a case where Samantha Power said to me: We should be running toward burning flames with our fireproof suits on. In other words, we know how to control it. We know how to identify sick people and isolate them and treat them. Even though half of them die, we know how to do that. But the rate of growth of this epidemic is so rapid that we need to have a response that is as urgent as the problem.

I congratulate the Republican leader for supporting the President's effort today to call attention to this. So much is happening in the world, and there is a possibility that we would treat the Ebola epidemic as an important issue but not a major issue. As I said, I believe we must take the deadly, dangerous threat of Ebola as seriously as we take the threat of ISIS.

I support the administration's recommendation to spend $30 million in the continuing resolution to upgrade the public health efforts there. I support the reprogramming of $500 million to involve the military in a way to deal with this. I support the effort to spend $58 million, which would be to fast track efforts to develop a treatment and cure, as well as vaccines to prevent it.

NLRB REFORM

Mr. President, the Republican leader spoke about legislation he and I are introducing today which we call the National Labor Relations Board Reform Act.

(The remarks of Senator ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 2814 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have great respect for the Senator from Tennessee, having worked together on many issues, as politicians often throw those words around. He is a good person, a good Senator. I enjoy working with him. I do have to take exception to one thing, though.

EQUAL PAY

Mr. DURBIN. Yesterday we had a vote on a labor issue. This was a vote as to whether men and women in the workplace working the same jobs get the same pay. Most people would say: Well, isn't that the law already? Yes.

Unfortunately, the law as written in 1963 with the Equal Pay Act isn't working very well. In a lot of workplaces women are paid less. In the State of Illinois, it is about 75 cents for every dollar paid to a man for most women unless you happen to be an African man and then it is 65 cents, or Hispanic, it is 65 cents. The actual working relationships in many businesses discriminate against women.

We offered a bill yesterday to the Equal Pay Act brought to the floor by Senator MIKULSKI of Maryland and Senator BOXER of California. We asked if we could now revisit the Equal Pay Act to make sure it is enforceable and that it works so that literally if my son or my daughter ended up with the same job and the same workplace and the same work record, they would get the same pay. Not a radical idea by any measure. That was what we brought up for a vote yesterday.

I took a look at the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to refresh my memory and talked with the staff. Not one Republican Senator would vote for that bill—not one. There were 52 votes in favor of moving forward on this bill. All of them were from the Democratic side.

So when I listen to these calls for reform when it comes to labor laws and bipartisanship when it comes to labor laws, my obvious question to my friends on the other side of the aisle is: Where were you yesterday? We had a chance here on the floor of the Senate to do something on a bipartisan basis for pay equity, equal pay for men and women in the workplace.

This is not the first time we faced this issue. Lilly Ledbetter became somewhat legendary in America. This lady, whom I had the privilege to meet a few times, had a tough job. She worked at a tire manufacturing facility in Alabama. She worked hard for a long time. As she was nearing retirement, someone went up to her and said: Lilly, you have been a manager around here a lot of years, but they are paying you a heck of a lot less than the men who have the same job in this plant. She didn't quit.

They don't publish the wages of all coworkers so that you would know this. She was upset about it. She spent all those years working there and she was being discriminated against because she was a woman. She filed a lawsuit, as she was entitled to under the law, saying that this was discriminatory and she was entitled to back pay for this discrimination.

The Supreme Court, right across the street, threw out the lawsuit and said she didn't report this discrimination in a timely fashion. She didn't report that she was being paid less within a certain number of months, and her response was: How would I even know that? I don't know what that man who was the manager next to me is being paid any more than he knows what I am being paid.

That is what the Supreme Court decided.

The first bill that was signed into law by President Obama, the Lilly Ledbetter Act, said that Lilly Ledbetter and people like her at a future time would be allowed to sue for back wages if they were discriminated against.

Very few, if any, Republicans supported this. When I hear speeches on the floor about reforming labor laws and the workplace laws in America, let's do it in a bipartisan fashion. When it got down to the real basics, S. 2199 yesterday, not a single Republican would join us, not one. I would think they would feel as we do. It is only fair. It is only fair that if you are in the workplace doing the same job, you get the same pay. Unfortunately, not one of them would. So when they call for reforming the National Labor Relations Board and they call for bipartisanship, I think it should start right here when it comes to legislation that comes before the Senate.

I also listened to the Republican Senate leader come to the floor today and talk about the state of our economy. I wonder sometimes if Members of the Senate, who are entitled to their own opinions, should also be entitled to their own facts because what the Senator from Kentucky failed to note was

the economy which President Obama inherited when he took office in January 2009. It was in sad shape.

What a contrast from 8 years before when President Bill Clinton left office in January of 2001, 14 years ago. We had gone through a period of 4 straight years of Federal budget surplus. A Democratic President, 4 straight years of Federal budget surplus, and President Clinton left to the new President, George W. Bush, a surplus in the next year's budget of $120 billion, if my memory serves me.

The last time that happened, 4 straight years of surplus, had been 40 years before. So here is Democratic President Clinton leaving office to President George W. Bush with a string of surpluses in the budget that we hadn't seen for four decades.

In addition, President Clinton was taking the surplus and investing it in Social Security so that it was stronger than it had been in years because of the surpluses.

During the period of the Clinton Presidency, 23 million new jobs were created in this country. Eight years, 23 million jobs, and government spending was still growing each year. Yet there were surpluses, job creation, and economic growth in the 8-year period of time.

When President Clinton left office, the national debt that had been accumulated over the entire history of the United States totaled $5 trillion. That was January of 2001. He handed that economy and that budget to President George W. Bush.

Now fast forward 8 years. What did President George W. Bush hand to new President Barack Obama? One of the weakest economies America had seen since the Great Depression. The month President Obama took the oath of office in January of 2009, when he put his hand on the same Bible Abraham Lincoln used when he was sworn in as President, that month we lost nearly 800,000 jobs in America. That previous year, private employers had shed more than 4 million jobs. We know what happened to savings and retirement accounts. They were devastated by that recession. The economy was shrinking.

In just 8 years, President George W. Bush took one of the strongest, fastest growing economies in American history and, sadly, turned it into an economic recession. How did he do it? Tax breaks for wealthy people and wars that were not paid for. Those were the two things that drove us from a $5 trillion debt when President Clinton left office—cumulative debt in the history of America.

When President George W. Bush left office, handing it over to President Obama, the national debt had broken $5 trillion to $12 trillion. It more than doubled in the 8-year period of time. So President Obama had a challenge. Get the economy back on its feet.

Right now, Public Television has a series on the Roosevelts. I have enjoyed it because Ken Burns is one of the best. He is telling the story of Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt.

We remember what happened when Franklin Roosevelt came to office at the end of 1932 and the beginning of 1933, facing the Great Depression in America. He said: We have to get America back to work. That is what President Obama says. The stimulus package. Let's get back to work here. Let's put people earning paychecks into a position where they can save their homes and keep their families together and rebuild the economy. He got almost no help from the other side of the aisle.

Remember the automobile industry. Remember what was happening in the automobile industry when President Obama took over office from President Bush. It was flat on its back. Two major companies, Chrysler and General Motors, were facing bankruptcy and even the prospect of going out of business.

President Obama said: We cannot let this happen. There are too many good-paying jobs across America. He stepped in and helped by loaning money to these automobile companies to get back on their feet.

Just last week I had some auto dealers from the Chicagoland area come to see me in my office. One said, Do you know what happened? We were selling about 9 million cars when the recession hit. Now we are back on our feet. We are up to 16 million a year. The automobile industry is coming back strong.

I look at Illinois and I can see it in Belvidere where the Fiat Chrysler plant is working three shifts. I see it at the Ford plant on the South Side of Chicago. They are working three shifts as well.

President Obama said: Let's get back to work. Let's save the auto industry. He did. Now they come to the floor and say: You know, it just hasn't been fast enough.

When it came to the stimulus package, we had little or no support from the other side of the aisle. When it came to rebuilding my State of Illinois and across the country, it was resistance.

Then comes the issue of health insurance. I want to say a word about that. I have voted for the Affordable Care Act. It may be one of the most important votes ever cast.

I did it for personal reasons because I personally experienced with my family a moment when we had no health insurance.

My wife and I got married very young. I was still in law school. God sent us a baby. She had some medical issues. We had no health insurance. I was going to school here at Georgetown Law School. I would leave class, pick up my wife and baby and go to the charity ward at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC.

We were sitting in there with a number in my hand waiting to see who would walk through that door to be the doctor to save my baby's life. I had no health insurance. I have never felt more helpless as a husband and father than at that moment.

I believe today, as I did then, that should never happen to any family. I believe this great Nation should provide basic health care for everyone living in this great Nation. That is why I voted for the Affordable Care Act.

What has happened since? Eight million Americans are now insured under the Affordable Care Act. We have seen an 8-percent decline in uninsured people in my home State and many States.

One of the most successful States when it comes to the Affordable Care Act happens to be the Commonwealth of Kentucky which the Republican Senate leader represents.

They have signed up in substantial numbers. Hundreds of thousands of people in his State now have health insurance because the Affordable Care Act, which some characterize in a friendly or derogatory way as ObamaCare, has worked.

What has it meant in Illinois? Some 640,000 people in Illinois now have insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. In a State of about 13 million people, that is a substantial number, and 400,000 of them were low-wage workers who had no benefits in their job and now qualify for Medicaid. They have health insurance.

I met one of them, Rich Romanowski. What a perfect Chicago name, right? Rich, a big barrel-chested Polish guy, is a musician. He has done part-time work all his life and he never had health insurance. Now he is in his sixties. Rich came to one of our press conferences, smacked his wallet, and said: I have a card in my wallet that says I have health insurance for the first time in my life.

He is not the only one. He is one of 400,000 in my State, which means when they get sick and go to the hospital, their bills are not passed on to the rest of us, to all the people with insurance, to those who use Medicare. They have their own insurance now, and it means they are going to be healthier.

I think of Judy. Judy works in Southern Illinois. She works in one of the motels that I stay in there, and she is a hospitality lady. When people go for breakfast, she is the one greeting us and showing us where to sit down. Judy is about 62 years old, a hard-working Southern Illinois lady and one of the sweetest people we would ever want to meet. Judy got health insurance for the first time because of the Affordable Care Act, and it is a good thing she did because she has just been diagnosed with diabetes. She needs good care because diabetes, if not treated right, can lead to serious complications: blindness, amputations. Judy has that health insurance.

Remember when the government shut down last year, Senator CRUZ of Texas came and read Dr. Seuss books to us. I came to the floor and said to him: You tell us you are shutting down

the government to protest the Affordable Care Act. Well, what do you say about Judy? Judy, who has worked in Southern Illinois all her life, has no health insurance, needs it, and is now going to get it under Medicaid. Are you going to tell me we are going to do away with this law now and take away her health insurance? What would you say to her?

Senator CRUZ said on the record on the Senate floor: Judy needs to get a better job.

I think many times folks in the Senate need to get the heck out of the Capitol, get out, meet the rest of America, and come to understand they are working hard every day, they are not getting paid a whole lot of money, and basic health insurance is beyond their reach, beyond their grasp. Well, the Affordable Care Act changed that, and we are not going back.

The House has voted over 50 times to repeal that law, and I say that as long as Barack Obama is President, that is not going to work. He is not going to let them do it. I am going to stand with him because I happen to be one of those persons who had a member of my family with a preexisting condition—the situation with my daughter.

I know the kind of discrimination that people with preexisting conditions used to face before the Affordable Care Act. We are not going back to those days. This Senator and this President for sure, we are going to fight all the way to make sure that health insurance is there for those who are struggling in their work and there for families that would otherwise not have a chance.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. DURBIN. I spent much of my time over the August recess visiting college campuses and talking to current students and graduates about their student debt.

I visited Northern Illinois University in De Kalb, Judson University in Elgin, and Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

With an estimated 1.7 million Illinoisans holding a combined $47 billion in student loan debt, it is no wonder that it was on the minds of nearly everyone I spoke with. On average, Illinois graduates of the Class of 2012 left with $28,028 in debt—but individual debt is often much higher. I have had students contact me who have upwards of $100,000 in debt and no chance to ever pay it off.

For too many young Illinoisans, and students across the country, the opportunity for a fair shot at an affordable college education has become a long shot. They do the right thing—they go to school to get ahead but end up with so much debt that it becomes impossible for them to ever pay it back let alone get ahead.

I recently met Jessica Ibares at NIU. Jessica graduated from Northern Illinois and is now working as a financial aid counselor.

How about that? She helps others figure out how to pay for their education, but struggles paying for her own.

She holds almost $40,000 in Federal student loan debt that she'll have to start repaying in November. Working at a public institution, she makes a modest salary and will only be able to pay about $50 a month on her loan—which may not even cover the interest.

How will she ever start repaying the principal? Jessica will find it difficult to get out of the debt she's in—and she went to a good, public school.

DAWN THOMPSON

Imagine what students who went to predatory for-profit schools face.

I recently met Dawn Thompson in Springfield. She is a 48 year old single mother of two.

Dawn thought she was doing the right thing getting a paralegal degree from Everest College online. That is right, Everest College—one of the subsidiaries of the failed Corinthian Colleges chain.

This disgraced company was caught falsifying job placement rates and collapsed under the ensuing scrutiny. In the meantime, they left thousands of students in financial ruin with no real education to show for it, all the while making money hand over fist off of taxpayers.

Dawn could never find a job in her field with her degree from Everest. She was over $100,000 in student loan debt, both Federal and private loans, and working a minimum wage job as a bank teller. Dawn tried to file for bankruptcy in 2013 and, you guessed it, her student loans were not dischargeable—one of the only debts that is not.

At that point, she felt like her only option was to go back to school to hopefully improve her chances of getting a good-paying job and to defer her loans. Unfortunately, she went back to Everest—she started her Master's in business administration at Everest. Regardless of what happens with Everest as they end their reign of fraud, Dawn is likely to be stuck with her $100,000 plus student loan bill.

Perhaps the only thing more sickening than Dawn's story, is that it's not unique. While the schools I visited were different, the borrower's personal backgrounds varied, and the amount they owed unique—the refrain over and over from these Illinois students was the same: ''Senator, Washington has to help us.''

My guess is that my colleagues heard the same thing from some of the 40 million Americans in their States drowning in more than $1.2 trillion in collective student loan debt.

Well, Democrats have an answer that will help many of these students—it's called the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. It would help an estimated 25 million current borrowers who are struggling to repay their Federal or private student loans refinance into lower federal interest rates—saving the average borrower $2,000 over the life of the loan.

In Illinois, an estimated 1.1 million of the 1.7 million with student debt could lower their interest rates under our bill—nearly two-thirds of all borrowers in my home State.

Here is how it would work. Those with Federal loans could refinance into lower rates—the same rates available to students who took out loans last school year.

Those with private loans—many of which have sky-high interest rates and very few protections for borrowers—could refinance into Federal loans with lower rates and stronger consumer protections.

What's more, our bill is fully paid for.

It assesses a modest tax on millionaires to help borrowers refinance and get back on a path of financial security—this is often referred to as the Buffet Rule.

I am hopeful we will have a chance to vote again on this bill to help student borrowers.

Earlier this summer, this bill was killed by 38 Republicans who voted against even moving to debate it. These Republicans were given a choice—side with working families and students seeking the American Dream or protect millionaires from paying a single penny more in taxes; side with 25 million Americans who could be helped by the bill or 22,000 or so millionaire households who might have to pay more in taxes under the bill.

Sadly, I don't have to tell you who those 38 Republican Senators picked.

Americans across the country are talking about this issue—I have heard them. But, even so, in June, 38 Republicans said: ''The Senate can't talk about it.''

It doesn't seem right to me.

Thankfully, though, there were three Republicans—Senators COLLINS, CORKER, MURKOWSKI—who joined every Democrat to support moving the bill forward.

But if the 38 Republicans who voted ''no'' have another chance, I hope they remember the struggling students and families they talked to back home over the August recess.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

I hope they realize that if we don't give struggling borrowers another option besides default, this student debt will haunt them for the rest of their lives and will have a drag on our economy. It already is. Experts tell us it is stagnating growth in the housing market, preventing business creation, and jeopardizing future retirement security for a generation of young Americans.

CONCLUSION

I hope America's youth are paying close attention to this issue: how their Senators voted on this measure offers them the bare truth. I hope more of my Republican colleagues will join us to move forward this important piece of legislation if we get a chance to vote on it again.

But for now, it shows the stark difference between those Senators who believe hard-working students deserve a fair shot at the American Dream and those who will stand by and do nothing as America's next generation is sentenced to debt.

This afternoon my colleague Senator WARREN is coming to the floor. ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts is a new Senator—and what a terrific addition to the Senate. She is the best. I have known her for years, and I encouraged her to run because I knew she would bring something special to the Senate.

She has done it. She came up with a way for college students and their families to renegotiate student loans. People can renegotiate their auto loans; they can renegotiate the mortgages on their homes. Why shouldn't students, those who have graduated, and their families who face student loan debt be able to renegotiate to a lower interest rate? That is the Warren bill.

She is right. It is a big difference. It would bring down the interest rate on undergraduate loans, I think, to 3.8 percent. I run into students who are trying to pay off loans at 9 percent. Ask anybody who owns a home the difference between a 9-percent mortgage and a 3.8-percent mortgage. They will tell you it is big. When someone makes a payment under a 3.8-percent interest rate, a lot more goes to reduce principal and you finally put that loan to rest after so many years. So Senator WARREN is going to try again. We tried it once before but couldn't get the Republican support. I think we had three—maybe three—who voted with us on the Republican side. Under Senate rules we need 60.

In my State of about 13 million, there are about 1.7 million people carrying student loan debt. They aren't all young people. They include parents who signed up for PLUS loans and even grandparents who wanted to help a grandson or a granddaughter get into college and go forward. They are carrying this debt. If ELIZABETH WARREN's bill passes to renegotiate college loans, it is going to save them—on average—$2,000 apiece and give them a chance to reduce and retire that loan at an earlier stage.

There is an interesting phenomena going on in Chicago now. I talked to some younger friends of mine and they said: If you have an apartment for rent in Chicago, and it is a good one, get there fast and sign up quickly.

There is a land rush on to rent apartments. Why? Because younger people cannot even consider buying a condo or a little house. Why? Too much student debt. Student debt in America, cumulatively, is greater than credit card debt in America, cumulatively.

More of these students graduating with the debt, paying it off, are making life decisions because of the debt. I have run into it: They studied to be a teacher but ended up with so much debt that they couldn't even consider it and had to take a better-paying job. We lost a good teacher because of student debt.

Students are putting off getting married, putting off going out on their own, buying a car, and, if married, starting a family. I have heard it all. That is what this student debt is all about.

When my colleagues come to the floor and say why don't we do something on a bipartisan basis, I say: This student debt isn't just a debt for Democratic students; it is a debt for all students.

So let's come together when ELIZABETH WARREN makes her unanimous consent request this afternoon and finally do something for a change, for middle income and working families who want their kids to go to school but don't want them so deep in debt that their lives are changed or ruined. That is only reasonable.

If we want to make sure that America continues to be a leader in the world, we need to graduate the very best with the education and training they need to lead our Nation. Some of them are holding back, holding back because of a fear of college debt.

One other thing I will mention, college loans are different than other loans. I studied many years ago back in law school bankruptcy law, and we learn in bankruptcy law that most of the loans you take out in life are dischargeable in bankruptcy, which means if everything fails—you lose your job, you are in a situation where there is a serious pile of medical bills and you can't get back to work—in most cases you can go to bankruptcy court and through a long process those debts will be wiped out and give you a second chance in life. It is not an easy process. It is not something people rush to, but many people have no choice.

If you did that with a college loan, it wouldn't help you a bit. College loans are not dischargeable in bankruptcy. They are with you for a lifetime. That is a sad reality. This is all the more reason to make sure those loans are affordable, all the more reason to support ELIZABETH WARREN when she talks about reducing these interest rates.

FIRST AMENDMENT

The Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, today talked about the vote we had on a constitutional amendment. It was an amendment which didn't get the necessary votes; it needed 67. It didn't get the necessary votes on the Senate floor.

Its sole purpose, offered by Senator UDALL from New Mexico, was to reverse the Citizens United decision. That decision by the Supreme Court basically took off the caps and limits when it came to individuals and corporations putting as much money as they wanted to into the political process. One of my colleagues, Senator KAY HAGAN of North Carolina, by her latest estimate has had more than $20 million of negative ads run against her in her home State—not by her opponent, not even by the North Carolina Republican Party but by these outside interests such as the Koch brothers.

The Koch brothers in the last election cycle spent over $250 million of their own money. They are a bigger deal than most political parties now—these two brothers who are billionaires—and they are putting more money into this system. Sadly, many of the beneficiaries of the Koch brothers are walking behind them on a leash. They are being led around by them because you don't want to cross the Koch brothers.

The amendment of Senator UDALL of New Mexico would have finally given the States the authority to regulate the amount of money that could be spent on campaigns.

It comes to this: If we want mere mortals to run for public office—as opposed to multimillionaires—we have to get this playing field back under the control of the normal people. Maybe we won't have as many television ads to see—and I know how much people enjoy those—but at the end of the day we could still get our message across.

I supported and actually introduced public financing laws. I still stand by them. We would be a better country if we had public financing, took the special interests out of the campaigns, shortened the campaigns, and had actual debates. Those sorts of things would get us back to what the country is all about and maybe start to restore some confidence in Congress, in our political system, and in both political parties—and we are all pretty low at this moment.

So public financing is a right step but not likely to happen soon. Of this approach by Senator UDALL to basically reverse the Citizens United decision, the other side argues it inhibits freedom of speech. Well, there is only so much speech that individuals can claim. The Koch brothers, because of their multimillions—and there are folks on the left, incidentally, spending a lot of money too—left and right—don't deserve to pick up a microphone or have a bigger voice in our political process.

We have a lot of work to do. This week we are going to get down to business on a few things that are essential. I am sorry that yesterday the Republicans wouldn't help us when we wanted to pass pay equity and make sure that women were treated fairly in the workplace. We needed them, and they weren't there.

That is disappointing, but it is an indication of where the two parties are today on that issue. They didn't support our efforts to increase the minimum wage. I support increasing the minimum wage.

They haven't been able to help us when we come up with legislation to deal with college loans, but this afternoon they will have a second chance. I hope ELIZABETH WARREN's bill moves forward and that we end this week on a

positive note for working families and their kids who want to go to school but don't want to be burdened with the debt that is going to change their lives.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FACING CHALLENGES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as we continue with what will likely be the final legislative week before the elections, it is a good time to take a look back at the year and take stock of where we are and what Congress has accomplished.

The House of Representatives, of course, has spent the past year legislating. Members of the House have sent literally hundreds of bills over to the Senate for consideration, including 40 jobs bills, many of which passed with bipartisan support in the House of Representatives.

Even now, in the final week before recessing for election season, the House is taking up two legislative packages, one focused on creating jobs and another focused on lowering the price of gas and groceries. Unfortunately, like so many other House bills, neither of these bills is likely to go anywhere in the Democratic leader's Senate because unlike the House, the Senate has not spent the past year taking up legislation to solve the many challenges facing American families. Instead, Senate Democrats have spent the past year taking up political gimmicks and designed-to-fail messaging bills they hope will win a few votes for them in November.

Back in March—earlier this year—the New York Times reported that Democrats planned to spend the spring and summer on messaging votes ''timed to coincide with campaign-style trips by President Obama.''

The Times went on to say: ''Democrats concede that making new laws is not really the point. Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.'' That is from the New York Times earlier this year, which was laying out and predicting what the Democrats' strategy was going to be for the balance of this year.

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats have followed that playbook pretty exactly. Again and again, Senate Democrats have bypassed serious legislation and chosen to bring up bills designed to win them votes with their far-left base or to smear Republicans in the November elections.

Take last week was an example. After an August recess beset by economic stagnation at home and crises abroad, including, I might add, the murder of two American journalists at the hands of ruthless terrorist group ISIS, you might think Senate Democrats would want to spend our first week back focused on the challenges our Nation is facing.

Well, Mr. President, you would be wrong. Instead of legislation to address some of these challenges, Democrats chose to kick off this brief 2-week session with a bill to erase many of the speech protections of the First Amendment. That is right. Faced with crises abroad and a sluggish economy here at home, Democrats thought the most appropriate use of our time last week was legislation to erase parts of the First Amendment.

As with so many of the other bills they have brought up this year, Democrats knew this legislation did not have a chance of passing in the Senate. But they chose to bring it up anyway because they thought it might help get portions of their base out in November. And they swiftly followed it up with another designed-to-fail piece of legislation they hoped to use to criticize Republicans. In fact, the newspaper Roll Call reported earlier this week—this is from a story written about the Democrats' strategy: ''Republicans should prepare to be criticized regardless of how they vote'' on this particular bill. The article went on to quote an email that was sent to Democratic communicators which outlined plans, and again I quote, ''to slam Republicans for either blocking the bill once again or for letting us on the bill only to slow down the rest of the Senate.''

So basically the message to Democratic communicators around here on Capitol Hill was to slam Republicans no matter how they voted. If they voted to get on the bill, slam them for slowing down the Senate so we cannot do other things. If they voted against getting on the bill, obviously, attack them for blocking the bill.

So here is the strategy, at this late hour of the game when we have so many big issues and challenges facing the country: It is simply to put bills on the floor that are designed to help Democrats in the fall elections and essentially to make Republicans look bad. That is a quote. That is a direct quote from an email that was sent out to Democratic communicators: ''slam Republicans'' no matter how they vote. Either way, take advantage of the situation. Try and play politics with it.

There is certainly a place for campaigning. There is certainly a place for politics. But the place for campaigning is not in the halls of Congress. Our job here in Washington is to pass legislation to address the challenges facing our country. And that job does not change if one party controls the House and the other party controls the Senate. The Senate and the House still have a responsibility to work together to get serious legislation to the President, and that is certainly what the House has tried to do.

The House has sent bill after bill to the Senate, many of them, as I mentioned earlier, bipartisan bills. They got strong bipartisan votes coming out of the House of Representatives. But again and again, Senate Democrat leaders have said no—no to working together, no to bipartisan House legislation, no to developing bipartisan solutions.

Senate Republicans' efforts have met a similar response. Again and again Republicans here in the Senate have put forward legislation to help create jobs, grow the economy, and to provide help to working families struggling with the high price of everything—from groceries to health care. Several of our bills have even received support from rank-and-file Democrats—bills such as Senator COLLINS' Forty Hours Is Full Time Act, which would fix an ObamaCare provision that is reducing workers' hours and wages, or Senator BLUNT's Hire More Heroes Act, which would give employers an incentive to hire our Nation's veterans.

But the Senate Democratic leadership has refused to consider our proposals.

Senate Republicans have even been prevented from offering amendments to bills that come before the Senate. Since July of 2013, Senate Republicans have been allowed just 14 amendment votes—less than one a month in the world's greatest deliberative body known for unlimited debate and unlimited amendment. Less than one amendment per month, that is what Senate Republicans have been allowed in the last year. Compare that to the House of Representatives where the Democrat minority has been allowed 194 amendment votes over the same period.

When the minority party is denied a voice in the Senate, it is the American people—the people whom we represent—who are really being denied a voice.

Democrats may not control the House, but through the amendment process, they have been able to make their constituents' voices heard. Republicans in the Senate, on the other hand, have been prevented from bringing their constituents' voices to the legislative process.

American families are struggling. The economy continues to stagnate. Unemployment is still above 6 percent—way higher than that if you figure in the labor participation rate the number of people who have actually given up even looking for work.

Last month's job creation was the worst this year, and opportunities for advancement in this economy are few and far between. Health care costs, which were already high when the President took office, have continued to increase. Average health care deductibles have increased 50 percent, and health care premiums have risen by an average of $3,459 since the President took office, despite—despite—the President's promise that his health care law would drive down premiums by $2,500. Gas prices have increased by

87 percent over the course of the Obama administration.

A Politico poll released this week found that ''strong majorities now say that they lack the savings to grapple with an unforeseen job loss''—61 percent of the people in the poll said that—''and that the cost of basic household items like gas and groceries has strained their finances. . . .''—62 percent of the people polled had that response.

It is not surprising that a recent George Washington University/Battleground poll found that 70 percent of Americans think the country is ''on the wrong track.''

With these challenges facing the American people, our focus in the Senate this year should have been legislation to address our struggling economy and to repair the damage ObamaCare is doing to families and businesses. Instead, Senate Democrats have chosen to focus the Senate's efforts on politics. The Democrat-led Senate has failed in its most basic responsibility this year; and that is to pass solutions for the American people.

With just a few days left in the session, it is a little late for Democrats to do anything about that now.

I hope that when we return in November things will be different. I hope Democrats will spend less time trying to save their jobs and more time trying to create jobs for the American people. I hope they will spend less time campaigning and more time legislating. I hope they will be ready to work with Republicans to deliver solutions for the American people.

That is what we are here to do. That is what we ought to be focused on. All this using the floor of the Senate to conduct campaigns doesn't serve any constructive purpose when it comes to solving problems and meeting the challenges being faced by the American people every single day—chronic high employment, a sluggish economy, reduced take-home pay, higher costs for health care, groceries, fuel, college education, we go right down the list. These are the real and present impacts of this economy on the American people and middle-class families.

Congress can do better. The American people deserve better. I hope when the dust settles and the smoke clears from the November elections, we will come back with a renewed sense of purpose and focus on what is truly important to the people we represent.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

SPENDING AND DEBT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as we consider this continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government in fiscal year 2015, which begins October 1, I rise to voice concern about our Nation's spending and debt. At last count our country was more than $17 trillion in debt, and that number increases every single day.

My parents told me you shouldn't just complain, you should have solutions, and I am going to talk about two solutions.

One is the Penny Plan, which would cut 1 cent out of every dollar we currently spend and, according to the Congressional Budget Office, balance the budget in just 3 years. If we continued it for another 7 years, we would reduce spending by $7.6 trillion.

Another solution would be to do biennial budgeting. We obviously don't have time to look through the budget—we keep doing continuing resolutions and then we do an omnibus bill. We are supposed to do those through 12 separate bills—12 separate bills that get debated not just in committee but on the floor of the Senate with amendments. It has been a long time since we have done that. So biennial budgeting would allow us to get into this nerve center of spending and get something done.

For fiscal year 2014, we expect to pay $231 billion in interest on the national debt according to the Congressional Budget Office. With our pattern of unsustainable spending, in 10 years we could pay close to $800 billion in interest. That is not counting the interest rate going up. Now, $231 billion this year at 1 percent is about what we are paying, but imagine if that went to 5 percent. That would put us over $1 trillion. That is what we are talking about spending in this continuing resolution, and if we are doing it all on interest, that eliminates defense and all the other things we put our money into. That is more to our creditors than we currently spend on national defense.

Our future interest payments would be even higher if interest goes up more than CBO has predicted. The interest we pay on our debt doesn't buy anything. A large portion of that just pays other countries for loaning us money.

The Federal Government consistently spends billions more than it takes in, and the CBO reported in August that if current laws remain unchanged, growing budget deficits over the long term will push the debt even higher. Yet today we are considering legislation to continue discretionary funding on autopilot.

The continuing resolution funds Federal programs through December 11, 2014, at the current annual rate of $1.012 trillion. We will not have any debate. We will have an up-or-down vote and spend another $1 trillion. The legislation does nothing to address the CBO projection that our ratio of public debt to gross domestic product—that is everything our economy earns in the United States—will reach 74 percent by the end of this fiscal year, twice that of just 7 years ago and higher than any year since 1950.

We are doing nothing to reverse CBO's projection that in 25 years Federal debt held by our constituents will exceed 100 percent of gross domestic product—again, everything we produce in the United States in 1 year. The CBO notes that this trend, which I view as perilous, cannot be sustained indefinitely.

I ask my Senate colleagues what would happen if we as individuals adopted the same spending habits held by the government. I can tell them with little doubt that over the long term we would each face bankruptcy, and that is the point. Sometimes it seems we have our heads buried in the sand. Are we in denial? Sometimes we act as if there are different sets of principles for the Federal budget and the outcome of excessive personal spending. But I am here to tell you, the same potentially dire consequences face the government that face individuals if we do not put our fiscal house in order.

Our President often frames issues in the context of how it would affect his daughters. Similar to the President, at times I am up at night with concerns about how our country's fiscal path will affect the lives of my children and grandchildren. I worry about how our debt will harm families and generations to come.

Sometimes as lawmakers we seem to act as if this problem is too big to solve, but it is not. Understanding how to reach and maintain financial health is not rocket science. It merely requires exercising common sense and commitment.

As individuals we learn to live within our means. If we spend too much, we tighten our belts and we work hard to ease our financial situation. The government should and could do the same. We can't wait longer. It is time for us to act.

I have introduced the Penny Plan as a simple and straightforward way to put our country back on the right fiscal path. It reduces discretionary and mandatory spending, less net interest payments, by 1 percent—or 1 penny for every dollar—for each year of 3 years until total spending has reached approximately 18 percent of gross domestic product. Based on figures from the CBO, reducing spending this way will result in a balanced budget within 3 years. Total spending would then be capped at 18 percent for subsequent years since that is the historic average level of government spending for the past several decades.

Importantly, the Penny Plan steers us away from some of the controversial and political traps we have seen for spending reductions. At the onset, it does not identify the specific cuts that are necessary to achieve this 1-percent reduction in savings. Instead, such decisions are left for us to make. Its beauty is it puts a broad plan into action and gives flexibility.

I have had a lot of grassroots interest in this. I have had a number of organizations that have done resolutions. I have a lot of individuals who have signed up on my Web site as cosponsors of the action that is needed to be taken. I encourage people to go to my Web site and become a part of this movement to show there is interest in balancing the budget and in paying down the debt.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of one of the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ONE PERCENT SPENDING REDUCTION ACT OF 2014

Whereas, the U.S. National debt currently exceeds $17.5 trillion and continues to grow;

Whereas, the estimated population of the United States is 318,360,075, so each citizen's share of this debt is $55,037.88.

Whereas, the National Debt has continued to increase an average of $2.38 billion per day since September 30, 2012.

Whereas, the ''One Percent Spending Reduction Act of 2014'' reduces discretionary and mandatory spending (less interest payments) by 1 percent each year for 3 years until total spending has reached approximately 18 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office reports that reduced spending in this fashion would result in a balanced budget in FY2017.

Whereas, total spending would then be capped at 18 percent of GDP for FY2018 and subsequent fiscal years.

Whereas, over a 10-year budget window, the bill would cut spending by about $7.6 trillion from currently projected levels.

Whereas, the bill amends the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to make it out of order in both chambers to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that includes any provision that would cause the most recently reported, current spending limit to be exceeded.

Whereas, the ''One Percent Spending Reduction Act of 2014'' is also referred to as the Penny Plan.

Whereas, upon passage by Congress and signature from the President of the United States, the Penny Plan would be effective in FY2015 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Whereas, the Penny Plan would quickly halt the nation's debt spiral and set our country on a fiscally responsible path.

Therefore, the Board of Directors of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming supports the One Percent Spending Reduction Act of 2014, on this 20th day, August 2014.

Mr. ENZI. Another step we can take to stop the autopilot spending path we are on, passing the CRs year after year, is to enact my Biennial Appropriations Act. The legislation we are considering illustrates once again why we need to pass my bill.

In less than 1 month the new Federal fiscal year begins. Yet once again we have not passed a single one of the 12 appropriations bills for the 2015 fiscal year which starts October 1. Our answer? Another short-term continuing resolution. What will come after that? One big omnibus bill put together by a couple people in the backroom and we will get to vote yes or no on it.

That is not responsible spending. We have to be able to look at the items in the bill. A short-term continuing resolution is not the way the government should operate, nor does it meet the expectations of those who sent us to Washington to represent them. It is no wonder our approval rating is sinking perpetually lower.

Congress should debate each individual spending bill. It should vote on amendments and it should pass all 12 separate spending bills.

However, the last time we passed all the appropriations bills separately before the start of the fiscal year was 20 years ago, in 1994. That is a pretty poor record, especially since that is the main responsibility we are charged with overseeing spending for the United States. We ought to be starting on the spending bills April 15, right after the budget is required to be finished—which also doesn't get finished by then—and considering each of those until we have resolution on each of them. We could easily have that done before October 1.

When we don't follow that regular order, we can't adequately consider the detail including a line-by-line look at individual programs and an analysis of appropriate funding levels and duplication in government. Inevitably, we get the types of agreements reached in January in which Congress is given one chance to vote on $1.1 trillion, up or down, with no amendments.

It is time for this chronic and debilitating pattern to stop. We have to start legislating and stop deal-making. My biennial appropriations bill would allow for each of the appropriations bills to be taken up over a 2-year period. That gives us a little more time to do it. It would also give the agencies 2 years' worth of time to use that money the most efficient way possible, instead of having to worry each year and then not receive the money until late.

The six most controversial bills—the six that are the toughest—we take up right after an election. The six that are the easiest we take up just before the election. That way we can get through both of them in some detail and not have to worry about the election. The Defense appropriations bill, however, would be taken up each year. Another one of our main charges is to ensure the defense of our country, and this would allow us to scrutinize the spending details and eliminate duplication and waste there as well.

Biennial budgeting is an idea both parties have endorsed.

In 2000, former OMB Director, now-Treasury Secretary, Jack Lew told the House Rules Committee that the budget process took so much time that there wasn't as much time to devote to making programs better. He said: ''I think biennial budgeting, if it is properly designed, could very much help alleviate these pressures.''

I think anybody who observes our appropriations process would agree we need to do something different. If we keep on doing what we have always been doing, we are going to keep on getting what we have, which is an omnibus bill of $1.1 trillion with little scrutiny. We can't keep doing that. Let's move our budget and appropriations process into the 21st century, providing the prudent oversight and judgment of our budget and appropriations while at the same time guaranteeing a more secure future for the generations to come.

We need to pass the Penny Plan and biennial budgeting, get our spending under control, and change our legislative process to where we actually make decisions on how government tax dollars are being spent.

As I have said before, one of the reasons government expands is we have this rule of RIFing people, which is, if someone is the last person hired, they are the first person fired.

Consequently, as soon as someone gets a government job, it is very important for them to expand their workload, because if they can expand their workload, they can show they need an assistant. Once they have an assistant on board, they are not the first one fired. I attribute a lot of the reports produced as a means to expand work so somebody has something to do so they can get an assistant. We can't keep doing that. That leads to duplication.

I hope we will pay attention to the Penny Plan and the biennial budgeting process. I will be giving more details on that as we go along.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

(The remarks of Senator SANDERS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2832 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, thank you very much. With that, I would yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, last week the House of Representatives voted for the 53rd time to repeal or undermine all of—or aspects of—the Affordable Care Act. This is beginning to sound like a broken record. I was in the House of Representatives for a period of time, so I had the privilege to vote on 30 or 40 of those different pieces of legislation.

Republicans, of course, shut down the government a year ago because of their pique over the health care law. There are those who still have a desire to shut down the government again.

The other day one of our colleagues said they were hopeful that among the

Republicans priorities—should they increase their numbers in the Senate this fall—would be, once again, to repeal the health care bill. It is a story we have heard over and over despite an absolutely overwhelming array of data points which tell us only one story, and that is that the Affordable Care Act is working.

I don't deny that my colleagues can come down to the floor of the Senate or House and tell stories of people who have had poor interactions with the health care system. In fact, some people have had poor interactions with the Affordable Care Act. But those are stories. Data and information tell us something fundamentally different.

At the very least, I am glad that our Republican colleagues say they are still focused on this very vague idea of repeal and replace. But here is the problem: We have had 53 votes in the House of Representatives to repeal the law and not a single vote to replace it with anything of any substance. So it is one thing to just say you want to replace the health care law, and it is another to actually put together a plan to do it.

I wish to credit three of our Republican colleagues in the Senate. They are the only ones who have outlined an alternative. It is only an 8-page summary, but it is important for people to know what it would do. It would allow insurance companies to go back to their old ways of imposing annual limits on coverage, charge women more than men, provide little coverage for individuals with preexisting conditions, and effectively charge millions of Americans more by capping the tax exclusion for health care benefits. It is just an 8-page summary, but it is not pointing the way to a better health care reality for thousands of Americans.

Frankly, Republicans are not listening to what the American people are telling us. Over and over polls tell us that the American people don't want this law repealed. They want changes and so do Democrats and Republicans, but they don't want to repeal it.

A recent poll from Bloomberg, which I think is the most recent on this subject, found that two-thirds of Americans want the new law to either be left alone entirely or given the chance to work with small improvements. That is the reality of where people are in this country.

Why is there growing support for the law, and why is there diminishing support for repeal? Well, because 10.3 million uninsured Americans—as outlined by the New England Journal of Medicine—now have insurance thanks to this law. The uninsurance rate among 18-to 64-year-olds, which is our target audience, fell from 21 percent in September of 2013 to 16 percent in April of 2014. I will say that again. In a 6-month period of time, the uninsurance rate in this country dropped by 5 percentage points. That is an absolutely stunning achievement, and there is only one reason for it—the Affordable Care Act. The people who have this insurance are using it.

According to the Commonwealth Fund, nearly 2 in 3 newly covered consumers who went to the doctor or filled a prescription said they would not have been able to afford or access those services if it were not for the new coverage.

In a moment I will talk about what is happening when it comes to rates and health care expenditures. But the theory of the case is this: If you get people insurance, they are going to use it for preventable coverage rather than wait until their illness is so serious that they go to the emergency room, which would require much more expensive interventions. It is bad for them, and it is bad for the taxpayers and ratepayers as well.

We are seeing record low rates of increase in health care spending. Premiums—probably for the first time in my lifetime—are stable from year to year, and that is because the theory of the case is actually working out in practice. People are getting insurance, using preventive coverage, not getting as sick, and as a result health care is costing less.

The Kaiser Family Foundation said that in the 16 major cities they surveyed, families will pay less on average to enroll in a health care exchange in 2015 than they did in 2014. I don't mean they will have a premium increase in 2015. They will actually pay less. The cost of the plan in the exchange will be less in real dollars than they were in 2014.

I will talk about Connecticut in a second. We are an example of that trend line.

It is not just the exchange that has stabilized. Employer-sponsored coverage has stabilized as well.

I get it. There are outliers here. There are examples where health care insurers are still passing along big increases to employers. So the information I am giving is the average across the country. There are always outliers on the high side—but also on the low side.

Kaiser's study also says that the average premium for family coverage through employer-sponsored coverage care increased by 3 percent in 2014, tying 2010 for the slowest rate of increase on record for employer-sponsored premiums. That is the reality of what is happening. More people have coverage, and the growth of health care spending is at a historic low. Medicare's 2019 budget is about $95 billion less than it was projected to be 4 years ago.

We are saving $100 billion a year on just Medicare alone, and that is on top of all the money that is being saved through relatively low rates of increase on exchanges. That $100 billion—just to give you some perspective, because I know it is hard to get your head wrapped around what it means to save $100 billion—is greater than the total amount of money we spend as a country on unemployment insurance, welfare programs, and Amtrak combined. It is a lot of money to save as a government.

The quality is getting better too—because that is what this is really about. It is about delivering a better quality of life and a longer life expectancy to consumers. Hospital readmissions—you go in for a surgery, you go back home, and then you have to come back in—are dropping like a stone. Hospital-acquired infections—one of the leading causes of death in this country—are dropping precipitously. Costs are getting lower, more people have insurance, and the quality is getting better.

Here is the Connecticut story. We have dropped the overall insurance rate in the country by about 25 percent—unbelievable news over the course of 6 months. Connecticut is double that. We cut our insurance rate in half in Connecticut. We are a small State with 3.5 million people and had about 285,000 uninsured individuals. Connecticut has taken the 250,000 people and put them into either the Medicaid expansion or the private health care exchanges and a little more than half of those people were previously uninsured.

A lot of my friends on the other side of the aisle say: That is great, but those numbers are illusory because over time people aren't going to pay those premiums; they are just going to drop off the plans. Well, here is Connecticut's experience: 80,000 people signed up for private plans on the health care exchanges, and 78,000 are still paying their premiums about 4 to 6 months in. Everybody is still paying their premiums. And we know why. Because it is largely affordable and because people need that health care.

People love the exchange and their interaction with the new plan in Connecticut. Tomorrow the Connecticut exchange will release data showing that about 83 percent of people who went through the exchange to buy private health care were satisfied with their experience. Of those who went through the program to get Medicaid expansion, over 90 percent were satisfied as well.

We are saving money. Medicaid in Connecticut is 2 percent lower this year than it was last year. We have cut our uninsured rate by half. We are spending less as a government. People are satisfied with it. Rates are stable.

Here are the three plans in Connecticut that submitted rate increases on the exchange, and, at least for our biggest insurer, they are also going to be the rates of increase outside the exchange. Our biggest insurer, Anthem, which is our Blue Cross Blue Shield: Rates are going down by an average of .1 percent. ConnectiCare is raising its rates by 3.1 percent. Our other insurer on the exchange, Healthy Connecticut, is reducing its rates by 8.5 percent.

Republicans have kind of moved the ball on this a little bit. They now say the way we judge a successful ACA is that health care rates go down from

year to year—not that we are controlling the rate of increase but that the Affordable Care Act isn't succeeding unless rates are going down. I heard my colleague from Wyoming make this claim about Connecticut a few weeks ago in which I was talking about rates going up by 1 percent and the claim was made: Well, that is not good enough.

People have been used to 10-, 15-, 20-, 30-percent increases in premiums in Connecticut. They are pretty happy with a .1-percent reduction. Frankly, they are pretty happy with a 3.1-percent increase. That is because of the Affordable Care Act.

So there is all the data. There it is. That is just the tip of the iceberg. Costs are going down, more people have insurance, and quality is getting better. It seems as though we open the paper every week and there is some new piece of good information.

I get it. This needs to be better. This needs to be perfected. The law still has warts. The Senator sitting in the Presiding Officer's chair is leading the fight to make this law work even better for people. I look forward to being involved in that conversation. But that is where the conversation should be—perfection, not repeal. And we are reminded again that if Republicans were to win control of this body, at the top of their agenda would be this same old fight—53 different votes in the House of Representatives over the past several years—to repeal the law without any real tangible plan to improve it.

This morning I met with a good friend of mine whom I have spoken about on this floor before, but because she is here in town I wish to speak about her one more time, and that is Betty Berger. Betty is here with the American Cancer Society. We will see them all over the Hill today in their light-blue shirts. Betty is arguing for a lot of things to happen here, with research funding increases at the top of the list, but she is also here to make a very personal case to protect the Affordable Care Act.

Years ago Betty's family was faced with a terrible choice when her son was diagnosed with cancer. In the 1-week period of time her family didn't have health care insurance—her husband had one job and he switched jobs—in the 1-week period of time between when he went from the first job to the second job, the diagnosis of cancer came down and it became a preexisting condition not covered by the new employer. Betty's family was left to pay for their son's cancer treatments on their own. They eventually lost their home, they lost their savings, and they had to declare bankruptcy.

Unfortunately, Betty's story is pretty familiar. Half of all bankruptcies in this country are due to stories very similar to Betty's. A mistimed illness at a point where the family didn't have insurance results in them losing everything.

The reality is that the Affordable Care Act makes sure that Betty's story never has to be told again, that no family ever has to make the choice between declaring bankruptcy, saving their home, protecting their savings, or choosing to care for a loved one.

Let's talk about making this bill better, but let's recognize that the data, the numbers tell only one story; that is, the Affordable Care Act is working.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, as Republicans have come to the floor week after week ever since the President's health care law was passed. I have many concerns about the way this health care law is impacting families in my home State of Wyoming as well as families all across the country. In one State after another, people are feeling the devastating side effects of the health care law.

President Obama says Democrats who voted for the health care law should, as he said, ''forcefully defend and be proud of the law.''

I heard earlier today the Kaiser Family Foundation's report being quoted. What they said is that premiums have gone up, on average, $3,500 from 2009 for family workplace coverage, plus the deductibles are higher. So premiums are up $3,500 since 2009 for family workplace coverage, and the deductibles are higher—higher money paid out-of-pocket.

The President of the United States said they would go down by $2,500 per family. NANCY PELOSI said they would go down for everyone. She was the Speaker of the House. She was the one who said: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it. Americans have found out what is in it, and they don't like it. People do not like what they see with the President's health care law. It continues to be very unpopular.

So I ask, is the President really proud that families all across the country are suffering because of his health care law and the many dangerous side effects they are now having to live with?

Let's look around the country a little bit and see what the new headlines are bringing, and there are new headlines every day. In Virginia a television station in Charlottesville, WVIR, reported on what is happening there. Last Wednesday they had a report which said that ''nearly a quarter million Virginians will have to change their insurance plans this fall.'' The President said: If you like what you have, you can keep it. Not in Virginia. A quarter of a million Virginians will have to change their insurance plans this fall. It is because the plans don't include all of a very long list of things Washington mandates have to be offered.

Even if a person had an insurance plan that worked well for their family, that met their needs, the President and Democrats in this body say: Sorry, you can't keep it. The President said: If you like your plan, you can keep it. What happened there? At least 27 Democrats stood on the floor of the Senate and said: If you like what you have, you can keep it. If you like your plan, you can keep your plan. That is what they said. What happened? Was this intentionally to deceive the American people? Why are nearly a quarter of a million Virginians losing their insurance plan?

The head of the Virginia Association of Health Plans says it is simple. He told the TV station: ''We're not allowed to offer those plans anymore.'' The President said they could, and now these people are being told by the law they are not allowed to even offer the plans to people who want to buy them because it works for them.

Are the Democrats in the Senate willing to forcefully defend the fact that 250,000 people in Virginia will have to buy new plans that they don't want, don't need, and many can't afford, with all of these additional provisions Washington says have to be included? To me, that is a very expensive and unnecessary side effect of the President's health care law.

But it is not just people's health care plans. People are concerned about keeping their doctors and keeping their hospitals that they go to in their own communities. Let's take a look at what happened in Connecticut, in a report that came out. Hartford Courant: ''Five Connecticut Hospitals Could Leave Anthem's Network on October 1.'' What about the people who go to those hospitals and get their health care coverage that way? What are those people supposed so do? The President said: If you like your plan, you can keep your plan. If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your hospital, you can keep your hospital. These people may be losing their hospital come October 1.

Here is another side effect of the law that is hitting middle-class Americans and their wallets. It is the part of the law that says the workweek is no longer 40 hours. Now it is just 30 hours. That is what the law says. People who are working part time have had their hours cut to below 30 hours, and they are getting lower take-home pay. I hear about this in Wyoming. I hear it from school district workers, from folks who have had their hours cut, who are having to get by with less pay because if they have their hours cut, their take-home pay goes down. It is another destructive side effect of this health care law.

It is not just Wyoming; it is happening all around the country. In Louisiana there was a report by KNOE television in Monroe last Thursday which said that 400 employees within Lincoln Parish schools—people who work within the school system—are getting their hours cut in half. Four hundred workers, one school district, Louisiana, half

the hours, half the pay. Where did the school board put the blame? They put it directly on the President's health care law. They said they can't afford the Washington-mandated health insurance for all of their workers, so they are cutting back on the hours for substitute teachers, cutting the hours for cafeteria workers, cutting the hours for custodians, for paraprofessionals who work with the kids. Is that what the President envisioned? Is that what the President means when he says ''forcefully defend and be proud''? Cutting back things for children in our schools, is that the President's solution for health care, making it harder for kids to get an education and making it harder for teachers to teach?

One custodian told the paper that it is depressing knowing his pay is about to be cut. He said, ''It's rough the way it is. Why make it harder to survive?'' That is my question to the President of the United States and to Senators on the floor who come to talk about the health care law.

Why make it harder to survive? Why, Mr. President? You said people should forcefully defend and be proud of this law. Are you proud of it, Mr. President? That is what I need to know. That is what the American public wants to know.

Is the President proud that people are getting their hours cut in half specifically because of his law? And school districts are pointing to that as the cause. Is the President proud he is making it harder for Americans to survive?

Now, some people aren't just getting their hours cut; they can't get hired in the first place because of the health care law. That is what one business owner said in an op-ed for the Charlotte Observer newspaper in Charlotte, NC. It ran September 10 and was entitled ''How ObamaCare jams a stick in my company's wheels.'' Rodney Pitts, who runs the Southern Elevator Company in North Carolina, says he wants to hire more elevator mechanics for his business, but he hasn't been able to hire anyone this year. Why? He says the main reason is because of the costs associated with the health care law and all of the requirements of the health care law. He said, ''Thousands of businesses in Charlotte and in North Carolina are in the same holding pattern.''

So people all across the country who want to work won't get that opportunity because businesses can't afford to take on all of the extra costs of the President's health care law. That is an extremely destructive side effect of the law. It is hurting American families.

This health care law is hurting our economy. Every Democrat in the Senate voted for this health care law—every one. Where are the Democrats willing to forcefully defend these alarming side effects of this health care law? Is the President ready to go to North Carolina and talk to this business owner? Is the President going to say he is proud his health care law is keeping the businesses from hiring more people in North Carolina and all across the country?

This isn't the kind of health care reform the American people needed. It is not the kind of health care reform the American people wanted. People didn't want a law that forced them to get rid of the insurance which they had and liked and which worked for them and for their families. They didn't want a law that forced their local schools to cut the hours of custodians and part-time teachers, cafeteria workers, and people who look after their children. That is not how to help people in a community.

These are the tragic side effects of the President's health care law. Republicans are going to continue to talk good patient-centered reforms, reforms that get patients across the country the care they need from a doctor they choose and at a lower cost.

We are going to talk about restoring people's freedom, freedom to buy health insurance that works for them, for their families because they know what works best for them, not President Obama. We are going to talk about giving people choices, not Washington mandates. Republicans are going to keep offering real solutions for better health care without all of these intrusive and intolerable side effects.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN G. BURNS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk reported the nominations of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2015; and Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2019.

VOTE ON BARAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Baran nomination.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time on both sides.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2015?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 265 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden
Harkin	Murray	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Isakson	Scott
Coburn	Johanns	Sessions
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Thune
Corker	Lee	Toomey
Cornyn	Manchin	Vitter
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BURNS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Burns nomination.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, are we on the second nomination in this stack of nominations?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back on this stack of nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2019?

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 266 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Alexander	Hagan	Murphy
Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heller	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Markey	Walsh
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warner
Fischer	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—40

Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Isakson	Scott
Coats	Johanns	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cochran	Kirk	Thune
Corker	Lee	Toomey
Cornyn	McCain	Vitter
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	
Enzi	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF LINDA A. SCHWARTZ TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (POLICY AND PLANNING)

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW T. HARRINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

NOMINATION OF TODD D. ROBINSON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

NOMINATION OF JANE D. HARTLEY TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

NOMINATION OF JANE D. HARTLEY TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO

NOMINATION OF NINA HACHIGIAN TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY

NOMINATION OF GORDON O. TANNER TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Linda A. Schwartz, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Policy and Planning); Matthew T. Harrington, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho; Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala; Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic; Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco; Nina Hachigian, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; and Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

VOTE ON SCHWARTZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Linda A. Schwartz, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Policy and Planning)?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HARRINGTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Matthew T. Harrington, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ROBINSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HARTLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HARTLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HACHIGIAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will

the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Nina Hachigian, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON TANNER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

Under the previous order, the time until 4 p.m. will be controlled by the majority and the time from 4:00 to 5:00 will be controlled by the Republicans.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time for the Democrats be until 4:05 p.m. and the same with Republicans, 5:05 p.m.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am very pleased to join with a number of colleagues today representing all of those in our conference who are deeply concerned about the mound of debt that students incur when they are doing the right thing.

We say: Go to college, work hard, get skills for this new economy, come out so you can be successful. Having done that, too many of them are coming out with mounds of debt—crushing debt—that is stopping them from buying a house, starting a business, and moving forward with their future. There is something that can be done about that, and that is what we are here to talk about and invite our Republican colleagues to join us.

There was a filibuster a number of weeks ago against our student loan debt bill, the bank on students bill. We have an opportunity today to come together, rather than seeing a Republican filibuster, to join in a bipartisan way to provide incredibly important relief to millions of not only young people but older people across the country who are still struggling with student loan debt.

In every generation there are young Americans from middle-class families who have the grades to go to college but not the financial resources. They take out student loans because they know that before they can get the job they want to be able to get a fair shot at the American dream, they have got to have a degree, and that is what they are taught. That is what we all tell our children. That is what I was told as well. What they are looking for is a degree, not debt. Unfortunately, by the time students graduate, they are in fact saddled in today's world with mounds of debt.

To address this problem, Senator WARREN, Senator FRANKEN, and I and many Democratic colleagues have joined to introduce the bank on students emergency loan bill. It would allow responsible borrowers to refinance their loans at lower rates, the rates from last year, the lowest possible rates in place. These are rates that are currently only available to new borrowers. We think everyone ought to have an opportunity to do that. In fact, with lower interest rates, we have seen so many people, including many of us, refinancing their homes, taking advantage of lower interest rates, being able to use lower interest rates in other ways. But students have been prohibited—anyone with a student loan has been prohibited from refinancing. That is plain wrong, and our bill addresses that.

Passing this bill would help more than 25 million Americans. I cannot think of any one single thing we could do that would immediately help 25 million people, including 1 million hard-working people in the State of Michigan.

A mother named Frances from Macomb County outside of Detroit wrote to me on September 6, and she talked about her children. She has two children. Both of them chose jobs that serve the public. One is a teacher and one is a nurse. Because of the loans they took out when they were working hard to get their way through college, their student loan debt now is nearly $100,000—$100,000.

In Michigan, 62 percent of college students have debt when they graduate. The average is about $29,000, although I have talked to people with not only the $100,000 debt I just mentioned but young professionals with $185,000 or $200,000 debt if they have gone to graduate school or medical school or law school, and it can be even higher.

On the other end of the spectrum, there are some Americans who worked all their adult lives and are now retired, and in fact they are on Medicare and they are still paying student loan debt. This is wrong. We need to act to change this.

The total student loan debt in this country right now is $1.2 trillion. That is more than credit card debt—more than credit card debt, $1.2 trillion. If you put it another way, after every one of the 7.2 billion people—men, women, and children in the world—if everybody in the world donated $165 to pay off America's student loan debt, it still wouldn't be quite enough.

This is something with a great sense of urgency to it. This bill needs to pass. We need to pass it now. If this passes, it means parents can save for their children's education, for a home, can start a business, can afford their car, can begin saving for their own retirement instead of just paying off student loan debt. These aren't luxuries, these are basics, basics of the American dream.

Everyone in this Chamber can agree that America isn't strong without a vibrant middle class, and, frankly, it is outrageous that we have allowed this situation to go on where the only way to do the right thing, to get the skills needed to get ahead, is to put yourself in such jeopardy with student loan debt. We can do better than that.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in helping millions of American workers to manage their student loan debt more effectively, saving thousands—tens of thousands—of dollars in interest payments. We can help right now.

This is something where we could jump-start the economy, as the Federal Reserve Chairman said—jump-start the economy right now by passing this bill and being able to lower the cost of student loans.

It is now my great pleasure to turn to a champion not only on this issue but on the broader question of making sure that every American has a fair shot to make it so that we have a strong middle class in this country.

I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin, Ms. BALDWIN.

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

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. It is a delight to join Senator STABENOW on the floor to talk about this critical issue that is a growing crisis here at home in America and threatens Americans' economic strength and competitiveness.

As you have heard, today there is a debt crisis in America. Student loan debt is more than $1.2 trillion, and that is holding back an entire generation and creating a drag on our economy. It is a crisis that demands action from Washington.

Once again, Congress is failing the American people by refusing to work together to confront it. In June the Senate took a vote on the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which I am proud to cosponsor. While it received majority support in this body, a minority of Republicans obstructed the bill and prevented it from moving forward.

The choice was clear, and opponents addressing the student debt crisis chose to protect tax loopholes for millionaires and billionaires instead of helping give students a fair shot at getting ahead and providing relief to middle-class families struggling with student loan debt.

I believe every student in America deserves a fair shot at an affordable education, and I believe college education should be a path to the middle class and not a path to indebtedness.

Nearly 40 million students and graduates in America have outstanding student loans. The total amount of student debt in the United States has tripled in the past decade. According to new data from the Federal Reserve, student loan debt grew by $31 billion from January to March of this year. In my home State of Wisconsin, almost 70 percent of the students graduating from 4-year institutions will have student loan debt and the average debt amount will be $28,000. That is real money. That is real money that isn't going toward buying a car or a first home. It is real money that isn't going into growing our economy at a time when we so desperately need economic growth.

To help give Americans a fair shot at getting out from under that burden of student loan debt, we should let borrowers refinance at today's lower rates. That is why we are pushing for a vote on the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This legislation will allow those with outstanding student loan debt to refinance. It is pretty simple: It is paid for through the Buffett rule by making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share of taxes to give our students a fair shot at a bright future, and it will help strengthen the economic security of the American families who are struggling with this debt.

The Department of Education estimates that 25 million borrowers in the United States could benefit from refinancing under this legislation, including just over half a million Wisconsinites.

I have traveled the State of Wisconsin and listened to students and graduates who are struggling with student loan debt. They shared their concerns and the burdens that the cost of a higher education puts on them and their families. They asked me to bring their stories and their messages to Washington, DC.

One graduate student said she lives with her fiance's parents to save money. Another said her husband borrowed against his 401(k) so that the couple could afford daycare for their children while she attends school. Another woman said she owes about $27,000 in loans. When she tried to buy a $6,500 car, she needed her grandfather to cosign because she would not have been able to get the loan on her own. I heard from a woman in Green Bay, WI, who is strapped with $600-a-month payments for her student loans.

The failure of Washington to hear these voices and take action is holding them back, and it is holding back our economy. This money isn't going to support small local businesses that are working so hard to move our economy forward. That is why we should seize this opportunity today to pass the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. By allowing student loan borrowers to transfer their loans into the Federal program and by closing costly tax loopholes for billionaires and millionaires, we are solving a major economic crisis in a meaningful and effective way. It is the least we can do to address the student loan debt crisis, but it is not all we can do.

Last week I had the opportunity to introduce two bills to help address the larger issue of student debt and college affordability. My legislation targets working students and students enrolled in career and technology education programs. My Working Student Act will allow students who must work while in college to complete their degrees more quickly and with less debt. The new legislation increases the amount working students can earn without that income counting against them in accessing need-based Federal financial aid, including Pell grants.

In addition, some career and technical education students cannot access Federal student aid to help them advance their careers, and that is why I have introduced the Career and Technical Education Opportunity Act. This legislation simply allows CTE students enrolled in short-term programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials to also qualify for Federal student aid. CTE is one of the most effective vehicles to respond quickly to labor market changes and workforce readiness needs of business and industry.

My legislation will help ensure that Federal investments are supporting ''ready-to-work'' education.

One thing is clear: There is a lot more we can do in Washington to give a much needed break to people struggling to build a stronger future for themselves, their families, and for America. I am pleased that in a short while Senator WARREN will call for a vote on this important matter. We have a chance today to make a powerful difference in the lives of millions of students and graduates. Let's do so.

I yield back my time.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, it is now my great pleasure to yield to the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire. I have to say that Senator SHAHEEN's voice has been strong and clear. She has been one of our strongest advocates as far as what we need to do on student loan debt and also making sure middle-class families have a shot to get ahead. We are very pleased to have the Senator from New Hampshire, and I yield 5 minutes.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank Senator STABENOW and Senator BALDWIN.

I am pleased to be on the floor today joining the distinguished Senator from Michigan, Ms. WARREN, Senator FRANKEN, and all the other Senators who will be here to speak on the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. This is a critical piece of legislation, and it will allow eligible borrowers who took out student loans prior to January 1, 2013, to refinance those loans at a lower interest rate. You can refinance a car and you can refinance a mortgage, but you cannot refinance a student loan.

We have heard from literally hundreds of students and residents in New Hampshire who are no longer students but who are trying to pay back loans after years of having to try to pay back the loans and start their lives. Supporting this bill is a commonsense way we can come together to help the millions across this country who are struggling to pay back their student loans. This is especially important to New Hampshire because we rank second in the country in average debt per graduate—almost $33,000 per graduate for student loans. According to recent estimates, almost 130,000 New Hampshire residents could benefit from this bill. These folks need some relief from their student debt burden because it often comes at interest rates that are higher than they pay for a home or a car. It is unacceptable to leave these borrowers struggling with crippling debt when we have an opportunity to address this growing problem.

It is not just for those people who are affected because of their own student loans; this has a ripple effect through our economy. I met with a group of realtors over the summer, and one of the things they talked about was how they are seeing first-time home buyers delay buying a home because of the cost of student loans.

To put this issue into perspective, I wish to talk about some of the people I have met who have been burdened by their student loans.

I first met Calvin, a young soldier from New Hampshire, at Walter Reed Medical Center. He was recovering from losing his leg after stepping on an IED in Afghanistan. He was married and had a young child. We were talking about the challenges he was facing after he recovered from his injuries. What impressed me the most about our conversation—in addition to his commitment to this country—was that the issue he was most concerned about was not losing his leg or where he was going to get a job after he got out of the military, it was how he and his wife were going to pay back their student loans.

Another college graduate—a woman from Durham, NH—wrote to me recently. She has a master's degree and is employed in the public service field. She has been working for 12 years but has not been able to buy a home for her family because she still has $90,000 in student loan debt.

I also heard from a woman in Stratham, NH, who has a $150,000 student loan debt. She consolidated her loan but has a 7-percent interest rate, which accrues nearly $900 per month in interest alone. A lower interest rate would make a critical difference to this woman and her young family.

Those three young people represent thousands—almost 130,000 people across New Hampshire—who would benefit

from refinancing their student loans. This bill is important for New Hampshire, and it is important for the country.

We should take action today for the benefit of all Americans with student loan debt who deserve a fair shot at the American dream and opportunities for themselves and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me. As Senator BALDWIN and Senator STABENOW said, we have an opportunity this afternoon to make a huge step forward in addressing the student loan debt faced by too many Americans. I hope our colleagues will support the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I will yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Minnesota, and as one of the lead sponsors of this bill, I thank Senator FRANKEN for his passion and fight not only for people in Minnesota but for the 25 million people across the country who will benefit from the opportunity to be able to afford to go to college.

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

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I thank the generous Senator from Michigan, and I thank the Senator from New Hampshire for her remarks about the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act.

I have held college affordability roundtables around my State of Minnesota ever since I got to the Senate. It is astounding how hard students work while they are also in college. I remember speaking to the student governing body from MnSCU—the Minnesota colleges and universities student body—and I asked: How many of you work 20 hours a week? They all raised their hands. They were in the governing body. I said: How many of you work 30 hours a week? A few raised their hands. I said: How many of you work 40 hours a week? A couple raised their hands. These students work while going to college.

In Minnesota students graduate with more than $30,000 in student loan debt. We are about fourth in the Nation. I heard Senator SHAHEEN say they are second in the Nation. This bill would help over 550,000 Minnesotans and 25 million Americans cut down their debt and keep more of their hard-earned checks.

A few months ago I had a roundtable at the University of Minnesota, and I met Joelle Stangler. She happened to be the student body president at the University of Minnesota. She was the valedictorian of Rogers High School in Minnesota with a 4.12 GPA. She doesn't lack motivation. Both of Joelle's parents were teachers. In fact, she comes from a long line of educators going back six generations.

You will see why I am telling this story.

A couple of years ago Joelle's mother Cassie Stangler made the tough decision to quit her job as a fifth grade teacher to go to work in the private sector because she could make more money in the private sector. She needed to do this because she had four kids in college. Among the fifth grade classes in Mrs. Stangler's school district, her students showed some of the highest rates of improvement in test scores. This is what I am talking about—we lost a great teacher because of the expense of postsecondary education.

Even with her mom's sacrifice, she has $12,000 in student loans, and she estimates that her total debt will be around $30,000 by the time she graduates.

There are so many students such as Joelle who are drowning in debt in Minnesota and across the country. Student debt totals are over $1.2 trillion, and it is a threat to our economy. We are seeing young people delay decisions to start a business, to start a family, to buy a home, or make other types of purchases that make an economy grow. But there are commonsense solutions, and they are contained in our Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act.

Our bill simply allows students and graduates to take advantage of lower interest rates and refinance their loans. That is what people with mortgages, car loans, and business loans can do. They can take advantage of lower interest rates and refinance their loans, but the government will not refinance student loans, and that is just not right.

In the summer of 2013 we came together in Congress to prevent the interest rate on new student loans from doubling. Thanks to that effort, undergraduate students taking out new loans now pay a lower rate. Our bill would enable students and graduates who are saddled with higher interest rates on their undergraduate loans to refinance at the same lower interest rate. The bill would similarly enable Americans with graduate student loans or PLUS loans to refinance at lower rates.

Student debt is holding Americans back, it is holding back our economy, and that is why we need to pass this bill.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield to the Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield to the distinguished Senator from New York, who not only is a leader on this issue and so many other issues but is the author of a major tax credit in our Tax Code that allows middle-class families to be able to get help for college. There is not a bigger champion for middle-class families than the senior Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague and dear friend from Michigan for the great work she has done as chair and vice chair of the DPCC. We have worked very hard on this ''fair shot'' agenda. We believe it is resonating with the American people.

When our colleagues on the other side of the aisle oppose simple measures such as a fair shot at getting out of poverty if a person works 40 hours a week, a fair shot for a woman to get equal pay to a man, and a fair shot to prevent jobs from being sent overseas to get a tax break, they know what we are talking about. Perhaps no issue resonates more than a fair shot for people to be able to afford college and then repay their loans with a reasonable amount of money.

Probably the greatest problem America faces is the decline of middle-class incomes. They have been declining since 2001. If they continue to decline for another decade, whoa is America, whoa is America.

America has been expanded—has grown to the greatest country in the world on the notion of opportunity. In my harbor sits a lady with a torch. That torch symbolizes the American dream to just about every American and most citizens in the world. What is the American dream? What does that torch symbolize? If we ask the average American, they wouldn't put it in fancy words or highfalutin language. They would say: It means if I work hard, I will be doing better 10 years from now than I am doing today, and my kids will be doing better than I.

Nothing keeps that American dream burning more brightly than the ability to afford a college education.

The bottom line is simple. The statistics show that in our new and technological world, those who have a college education, whether it is an A.A. degree or a B.A. degree or higher, do a lot better economically than everybody else. Amazingly enough, they do better in other ways in terms of how good their health is, in terms of their longevity, in terms of their happiness.

So college, which used to be a rare commodity 100 years ago, is now almost a necessity to millions of Americans. Yet it is so expensive. It is expensive in two ways. First, it is hard to get there. We have been working very hard on the American opportunity tax break, which my friend from Michigan mentioned, reducing the rate of student loans for those who are already in college, and many other ideas we have pursued to try to make college affordable for families who have someone in college or will enter college in future years.

There is another huge problem as well. Those who have been to college have huge amounts of debt and they are paying this government far more interest than would be paid on the market. We can refinance almost everything—mortgages, cars, loans on jewelry—but we cannot refinance college loans the government has given us. So people are paying 6, 7, 8 percent; whereas, if they went to a bank on their own, they would pay less.

How dare the Federal Government make money on the backs of young people who are struggling to pay back their debt. Boy, does it hurt those families. It prevents them from starting

businesses, buying homes, going on vacation, and many delay their marriages. So there could be nothing that would make millions and millions of Americans happier economically. There could be nothing that would help people get a fair shot and a decent education, the ability to repay, than this simple bill put together largely by the Senator from Massachusetts, ELIZABETH WARREN, who has done a great job.

It is hard to figure why our colleagues oppose this. They have some distrust in the Federal Government. In this area we do too. We think the Federal Government is demanding too much money to repay loans. Why don't they join us?

The cost of tuition goes up and up, the cost to repay goes up and up, and the burden on the backs of so many goes up and up.

So all we want is a fair shot for everyone to be able to afford college and to be able to repay. This should have been a bipartisan bill; it is not right now, but maybe there will be a change of heart. I will tell my colleagues this: This will become law, maybe not today but in the next months and next year. It has become an issue in campaigns throughout the country. This is an issue that resonates with voters—Democratic, Independent, Republican, liberal, conservative, North, South, East, and West, and we will keep fighting until every American has a fair shot at affording college and repaying their loans.

With that, I yield back to the Senator from Michigan, who has been kind enough to put together this hour of debate.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank my friend from New York, who has been so passionate on the broad question of how do we have a fair shot as Americans to get ahead and particularly as it relates to affordability and college loan debt.

We are so pleased to have another champion with us from the great State of Maryland. I yield now to Senator CARDIN from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me thank Senator STABENOW for organizing this time to underscore the importance of a fair shot for everyone to afford a college education.

Earlier this month Senator MIKULSKI and I met with students. We met with students from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. We met with students from Bowie State College. We sat around a table and listened to their stories. Bowie State College is one of our historically Black colleges and universities in America with fairly reasonable tuition costs—much lower than most State colleges and certainly a lot lower than private schools. So Senator MIKULSKI and I were shocked to find that the average amount of debt today at a State college such as Bowie is over $27,000 for a graduating senior. That affects their decisions.

We were there during the first week of school and we talked to the president, and the president said he still doesn't know the enrollment this year because there are a lot of students who have preenrolled, but until they have paid their costs, they are not fully enrolled, and a lot aren't fully enrolled because they didn't know how to pay for their costs. We also heard from students who said they showed up for class and several of the students didn't even have textbooks because they couldn't afford to buy their textbooks. Then we heard from students who said: Look, it is difficult enough to afford a 4-year college education, but the average length of time to get a degree was 6 years. Why? Because they have to work in order to pay for part of their schooling to keep their debt down. They couldn't graduate earlier. The courses are only offered certain times of the year, and it took them 6 years to get the required amount.

We have heard the numbers. The amount of student debt outstanding is $1.3 trillion—more than credit card debt. In the United States, of a family's income, it takes maybe half the income to afford a college education. For the rest of the industrialized world, it is between 5 and 10 percent. We can't be competitive with that rate. Education is a great equalizer in this country and we have outpriced ourselves.

We have a chance to do something about it today. I will give one more example, if I might. I was at a 4-year college this year and I was speaking to a student who was a second-year student going into her third year, and she said she was going to drop out. I asked her: Why are you going to drop out? Are you not doing well in school? She said: I get straight A's. I am dropping out because I can't justify to my family taking out more debt, knowing what the interest costs are going to be to my family.

It broke my heart. That is the situation.

We need to have greater budget support for public colleges and universities. We need to increase Pell grants. We need to make Pell grants 12 months a year because some of these courses are only offered in the summertime and that is when students can make it up. Senator HARKIN has a bill in to do that, and we need to do that. There are a lot of steps we need to take, but today we could take a giant step forward with interest costs.

My colleague Senator ELIZABETH WARREN will be making a request. We have a chance to pass this bill today in the Senate that would say it is wrong for the Federal Government to make $66 billion on the interest flow. From 2007 to 2012 the Federal Government made $66 billion on the difference between what they charge in interest and what the cost is to the government. To me, that is the worst tax on the most vulnerable in our community, and we should eliminate that. That is what the Warren bill does.

The bill says let our students refinance their loans. By the way, it is not just young people. There are several million Americans over the age of 50 who have student debt. This is a lifetime burden. Let them refinance so they can take advantage of the lower interest rates and save several thousand dollars doing that. We have a chance to do that today.

I urge my colleagues to allow us to take up this legislation and let's pass it. Let's show the people of this Nation that we want a fair shot for everyone to afford a college education. I am proud to be a part of the Senators who are on the floor urging this to happen. Again, I thank my colleague Senator STABENOW for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues to urge the Senate to take up and pass the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act led by my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator ELIZABETH WARREN.

This is about fairness, it is about values, and it is about what is best for our students and our shared economic future.

Earlier this month Senator WHITEHOUSE and I held a roundtable with Rhode Islanders about student loan debt. Rhode Island ranks in the top five for the amount of debt students incur to earn an undergraduate degree. We heard from a teacher who works a second job to help make his loan payments and a parent who worries how she will be able to help her son pay for college while she is still making loan payments. We heard from Rhode Island realtors about the impact student loan debt is having on the housing market.

This is an issue that strikes home for all of us. Even our Nation's seniors are impacted. GAO recently reported that from 2002 through 2013, the number of individuals whose Social Security benefits were offset to pay student loan debt increased fivefold. Think about it. These are senior citizens who are paying off student loans. Their actual Social Security benefit checks are being affected by student loan debt. That is something I find disturbing and completely unpredictable.

If you would have asked me 2 or 3 or 4 years ago—certainly if you asked me 30 years ago when I was in my thirties or so, I would have said, no, that wouldn't happen. That would have been impossible back then because we had a country that supported students through college. The Pell grant and Stafford loans were such that people had a chance to pay them off rather quickly and then go on to buy a home, establish a family, and then use their resources for their retirement or to help their grandchildren a little bit with their student loans.

When it comes to student loans, we are in this incredible situation. Since 2003, student loan debt has quadrupled to an estimated $1.2 trillion, and the interest rate on undergraduate student loans was 3.86 percent for the last year. Yet many borrowers are locked into loans at 6.8 percent or higher with no way to refinance.

Just last year the GAO estimated that the Federal Government would earn an estimated $66 billion from student loans originated between 2007 and 2012. Again, in the 1950s and certainly in the 1960s—but particularly after the Pell Grants in the 1970s—we were investing in students. They were our future, not profit centers. We are now generating—over a 5-year period—$66 billion. Student loans are supposed to be an investment to help individuals reach their potential and strengthen communities, not just a revenue generator. Approximately 25 million Americans could benefit from refinancing, including 88,000 in Rhode Island. They could lower their monthly payments if they could just refinance their student loans.

One of the ways we have been trying to help is by allowing borrowers with high fixed rates on their student loans to refinance at a lower rate. That is the simple premise behind the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act that I am proud to cosponsor with Senator WARREN and many of my colleagues.

In June the Senate fell just shy of the number of votes needed to move forward on this legislation. Today, once again, the Republicans will block us from taking up this legislation.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will reconsider their opposition because student loans should help people get ahead, not weigh them down with debt, thereby holding them and our economy back.

Looking forward we also need to work together to tackle the drivers of the student loan debt—rapidly rising college costs and a rollback of the State investment in higher education.

We need to get back to the idea that educating Americans is fundamentally in our national interest and that we have a shared responsibility—at the Federal, State, local, institutional, and individual levels—for investing in our future. We need to ensure that this generation and future generations have opportunities to develop their talents and pursue their dreams in order to secure a brighter future for them and our country.

I urge my colleagues to join us in providing student loan debt relief to millions of Americans. Help us pass the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. Help us relieve this burden of debt on so many young, middle-aged, and remarkably so—based on recent studies—some senior citizens.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

Let me stress what I think Senator CARDIN said so eloquently. We have the opportunity to vote today on a fair shot for everybody to go to college, so we will ask our colleagues to join us. The rules of the Senate are such that even though we have a majority—because our caucus is all supporting this effort we have a majority to get this done—if there is an objection, we go into filibuster mode, which takes a supermajority. It is the way the rules are. We know we have a majority to pass this bill. If our colleagues don't want to vote for it, that is fine, but what we ought to be doing is having the vote.

If somebody wants to stand and say this is not important, it is not a priority to make sure everyone has a fair shot to be able to go to college and not be buried in student loan debt, if they want to say they would rather protect those we are asking to help chip in to pay for this, which are millionaires and billionaires who aren't paying their fair share in taxes right now as middle-class families are asked to do—we are paying for this refinancing by closing a loophole that, as Warren Buffett said, shouldn't be there when he as a billionaire has a lower tax rate than his secretary. So we are saying join us to close that loophole. Take those dollars and help 25 million people—25 million people—be able to cut thousands of dollars off of their payments. For me, I am laser focused on the 1 million people in Michigan this would help.

Let me share a few of those stories. Nathan Collison and his wife live in Saginaw. They are young professionals. They have a combined student loan debt of $185,000. They have a 3-year-old little girl. I will never forget Nathan saying to me: When she is ready to go to college, I am still going to be paying off our student loan debt, and I can't afford to put money aside for my little girl to be able to go to college. That is not right. He and his wife both work and right now they are talking about $600 a month on student loan debts. As Nathan pointed out to me, that is a house payment. That is a good house in Saginaw at $600 a month. Yet it is only a fraction of the interest on Nathan's loans, which means his debt is going to keep growing and growing and growing. Just to make his debt stop growing, he would have to be paying $2,200 a month. So if he was going to be paying the full amount and not deferring part of it, it would be $2,200 a month, which is a very nice house in Michigan. He would like the ability to do more than just have a nice house. Nathan and his wife would like to put money aside for their little girl to be able to go to college and to be able to invest in their future.

So this legislation wouldn't automatically make Nathan's debt go away, but it would make it a whole lot easier. If we look at $185,000 over a 20-year period, we are talking about tens of thousands—$100,000 in savings.

So this is very much about having a vote today, the opportunity to vote. Our colleagues don't have to vote yes. They don't have to vote yes. We are confident we have enough votes to pass this. We just need to get through the procedural hurdle, the objections that trigger a filibuster. That is all we are asking for. I think the 1 million families and the 1 million people in Michigan and their families, the 25 million people across the country who are buried in student loan debt deserve a vote. They deserve a vote today.

We also talk about a young woman from Lambertville, MI. She went to my alma mater, Michigan State University. She graduated in 2008 and was on the Dean's list.

Of course, 2008 was a disastrous year for the economy, nationally and certainly in Michigan, as we saw what happened to auto manufacturing. It was especially brutal for young people looking for work.

Even though she graduated among the top in her class, it ended up taking her 4 years to find a job in her field. Today she is only making slightly more than minimum wage and trying to figure out how in the world she is going to pay off her student loan debt, let alone proceed with her dreams for the future.

Last week I heard from a young man who was originally from Union City, MI. He was working in North Carolina when his father was diagnosed with a terminal illness—brain cancer. He came home—as I'm sure his family appreciated—to help care for his father. He was showing the right kind of family values to come home and help care for his dad.

During the recession he lost his job in Michigan and was out of work for 2 years, which is why he ended up in North Carolina and ended up in a low-wage job with no benefits. Now he is back trying to figure out how he can help take care of his dad, figure out a job, and not be totally buried in the debt that he already has.

His debt has been turned over to a collection agency and, counting the fees, he now owes $90,000 and counting. He tried to do the right thing not only by going to college but for his family.

I think about how things have changed over the years—the kind of support we used to give. One of the great American strengths has been creating opportunity for people to be successful. A lot of that opportunity has been in relation to going to college and getting an education.

I remember growing up in Clare. When I was going to high school my dad was very ill. We didn't have any money for me to go to school. I worked very hard. I was at the top of my small class of 93 people, and I was in a position to get a tuition and fee scholarship that allowed me to go to college.

Somebody somewhere thought at that time it was important for some redheaded freckle-faced kid they did not know had a shot to make it. That has been what is best about America. Now we have tried. We have increased Pell grants, but certainly they need to be increased much more.

We have focused on other areas, and we certainly need to do more. What we have seen over time is that more of what students have had to do is take student loans. There have been less opportunities for scholarships and less opportunities for grants.

I am very sorry to say my home State has cut K–12 and higher education. On higher education—and more

than in most States—it is in the top ten in student-loan debt and certainly not something I am proud to see happen in my home State of Michigan because of what I think have been upside-down values.

What we have seen over time is that as the economy is changing, we are telling people who are going back to school who lost their job: You need to go back and get the education, the tools, and the skills for the jobs that are available in today's economy.

We have new opportunities and a new economy, but it means we have to have new skills. We have to have an education, so students are doing that. They are doing the right thing. They are doing what they have been told to do. Then they turn around and their only option is loans.

They take a look at the fact that somehow student loans are treated differently than student loan debt. You cannot get the lowest interest rates and refinance if you are in the unfortunate situation of going into bankruptcy and can't discharge those loans in bankruptcy such as you can other kinds of debt.

I don't understand how we got into a place where somehow student loan debt is with you forever and ever. We don't have the same ability to allow people to manage that debt as they do other kinds of debt. But that is where we are in this country. There are cuts at the State level and tuition goes up.

We then see a situation where more and more people have to turn to student loans.

We can do something about that today. There is a lot we can do. I support doing all that will allow us to get us back to right-size the situation in terms of our values and supporting opportunity for education in our country.

One thing we can do right now is to have a vote on this bill. We could immediately see change happen. Put more money back into the pockets of folks across our great country who have been doing the right thing and want a fair shot to make it and the opportunity to have some kind of help as they are paying off their student loans.

I am so pleased to see our leader and the main author of this legislation join us on the floor. She understands, as we all do, and is someone that has been dedicated to education and higher education her whole life, advocating for an opportunity for people to be successful and have a fair shot.

It is my pleasure at this point to turn to the distinguished Senator, the senior Senator from Massachusetts, and support her request as she moves forward this afternoon.

I yield for the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I wish to commend all of the incredible work that the Senator from Michigan has done on the ''fair shot'' agenda, how she really has been out there working hard for families across this country. For middle-class families, for working families, for people who are just trying to get a fair shot, and on education she has been a tremendous leader. It has been a real privilege to have this opportunity to work with the Senator from Michigan. I know the Senator from Michigan and I are going to keep working on this set of issues.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to allow a debate and vote on the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. Some 40 million Americans are dealing with student loan debt, and many of them are drowning in it.

A quarter of all Federal student loan borrowers are behind on their payments. Student loan debt is dragging down our young people, and it is dragging down the economy. It is keeping borrowers from buying homes, moving out on their own, buying cars and opening small businesses.

In June the Senate voted on a proposal to allow borrowers to refinance their existing student loans down to the interest rates offered to new borrowers. These are the same rates that nearly every Republican in the House and the Senate voted just last summer to offer to new borrowers. This refinancing bill would not add a single dime to the deficit. It is fully paid for by closing the tax loophole that right now lets millionaires and billionaires pay less in taxes than middle-class families. The vote on our student loan refinancing proposal asks Senators to make a simple choice: protect billionaires from paying their fair share of taxes or protect student loan borrowers who work hard to get an education and are struggling to stay afloat; protect the billionaires who have already made it big or help young people who are still trying to build a future.

A majority of the Senate, including every Democrat, every Independent, and three Republicans sided with students in support of moving forward on this bill, but the rest of the Republicans blocked it. We heard a lot of excuses from those that oppose the bill.

Some Republicans suggested that the benefit for our young people on this bill is small. I disagree. Putting billions of dollars in Federal student loan profits back into the pockets of Americans who worked hard to get an education is not small. Saving millions of Americans hundreds or thousands of dollars a year in excessive student-loan interest payments is not small. If the Republicans think the benefit is too small, then work with us to offer amendments to this bill and give students a bigger break but don't refuse to even debate the bill.

Some Republicans suggested that the $1.2 trillion in outstanding debt just isn't a big deal, that we should focus on rising college costs instead. Yes, the rising cost of college is a terrible problem but so are the outstanding loans at 6 percent, 8 percent, 10 percent, 12 percent, and even higher. We need to fix both problems and not play rope-a-dope politics and say we can't fix this because we haven't fixed that yet.

Millions of young people are just stuck. They can't buy homes, they can't buy cars, they can't save for retirement, they can't do the things that would help this economy grow—all because they are struggling under the weight of student loan debt.

If Senators think we should do more than just refinancing, more to improve college accountability and to reduce the future costs for students, then work with us to offer amendments, but don't refuse to even debate the bill.

Some Republicans don't like that this proposal is paid for by closing tax loopholes. If Senators don't like that, if they have other ideas, then they should offer amendments. But don't refuse to even debate this bill.

Some Republicans even suggested that Democrats don't want this bill to pass. That is just plain ridiculous. Only in Washington can you vote against something, and then when it doesn't pass, you blame the people who voted for it.

These excuses don't fool anyone. They don't fool the hundreds of thousands of people who have signed petitions, attended rallies, and called their Senators asking for a vote on this bill.

This is not complicated. Senators can make a choice. It is a choice that raises a fundamental question of who this place works for. Does it work for those who can hire armies of lawyers and lobbyists who want to protect loopholes in the Tax Code to get more advantages for millionaires and billionaires? Does it work for the big banks with their armies of lobbyists who just want to maximize student loan profits? Does it work for young people who worked hard, who played by the rules, who got an education, and who are trying to build a future for themselves and their families?

We are just a few votes away from breaking the Republican filibuster and moving forward to debate this bill. I urge my Republican colleagues to allow a vote and to let us debate and pass this bill.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2432

I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, and the Senate immediately proceed to vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to say to my colleague from Massachusetts I appreciate her highlighting the importance of student debt in the lives of a lot of our young people who are struggling in this stagnant economy. The best thing we can do is to try to get the economy growing again. But the majority leader has chosen not to use the Senate floor for the purpose of legislating. This is the killing field for good bipartisan ideas that have come from the House of Representatives—now

more than 380 bills. Unfortunately, the majority leader refuses to take up any of those. We stand ready to work with our colleagues across the aisle on serious legislation through an open and deliberative process that our constituents are demanding. There is a reason why the approval rating of the Congress is 14 percent. People look at Washington, DC, these days and realize it is completely broken and nowhere else is it more broken than in the Senate, where Senator REID has decided to grind what used to be known as the world's greatest deliberative body to a halt.

We will now pass a continuing resolution and adjourn with 47 days left—by the time we do it—until the election.

It is really beyond dismay.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator modify her request, and that it be in order for the minority leader or his designee to offer an amendment, and then for the majority leader or his designee to offer an amendment, and it be in order for the leaders or their designees to continue to offer amendments in an alternating fashion. In other words, we would ask for an open amendment process on the legislation that the Senator is proposing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Massachusetts so modify her request?

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I thank the Senator from Texas for his remarks. As I stated previously, there are 58 Senators who have supported moving forward to debate this bill. But it has not passed the Senate because of a Republican filibuster. I welcome Republican ideas to address the exploding student debt crisis. For months Senator STABENOW, others, and I have reached out to our colleagues to put ideas forward so that we could have a real debate. But allowing an unlimited number of amendments on any topic forever is not a reasonable way forward on a student loan debt refinancing bill.

We face a student debt crisis now. We need to act on it now. If my colleague from Texas is not willing to provide a reasonable path forward to debate, improve, and vote on this bill, then I object to his request and ask that he agree to my original request that we take up and pass this piece of legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to modify the request. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would say that the best way to get this piece of legislation resolved on the Senate floor is what used to be called the old-fashioned way. That is where both sides of the aisle get to offer amendments and vote on them. But this is what has happened to the Senate. It has become completely dysfunctional. Frankly, the American people are disgusted with all of us because they see us unable, even when Republicans and Democrats would like to debate legislation and offer solutions, to be able to do so.

This is solely within the control of the majority leader, Senator REID. He has decided it is better to shut things down than to pass legislation which both sides of the aisle would like to see pass. So I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, what is dysfunctional is a Republican filibuster of a bill on which 58 Senators want to move forward and debate. Allowing an unlimited number of amendments on any topic, going on forever, is not a reasonable way forward. We want to be able to debate the student loan refinancing bill. We want to be able to do it now. Young people are struggling and are counting on us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I appreciate the great talents and credentials that the Senator from Massachusetts brings to the Senate. Unfortunately, whether one is in the majority or in the minority, the Senate has not been able to function for the last 4 years. I have been fortunate to be in the Senate at a time when any Senator who wanted to could come to the floor and offer an amendment and get a vote on that amendment.

What to me is completely ironic is even if you are in the majority, you cannot get a vote on an amendment—if you are in the majority. How do you explain that to your constituents back home—that you were rendered completely ineffective because of the way the Senate is being operated under the current majority leader. I want to turn to another topic briefly, and that is the matter of the President's proposed strategy on the floor.

Ms. STABENOW. Out of respect to my colleague, I realize we are going into the next hour that is controlled by the Republicans. But I did want to take 1 minute to wrap up, if that is acceptable to my colleague.

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

Ms. STABENOW. I just wanted to go on record to say there are thousands of excuses always on everything for reasons not to do things. We are talking about a very specific bill, a very specific vote that would put money in the pockets of 25 million Americans. We could do that right now. People can have lots of reasons. It reminds me a lot of hearing that my kids have hundreds of excuses about why they cannot do something, whether it is because of somebody else or this, that, and the other.

I think the American people just want us to get stuff done. We want to get things done. The motion that Senator WARREN put forward is about getting things done. A vast majority—58 Senators—has already said yes, they want to move forward. Yes, they will vote yes. We need to get this piece done to help 25 million people and then move on and work with each other across the aisle to do other work.

I greatly regret the objection and indicate that we will be back and back and back until we get the American people the relief they need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I appreciate the frustration of the Senator from Michigan at the Senate not functioning the way it should. But really her complaint ought to be with the majority leader. Republicans are happy to have an open amendment process. I say to the Senator from Massachusetts that we are not talking about amendments ad infinitum. We are talking about a reasonable amount of amendments. We have been down this lane before. We know that the majority leader rules this body with an iron grip. In the waning days now of this session, there is going to be veritably nothing done, because, of course, that is the way the majority leader has chosen to use his authority. It would make sense if we had an opportunity to offer House legislation. As I said, there are 44 different jobs bills and more than 385 bipartisan pieces of legislation that have passed the House which would be great for us to take up and to work our way through in an orderly and deliberative sort of way.

I agree the American people want to see us get things done. But they cannot. We cannot get things done when the majority leader essentially says: You know what. It is my way or the highway. Those of you who are elected from red States, where you are elected by Republicans, you cannot participate in this process. So what is the use of being elected to the Senate? What is the use of States such as Texas having two Senators and not being able to participate or shape the legislative process? That is an unreasonable demand by the majority leader.

I know our colleagues on the Democratic side, many of them, are frustrated by that too. I will tell them that if this election in 49 days turns out the way I hope it does, we will have a new Senate where Republicans and Democrats can come to the floor, offer amendments, and get votes as long as they want to get votes on amendments. That used to be the way the Senate operated. That is not the way it operates now. It is really a disservice to the American people. I am saddened by the majority leader's choice to create such a situation in the Senate.

ISIL

We will be voting, along with the continuing resolution—I am told the House will add an authorization that has been requested by the President to train and arm some Syrian rebels, which we hope will be an effective force in defeating ISIS or ISIL, the Islamic State in the Levant. This is a group that Al Qaeda kicked out because they were so barbaric that they wanted nothing to do with them. They are now one of the best financed terrorist organizations in the world, now occupying

vast swaths of Iraq and Syria, and virtually erasing the border between those two countries. This is a threat not only to the region and to the people of Iraq and Syria, but it is a threat to other countries in that region.

If you believe the King of Saudi Arabia, he said in a month they will export their terror to Europe, and they will then, a month later, export their terror to the United States. The biggest threat to the United States is there are—people who have gone from the United States and from the United Kingdom to the region and trained as fighters for ISIL.

The problem is that because of the Visa Waiver Program, many of them—if you are a passport holder from the United States or the United Kingdom, you can come back to the United States with just a passport and you do not even need a visa. So this is an opportunity for this terrorist organization to infiltrate the United States and threaten our national security and safety.

But in particular in Syria, it is ironic—indeed, it is tragic to note—that after refusing for 3½ years to provide even moderate assistance to opposition groups in Syria, President Obama is now asking Congress to give him the necessary authorization. Now, this is not an authorization to take the fight to degrade and destroy ISIL. The President said that is his military goal. That is an important goal. I agree with that. I think he would find a lot of support on a bipartisan basis for that kind of authorization. What the President has done is basically to ask for money for a very much more limited task; that is, to recruit and train so-called moderate Syrian opposition to fight ISIL in Syria.

But he has chosen to go it alone once again on this broader effort to degrade and destroy ISIL. I know the President is famous for saying what he will not do. Of course, they always add: No American boots on the ground. But this morning the chief of the U.S. military, General Dempsey has said if the air campaign is unsuccessful in degrading or destroying ISIL, then we should not take the prospect of some limited number of American boots on the ground off the table. Military expert after military expert has said: Air strikes alone will not turn the tide on ISIL in Iraq and Syria.

But I am glad the President has at least made this limited request. We ought to have a broader debate about his authority to take the fight to ISIL in Syria and Iraq. I note with interest that our colleague Senator KAINE of Virginia wrote what I thought was a compelling piece, arguing that the President should come to the Congress for that authority. That was published in the New York Times today. I thought he made a very important case.

If the President is concerned that he will come to Congress and he will not get the authority, I think circumstances have changed to where he would get that sort of bipartisan vote to give him authority. There are prudential or practical reasons why he should do so. First of all, there is the Constitution which the President seems not to care most about. But assuming the President has the authority, I think if he came to Congress, it would provide a broader basis of support both in Congress and across the country.

Of course, you do not want to go to war without the support of the American people. If you believe the public opinion polls, I think they are pretty persuasive that the American people do support air strikes against ISIL, particularly in the wake of these barbaric beheadings of both British and American citizens. But as we know, the tide of war can turn very quickly. It is important that the President have broader support here in Congress and broad support from the American people in doing what we know we have to do regardless of how popular or unpopular it may be.

But I do have questions about how the different rebel groups will be vetted and how the U.S. military aid will advance our larger policy of destroying ISIL. While I still have those questions, I will support the authority and the money to train and equip the moderate groups as part of our broader strategy.

I remain deeply concerned, though, about President Obama's understanding—or lack of understanding—of just what has gone so wrong with his policies in the Middle East. After all, the first step in fixing a mistake is to admit you have made one—not for the purpose of embarrassing the President but learning from those mistakes and then going on to correct them.

Last week he discussed his foreign policy record with a number of outside analysts at two separate meetings. According to one story in the New York Times by Peter Baker, the President ''admitted no errors along the way.'' It is pretty breathtaking. I do not know any human being, any mere mortal—certainly me—who has not made a mistake. These are enormously complex judgments, and I understand that, and we ought to cut the President some slack in trying to execute this war and this fight to degrade and dismantle ISIS. But to say ''I have not made any mistakes. My judgments have been perfect'' is not helpful. He said there are no errors. He has made no errors. There is nothing that needs correcting, no change of conditions because of misjudgments.

But we know that despite the creation of a massive terrorist enclave spanning Iraq and Syria, despite the explosion of a huge refugee crisis in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey—millions of Syrians have been displaced by the civil war there alone, along with about 200,000 Syrians who have lost their lives. As a result of the President's policies, we have also seen the emergence of a failed state in Libya, where in September 2012 four Americans were killed by Al Qaeda-related affiliates. We have seen the emergence of yet another failed state in Yemen, and we have seen the embarrassing decline of U.S. influence in countries such as Egypt and other gulf nations. Despite all that, the President says he had not made any mistakes and it is somebody else's fault and not his.

I would contrast that with the conduct of President George W. Bush when he announced the troop surge in Iraq and the counterinsurgency strategy in 2007. He was admirably forthright about the fact that his Iraq policy was not working—and, indeed, it was not. President Bush said at the time, ''We need to change our strategy in Iraq.''

Boy, it would be a breath of fresh air if President Obama would say, ''We need to change our strategy'' rather than saying, ''I have not made any mistakes. There have been no misjudgments. We don't need to reconsider any of our activities abroad.'' I think people understand we do.

When we look at America's Middle East policy failures under President Obama, it is painfully clear that once again we need to change our strategy, but by refusing to acknowledge his mistakes, the President raises troubling questions about the credibility of his new policies.

Despite announcing that the military aid to the more moderate rebels will now be the centerpiece of U.S. policy in Syria, the President still publicly rejects the idea that arming those rebels a few years ago would have been a good idea. And, oh, by the way, arming the rebels a few years ago was the recommendation of all of his most significant national security advisers, but the President rejected it.

If it is a good idea to arm the more moderate rebels today in hopes of countering ISIL, then surely it would have been a good idea to arm those rebels before ISIL took over large portions of eastern Syria and 200,000 Syrians lost their lives in that civil war. Likewise, if we are now sending U.S. military forces back to Iraq to conduct bombing raids against ISIL terrorists based there, then surely it was a mistake to withdraw all U.S. forces from Iraq back in 2011 without leaving a transitional force there to help be the glue in that famously sectarian-driven part of the world. But the President will admit no mistakes and no lessons learned in either Iraq or Syria.

Of course, the thing about acknowledging your mistakes, as I said earlier, is that you can learn from them, and President Obama's recent foreign policy failures are no different. The lessons we have learned can and should inform our strategy against ISIL. But first the President needs to accept, internalize, and then allow himself to be guided by those lessons. If he does that, America's military campaign against the Islamic State will have a much better chance of succeeding.

I would say again that we want the President's plan to be successful. I think it is virtually universal here in the Senate that we want our military, in conjunction with our coalition partners, to degrade and destroy ISIL because we believe it is a serious threat not just to the region but to the United States and our allies and our interests. But if the President will not learn from the lessons of the past, if he will not work with Congress to come up with an effective strategy, and if he will not listen to his own military leaders and experts, I am very concerned that strategy will end up being a failure, and that need not be.

Mr. President, I see my colleague from North Dakota on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 10 minutes or as much time as I might need to discuss an important energy issue.

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

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my esteemed colleague from Texas, and I want to share my agreement with the important points he made so well.

(The remarks of Mr. HOEVEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2823 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, September 17, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 956, 536, 548, 964, 965, 871, 924, and 912; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, we expect one rollcall vote on the Bass nomination and the other nominations listed in this agreement to be confirmed by voice vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak this afternoon. I am also pleased to see on the floor my colleague from North Dakota, Senator HEITKAMP. She and I have a legislative interest in a matter now pending before the House of Representatives, and it is at least my desire to see the Senate utilize this opportunity of a bill passing the House to also be considered by the Senate and hopefully be approved. While it has been a challenge throughout this year and throughout this session to get legislation to the floor and voted on, I would not want us to pass up the chance for this legislation to be approved and sent to the President for signature.

The legislation we are speaking about is the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. The House of Representatives, as I said, is considering H.R. 3043 this week. This is legislation I am absolutely certain will enhance the economic opportunities and the quality of life for our Native Americans in this country.

The Constitution states that a core responsibility of the Federal Government is to promote the general welfare of the people. The Federal Government has a trust responsibility to protect tribal interests. These two objectives come together in this legislation. It certainly would be an understatement to say that the Federal Government over the years has fulfilled its trust responsibility. We know that to not be the case.

In an effort to fill that void, tribal governments have taken actions to meet their tribal members' needs with initiatives such as cultural programs and education and social services and health care.

Unfortunately, over a period of time, those benefits have been treated as income and those benefits have been subject to the Internal Revenue Service Code.

We need to make certain we don't add to the burden that tribes too often have encountered from the Federal Government and that these benefits would not be subject to income taxes and these benefits and the tribes will not be subject to IRS audits because of them.

The Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act extends to Native Americans the same tax privileges that are provided by our States; namely, that the value of government services provided by the tribes to their members, just like the services provided by a State to its citizens, would be excluded for tax purposes. Federal and State governments have enjoyed the privilege of having such services as education, social welfare, health care programs, housing, as well as cultural programs exempt from that taxation. Native Americans have not been as fortunate.

The House is close to correcting this problem, and it is my plea and hope that the Senate will follow suit this week. The IRS recently issued a notice that establishes the tribal gender welfare exclusion. It is a matter of treasury policy, and this is appreciated. It is a step in the right direction, but we want to make certain that this policy is extended and codified.

The general welfare issue should be put into law to protect against future policy changes, and among other provisions this legislation establishes a tribal advisory committee within the Department of the Treasury to advise the Secretary on Indian tax policy and also declares that any ambiguities of the act will be resolved in favor of tribal governments. It directs the IRS field agents to be educated and trained in matters of Federal Indian law and government trust responsibilities.

This is a reasonable commonsense, constitutional piece of legislation. It fosters fairness within our Tax Code and promotes better understanding of the Federal Government's trust relationships.

Four years ago similar exclusion rules for Native Americans' health benefits were passed. We have before us now the opportunity to clarify the exclusion as it should be. This legislation makes a lot of sense. It adheres to the Constitution which recognizes tribes as sovereign nations with the authority to provide for their peoples. This has been affirmed many times by Congress in the past. It is clearly part of our U.S. Constitution.

The economic benefits are obvious. Our tribal territories, reservations, our Native Americans need not be worrying about the onerous IRS audits and should not be paying taxes when no one else is required to pay taxes on similar benefits.

This legislation is revenue neutral, something that is very pleasing. The Joint Committee on Taxation has deemed any impact on the revenue of our Federal Government to be negligible.

As a person who cares a lot about the fiscal condition of our country, we ought to be reducing our deficit and boosting our economy. This piece of legislation does not increase the deficit, and it does boost the economy, particularly of tribes across the Nation. Here in the Senate, Senator HEITKAMP and I introduced S. 1507. It is a companion bill to the one the House is considering. This piece of legislation has broad bipartisan support, and more

than 20 Senators from Alaska to Georgia have joined us in this effort.

I am grateful for the members of the Finance Committee and the Indian Affairs Committee who lent their support to this legislation. I am not a member of either one of those committees, but there are four tribes in Kansas and I have an interest in their well-being as well as that of all Native Americans.

Native Americans are not seeking to play here by different rules. In fact, it is quite the opposite. They simply want to enjoy the same benefits accorded any other government in our country. They emphasize to me the principle of tribal sovereignty and self-government. This legislation reinforces those principles.

More than 40 tribes in 24 states, nearly a dozen Indian organizations and a number of regional tribal organizations representing tens of thousands of Native Americans supported this legislation. It is not just Native Americans. In fact, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has recognized this legislation as one that will foster economic development and supports its passage.

As we are preparing to depart Washington, DC, and take time away from the Nation's Capital, it would be a terrible mistake on our part and a missed opportunity if we don't take advantage of House action this week while the Senate is here in session this week to see that this legislation is approved.

My hope is that this could be accomplished by unanimous consent, and I know Senator HEITKAMP and others and I have been talking to members of the committees as well as the leadership of the Senate to see that we accomplish this.

It is a wrong that can be righted. It is a wrong that should be righted quickly and not at a later date. This certainly is one of those pieces of legislation that is a win-win for all.

If we see the House pass the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act, I urge my colleagues to join with me, Senator HEITKAMP, and Republican and Democrat Senators who are supportive of this legislation, to see that this legislation arrives on the President's desk in the most expedient manner possible.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask to speak as if in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, it is truly a great honor to stand with my colleague from Kansas as we are on the cusp of actually passing legislation that has consequences for a lot of our American citizens and especially our Native American citizens. I will tell you as someone who represents Indian Country in my State, this is the number one priority for our tribes.

It is interesting because a lot of people would look at this and say: Why this issue? I think it goes to the heart of Native American sovereignty. What has been happening, as it relates to 1099s and the potential of taxing services provided by tribal governments, basically begs the question: Do we really understand or do we really appreciate that these are sovereign governments—the same way the States are sovereign and the same way the counties and cities would be sovereign?

I think in many ways it has very real economic consequences, but a great value in this legislation is in the symbolic consequences of having this body recognize the importance of recognizing these treaty rights, recognizing the value of treaties and trust responsibilities. As a former attorney general and as a lawyer, I view treaty rights and trust responsibilities like a contract between the United States and our Native American tribes. As a U.S. citizen, I view these treaties as sacred obligations.

We have not done a good enough job living up to our commitments to tribal nations. As a consequence tribal governments have been forced to supplement services that the Federal Government promised to provide. Yet for years the IRS has audited Indian tribes for providing health care, education or housing assistance for those in need.

Here are just some of the stories I have heard from Native Americans in North Dakota and across the country. I have heard about the IRS wanting the tribes to issue 1099s—basically saying you have something of taxable value—to tribal elders who received blankets as honoraria for performing traditional ceremonies.

I heard about the IRS questioning a tribal government's provision providing backpacks and school supplies to elementary school children as a taxable benefit to the families of the children.

I have heard about the IRS imposing a tax on the value of a handicap ramp—a value of $2,000—erected by the tribal government to help a tribal elder access her home.

The stories go on. The status quo isn't fair and it isn't right. This practice certainly does not fully respect that tribes are governments. That is why I joined with Senator MORAN to introduce the bipartisan Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act last year.

The bill would fully recognize that Indian tribes, as sovereign nations, are responsible for making certain government programs and services best fit the needs of their citizens. Just as State and local governments are determined to decide what is in the best interest of their citizens, such as scholarships, elder or child care or housing assistance, we have to recognize that tribal governments have the right to make those decisions without tax consequences.

With this bill, we are supporting tribal self-determination and taking a step towards living up to our trust and treaty obligations. Indian tribes and their members should not be subject to heightened IRS scrutiny.

I think Senator MORAN outlined that issue so well because some people may see that what we are doing here is carving out an exception, creating an extra benefit for tribal members that is not enjoyed by the entire citizenry of this country.

Nothing could be further than the truth. In fact, we are leveling the playing field. The Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act will bring parity in the tax treatment of Indian governments. It will recognize the unique relationship with tribal governments that they have with their citizens and allow them the opportunity to craft programs which best fit their community need.

I want to take a moment and suggest to all of you that if you spent time in Indian Country and if you have looked at the benefits that tribal governments provide and you think about the resources of the IRS and where you might go to actually collect dollars that would enhance revenue, the last place you should look in this country is in Indian Country.

I would like to address a few other really important reasons why this bill is so critical. The IRS recently issued helpful guidance, and we are very appreciative of that work. With that being said, we also must make sure that parity provided by that guidance is in statutory language. That way, we weighed in. There is certainty that no one can do a look-back and no one can change it without that change coming to this body and coming to the House of Representatives and being enacted into law.

In addition, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act includes two items that are critical to the advancement of a better relationship between tribal governments and the Federal Government.

First as a training requirement, we must make sure that IRS field agents are well versed in Federal Indian law and unique treaty and trust relationships that the Federal Government has with their tribes.

Second, as the training is taking place, our bill also suspends all audits of examination of tribal governments for one year to allow this education to take place.

It isn't rare for Congress to pass legislation that supports guidance issued by the Federal agencies to give more weight to the issues and make sure that there is no potential misinterpretation.

That is what we are doing this week with the help of a lot of our colleagues who believe in this legislation as well. We want to supplement the IRS guidance to expand rather than restrict the safe harbor provisions.

When I joined the Senate, I promised to be a partner—to honor and respect the sovereign rights of Native Americans just as I always have. This bill is a step in the right direction. I fully anticipate that as we move forward this week, we will, in fact, enact this legislation. I fully anticipate that we will

send the right message to tribal governments that we see you the way you are.

You are a sovereign government entitled to make the decisions that you need to make to the benefit of your citizens without undue and irrational interference from the IRS.

I think the bipartisan nature of this bill is a tribute to my friend from Kansas who understands completely what we are attempting to do. It is one of those rare moments that I have had since I have been in the Senate, where you see a good bill being debated—a good bill being discussed—and then having an opportunity to actually do the right thing. I thank my friend from Kansas for the opportunity to join with him as a cosponsor of this legislation.

It is critically important that this message get sent and that we have an opportunity in the future to continue to work with tribal governments to act in the best interests of tribal citizens and provide the services that are essential for a growing population of Native American citizens but also of a population that lives in a great deal of poverty.

I thank my friend from Kansas. I look forward to seeing this bill signed into law—which I think will happen. I think that the stars are aligning. It will be a great day and a very important step in securing a better relationship of all governments with the Native American people.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OBSERVING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, tomorrow we will mark Constitution Day—a day set aside to reflect on our Nation's charter and how it has shaped what it means to be American. On September 17, 1787, George Washington, James Madison, and their fellow Framers made the momentous decision to sign the Constitution and send it along to the American people for ratification marking a new beginning in our Nation's profound experiment in democracy.

As important as the original charter continues to be, the Founders did not design it to be immutable. One of its most notable features is article 5, which established the process for improvement in the form of constitutional amendments. This key provision rooted in both intellectual humility and constitutional faith—ensured that our Nation's constitutional journey would not conclude in Philadelphia in 1787. Instead, it would continue to unfold in the decades and centuries that followed, tasking each generation of Americans with improving the charter in order to build ''a more perfect Union.''

Since the ratification of the Bill of Rights in 1791, our Constitution has been amended 17 times. These changes have helped to make the Constitution the revered document it is today. As I have noted on previous Constitution Days, Americans must celebrate not just the original Constitution of Washington, Madison, and the founding generation, but the whole Constitution, including its 27 amendments. This is all the more important as we approach a key set of anniversaries—the 150th anniversaries of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, which many scholars have rightly described as our nation's ''Second Founding.''

Ratified by President Lincoln and his generation after the Civil War, these Second Founding amendments transformed our original charter—ending slavery, banning racial discrimination in voting, and elevating liberty and equality to a central place in our constitutional order. Perhaps most importantly, these amendments gave Congress the authority it needed to protect the civil rights of all Americans—authority that we have used to pass landmark civil rights laws such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Before our Nation marked the original Constitution's bicentennial in 1987, Congress established a commission led by Chief Justice Burger to organize a national celebration. Americans from across the political spectrum came together in a spirit of unity and pride to honor the founding generation's profound achievements. With the 150th anniversary of the second founding, President Lincoln and his generation deserve the same.

It is deeply saddening to me that the anniversary of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments coincides not with such a celebration, however, but with what can be called nothing short of an attack on the principles of equality and liberty they protect. The Supreme Court's decision in Shelby County v. Holder and the wave of recent State laws undermining the right to vote demonstrate a dangerous erosion of these monumental Amendments that provide us the tools we need to build a fairer, freer, and more equal society.

Tomorrow, as we celebrate the signing of our Constitution 227 years ago, I hope we also reflect on the unfinished work ahead that is necessary to live up to the core principles enshrined in our Nation's charter—including those of the second founding. The racial tensions exposed by the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO are not new, but they should serve as a clear reminder that our work is not done. I am heartened by the national dialogue that has been sparked by that young man's tragic death, and it is my sincere hope that we can harness that energy, directing it not toward greater distrust and divide but toward meeting the challenge to build ''a more perfect Union'' left to us by our Founders.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

In the early 1900s, the populations of Nevada, southern California, and Arizona were beginning to grow. New communities were in need of water for irrigation, electrical power, and a way to control the seasonal flooding of the mighty Colorado River. On December 21, 1928, President Calvin Coolidge signed the Boulder Canyon Project Act, which authorized funds for three dam projects along the Lower Colorado River, the largest of which became the Hoover Dam, and this monumental dam created our Nation's largest reservoir, Lake Mead.

On October 8, 1964, 18 years after the completion of the Hoover Dam, the Lake Mead national recreation area was established, making it the first National Recreation Area in the country. Since its founding, Lake Mead has become essential to Southern Nevada. The reservoir supplies local communities with drinking water, provides low-cost electricity throughout the Southwest, and is a beacon for outdoor recreation, which attracts millions of dollars annually to local and regional economies. In 2013, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area visitors contributed $260 million to communities surrounding the lake, and this helped support approximately 3,000 jobs in the area.

Today, Lake Mead is one of the most popular destinations in America, with more than 6 million visitors every year. Lake Mead boasts more than 900 plant and 500 animal species, 24 of which are threatened or endangered. Within the national recreation area, there are 9 wilderness areas that help support the rehabilitation of these important species and over 1,300 recorded archeological sites that tell the story of the region's rich cultural heritage. In addition to the area's many hiking trails, Lake Mead also has several boat marinas and the Black Canyon Water Trail, which was recently dedicated as Nevada's first National Water Trail by the Secretary of the Interior.

I recognize Guy Edwards, Robert Rose, Ben Thompson, George Baggley, Charles Richey, Roger Allin, Glen Bean, William Briggle, Gary Bunney,

Alan O'Neill, and William Dickinson, the past and current superintendents of the Lake Mead Nation Recreation Area. These superintendents have provided strong leadership for the management of the reservoir since it was filled in 1936 and improved the park and recreational opportunities for visitors over the decades.

I commend the National Park Service on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I previously revised the allocations, aggregates, and levels pursuant to sections 114(d) and 116(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 for S. 2244, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014. The Senate passed S. 2244 on July 17th. Since there has been no further action on this legislation, I am reversing the adjustments I made in July. For the information of my colleagues, I will refile these adjustments should the Senate again consider legislation that fulfills the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the revisions be printed in the RECORD.

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

$s in millions	2015	2015–19	2015–24
Current Budgetary Aggregates:*			
Spending:			
Budget Authority	3,015,208	n/a	n/a
Outlays	3,035,761	n/a	n/a
Revenue	2,533,388	13,884,103	31,206,135
Adjustments Made Pursuant to Sections 114(d) and 116(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act:**			
Spending:			
Budget Authority	−120	n/a	n/a
Outlays	−120	n/a	n/a
Revenue	0	−1,770	−4,000
Revised Budgetary Aggregates:			
Spending:			
Budget Authority	3,015,088	n/a	n/a
Outlays	3,035,641	n/a	n/a
Revenue	2,533,388	13,882,333	31,202,135

n/a = Not applicable. Appropriations for fiscal years 2016–2024 will be determined by future sessions of Congress and enforced through future Congressional budget resolutions.
*The levels for "Current Budgetary Aggregates" include cap adjustments for the Committee on Appropriations and a prior reserve fund adjustment made for terrorism risk insurance.
**Reverse adjustments made pursuant to sections 114(d) and 116(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which incorporate by reference section 319 of S. Con. Res. 8, as passed by the Senate. Section 319 establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for terrorism risk insurance.

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

$s in millions	Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs		
	Current Allocation	Adjustments*	Revised Allocation
Fiscal Year 2015:			
Budget Authority	24,657	−120	24,537
Outlays	5,191	−120	5,071
Fiscal Years 2015–2019:			
Budget Authority	116,185	−1,690	114,495
Outlays	−2,574	−1,690	−4,264
Fiscal Years 2015–2024:			
Budget	210,393	−3,540	206,853
Outlays	−52,689	−3,540	−56,229

*Reverse adjustments made pursuant to sections 114(d) and 116(c) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which incorporate by reference section 319 of S. Con. Res. 8, as passed by the Senate. Section 319 establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for terrorism risk insurance.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JORGENSEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to tell my colleagues about one of Wyoming's distinguished citizens. John Jorgensen has devoted his life to promoting education, literacy, and the arts. This November he will be honored with the Benefactor Award from the Council for Resource Development. According to the CRD, the Benefactor Award "recognizes individuals . . . for outstanding contributions to community colleges. The CRD Benefactor Award embodies the ideals of philanthropy, leadership, and volunteerism in the service of community, technical, and junior colleges." The Council only honors a handful of people each year, and I am delighted that John Jorgensen will receive this prestigious award.

John is no stranger to hard work. His ties to the community are numerous. In addition to serving as the president of Casper's Hilltop National Bank, John is also the president of the Casper College Foundation. During 25 years in this important role, he has tripled the foundation's assets. Under John's leadership the foundation has provided more than $70 million to the college for support of campus facilities, college programs, and student scholarships. The funds have provided a margin of excellence that ensures Casper College continues to be one of the finest community colleges in the country.

Casper College is just one of many organizations benefitting from John's time and talents. He leads Wyoming Reads, an organization created in his late wife Sue's memory that puts books into the hands of nearly every Wyoming first grader. He has served on the Natrona County Public Library Foundation and the Nicolaysen Art Museum board. John is a member of the Casper Rotary Club. He has a passion for the performing arts and has acted in a number of Casper College's plays, including the "Grapes of Wrath" and "Death of a Salesman."

John Jorgensen is an example of what makes America great. He has channeled his blessings and his heartbreaks into organizations that help others. Casper and Wyoming are even greater because of his contributions. My wife Bobbi joins me in congratulating John on receiving this special award from the Council for Resource Development. We are blessed to call him our friend.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the professionals at the Wexner Center for the Arts—the Wexner Center—for 25 years of committed service to The Ohio State University and to the greater central Ohio community. The mission of the Wexner Center is to act "as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time." The exhibits, performances, and educational programs at the Wexner Center achieve this mission and effectively promote the importance of art throughout our Columbus region.

On July 5, 1985, the architectural design by Peter Eisenman and Richard Trott was selected from a competition of six designs and paid homage to the Ohio State Armory, which formerly occupied the space. The Wexner Center opened its doors to the public on November 5, 1989 and over the past quarter century has served as an exhibition space for all types of art.

Today, the Wexner Center features many exhibits and programs each year

and is home to The Ohio State University Fine Arts Library. The center welcomes visiting artists to Ohio State and Columbus from around the world. More than 200,000 people visit the center annually and more than 400,000 patrons utilize the online resources.

The Wexner Center provides the central Ohio community with educational and cultural opportunities for all visitors. I congratulate all who were involved in making its first 25 years a success.●

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I wish to mark the 225th anniversary of the United States Marshals Service. As America's oldest law enforcement agency, the U.S. Marshals Service has played a unique role in our history, serving our Nation in a variety of ways since 1789. In their 225 years of service, U.S. Marshals have been responsible for protecting the Federal judicial process, securing Federal facilities, and ensuring the safety of court officials: U.S. Marshals are also tasked with a number of law enforcement activities that keep our Nation safe and our judicial proceedings secure on a daily basis.

Operating in over 94 Federal court districts, U.S. Marshals serve with nearly 4,000 Deputy U.S. Marshals and criminal investigators to form the backbone of the agency. All of these individuals have provided a great service to our Nation by carrying out the dangerous and extraordinary missions asked of them by Congress, the President, and Governors.

The first U.S. Marshal for the Colorado Territory was appointed by President Lincoln and began his service on March 25, 1861. Today, the men and women of the U.S. Marshals Service for the District of Colorado maintain their core mission to serve and protect our Federal judiciary. In doing so, the Marshals ensure the survival of one of our Nation's most fundamental democratic principles—the Rule of Law. Marshals continually work together with other Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies to create safer cities and communities around the Nation.

On this anniversary, we must not forget to honor those Marshals who sacrificed their lives in pursuit of justice, integrity, and service. Their legacy of bravery continues with U.S. Marshals serving today. It is my privilege to mark this 225 year milestone with these outstanding and noble Americans. We are greatly indebted to all U.S. Marshals for their service to our Nation.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 160TH SOAR OF HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Airborne, of Hunter Army Airfield, marking their 25th anniversary of service in support of this Nation.

Since 1989, the 160th SOAR has served in every major conflict and contingency operation supporting the special operations community and providing world-class special operations aviation support. Supporting Operation Just Cause in Panama, Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf, and multiple operations in support of crisis management prepared them for their most challenging mission of all, the global war on terrorism.

Over the last 13 years, their battalion of MH–47 Chinooks and MH–60 Black Hawks have been continuously deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, and throughout the world on numerous unnamed and often unknown missions.

In 2013, the unit flew over 8,000 flying hours in support of ongoing combat operations and training missions to support the special operations community and our allies, including over 4,300 under night vision.

Through fiscal management and lean logistics, the battalion has continued to refine the processes enabling a leaner sustainment package while still maintaining effectiveness in every environment in which the battalion's aircraft operate.

The 160th continues to be at the forefront of Army aviation and foreign internal defense aviation support to our allies.

In tribute to its outstanding service during wartime, its important role in strengthening the security of this Nation, and its support to the special operations community, I am honored today to recognize the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and its contributions to the United States of America.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE LONG AND THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish today to honor George Long of Vicksburg, MS, a World War II veteran to whom I had the pleasure of presenting the Congressional Gold Medal during the August recess.

Just months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 16-year-old George Long bravely volunteered to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was one of the African-American recruits who volunteered for service after President Roosevelt signed an Executive order in 1942 lifting a prohibition against their enlistment.

Mr. Long is part of a group of American warriors known as the Montford Point Marines—those African-American recruits assigned to the segregated basic training facility at Montford Point, adjacent to Camp Lejune, NC.

Given the magnitude of the threat our country faced in Europe and the Pacific, President Roosevelt recognized that the status quo of Jim Crow segregation, which at that time prohibited African Americans from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, would not suffice. In 1941, he signed the historic Executive Order 8802, which required the military to accept recruits regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin. This action would later become a crucial component of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and help bring an end to segregation in the United States.

Approximately 20,000 African-American marines received basic training at Montford Point, before the Marine Corps became fully integrated in 1949. Of those, about 13,000 would serve overseas during World War II. These marines fought valiantly in the fiercest battles of the Pacific island hopping campaign, as allied forces reversed the tide of Imperial expansion. Mr. Long notably served as a guard for Japanese prisoners of war during the legendary Battle of Iwo Jima, where ''uncommon valor was a common virtue.''

On November 11, 2011, legislation was enacted granting the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. This honor—the highest civilian award in the United States—was bestowed on these courageous veterans for their brave and honorable service to our country, despite segregation and other prejudices that were common at the time.

Due to his health, George Long was unable to attend a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in June 2012 where the Congressional Gold Medal was presented to some 370 of the estimated 420 remaining Montford Point veterans. I am grateful that his daughter Felicia Hawkins and friend Steve Houston worked with my office to ensure that Mr. Long eventually received the medal.

It was an honor to present the Congressional Gold Medal to George Long on August 5 at the G.V. ''Sonny'' Montgomery Veterans Medical Center in Jackson in recognition of his contributions to our country. Mr. Long and all the Montford Point Marines will be remembered as trailblazers who bravely helped protect our Nation from foreign threats and helped improve our society by bringing about change within our military.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL BERNARD FRANCIS FISHER

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Medal of Honor recipient Col. Bernard Fisher, known as Bernie. He passed away in August after a meaningful and inspiring life, and he leaves behind a legacy of heroic and steady service.

Colonel Fisher, of Kuna, ID, earned the Medal of Honor for putting his life on the line to rescue a fellow pilot downed in enemy-controlled territory during the Vietnam war. According to an Air Force fact sheet, under enemy

fire, he landed his airplane, pulled the pilot aboard, and escaped despite the airplane he piloted being hit with multiple rounds. He is known as an outstanding, steady pilot. In 1967 President Lyndon B. Johnson presented him with the award. His ''conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty'' was noted in his Medal of Honor citation.

Bernard Fisher joined the U.S. Navy and attended Boise State Junior College and the University of Utah before receiving a commission in the U.S. Air Force and serving as a fighter pilot. He married his wife Realla in 1948, and they had six sons. He went on to have a distinguished military career before retiring in Kuna, ID, as an Air Force colonel. Three of his sons and one grandson carried on his legacy of service in the Air Force.

In addition to his being known for his eminent military career, he is known as a loving husband, father, grandfather, generous friend, and committed member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After his retirement from the military, he and Realla grew a number of crops, raised livestock, looked after their family, and were active members of the community. He served as a Boy Scout leader and mentored airmen at Mountain Home Air Force Base. Bernie and Realla also served as missionaries for the church.

Colonel Fisher truly lived the ideal of selfless service—risking his own life to save other lives. He inspired and encouraged others not only directly through his children, but also through the countless other servicemembers and Americans who have heard his story and have had the thought of dedicated service awakened in them. Bernie embodied great leadership. He led by example. I join his family, including his sons and their families, which include 33 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, and his numerous friends in mourning his passing. His legacy will endure.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMIE MIDDLEBROOK

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of New Carlisle, IN, Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Middlebrook. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Assistant Chief Middlebrook served with the New Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department for 22 years.

On Tuesday, August 5, 2014, Assistant Chief Middlebrook and firefighters from local fire departments battled a massive fire at an area business. While advancing a water hose inside the facility, the roof of the building collapsed on top of Middlebrook. Despite the best efforts of his fellow firefighters, EMTs, and medical personnel, Jamie Middlebrook, 41, succumbed to his injuries.

''He took me in, he taught me the right way to do things . . . He showed me how to be strong, be brave, and be there in somebody's time of need,'' said New Carlisle Fire Chief Josh Schweizer of Assistant Chief Middlebrook.

A native of South Bend, IN, Jamie Middlebrook lived in the nearby town of New Carlisle. As the son of a firefighter, Middlebrook learned the importance of serving his community at an early age, and he possessed a servant heart. In addition to Middlebrook's service with the New Carlisle Fire Department, he was the assistant chief of the New Carlisle EMS. Never shying from the responsibility of serving his community, Middlebrook continued to work full time with the New Carlisle EMS even after being diagnosed with cancer.

''He'd been a paramedic so long that many elderly people in town knew him. They would request him by name on medical calls,'' said his mother, Carol Middlebrook.

Assistant Fire Chief Middlebrook is survived and deeply missed by his wife Julie, parents Robert and Carol Middlebrook, brother Brook Middlebrook, as well as other relatives, friends, the New Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department, the New Carlisle EMS family, and Hoosiers across the State.

Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Middlebrook loved his work, and he gave his life in service and protection of the citizens of Indiana. Although he would have never thought of himself as a hero, Middlebrook demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero in his everyday life as an EMS worker, a firefighter, a husband, a son, and friend to so many—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this brave man and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK ROSSI

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Jack Rossi, who is not only a truly remarkable West Virginian, but he is also one of my dearest friends and closest confidants. After tirelessly working his entire life, Jack has finally surrendered to a well-deserved retirement having stepped down as presiding member of West Virginia's largest accounting and consulting firm, Arnett Foster Toothman, and as chairman of the Charleston Area Alliance, a multi-faceted economic, business and community development organization. But these prominent titles just breach the tip of the iceberg since Jack's story is based on a lifetime of accomplishments and a lifetime of service that ceaselessly has helped our great State of West Virginia thrive and prosper.

A native of the small town of Coalton in Randolph County, WV, just a few counties away from my hometown area in Marion County, Jack learned at an early age the importance of hard work and embraced West Virginia's cultural practice of neighbors helping neighbors. As the son of an Italian coal miner who shared a roof with 13 siblings, Jack was no stranger to staying busy with chores and helping out around the neighborhood until he was old enough to work at Coalton's general store at the ripe age of 12. As he grew older and became intrigued by how to run a business, Jack watched the local accountant balance the store's numbers. Soon enough, Jack was finishing the accounting work himself until he set out to attain a higher education at West Virginia University, where it just so happened that our paths crossed.

I will never forget that day. I was hobbling down the hallway on crutches after I blew out my knee on the football field. Juggling books, bags and crutches on one leg, a fellow student approached me to offer assistance. His name was Jack. I will never forget his selfless act of kindness and how naturally it seemed for him to see a person in need and immediately want to help. But, as I learned quickly and throughout the years of a beautiful friendship, that is just who Jack is—amiable, loyal, and gracious.

We hear about lifetime achievers, but Jack is a lifetime giver. At every turn of the road, whether it be as a young boy, as an enthusiastic college student, a Vietnam veteran or as a professional, Jack has devoted his time and his efforts to helping others and helping his surrounding communities. Jack's unwavering dedication to the Mountain State, accompanied by his innovative vision, inspirational spirit, and savvy aptitude, have helped countless West Virginians, their businesses and our communities statewide.

Because of his passion, discipline, and staunch work ethic, everyone who meets Jack immediately recognizes his aptitude for success and knows he will work day and night until the job is done. His loyalty, trustworthiness and dedication know no bounds.

Jack has not only played the roles of accomplished certified public accountant and savvy business and community developer, but he is a devoted volunteer who has always spent his free time joining organizations that impact our local communities. He has served as president of the Charleston Chapter of CPAs, the WV Society of CPAs and the WV Board of Accountancy. He has supported his profession through service on numerous committees on statewide and national levels.

Jack spends countless hours each year in service to West Virginia State government. He currently serves on the West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments and the West Virginia Racing Commission.

And of course, never forgetting his Mountaineer roots, Jack currently also serves on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia University Alumni Association as Immediate Past Chairman.

He previously served 5 years as Treasurer and was heavily involved in the successful fundraising campaign to build a new Alumni Center at WVU.

Due to Jack's unwavering commitment to his community and the organizations in which he dedicated his time and energy toward year after year, he is also no stranger to receiving prestigious awards. To name a few, he has been the recipient of the State Journal's Who's Who award for making a difference in the business climate, the National Association of Athletic Development Directors 2009 ''Volunteer of the Year'' award for volunteering and fundraising for the WVU Mountaineer Athletic Club, the WVU Alumni ''Most Loyal Mountaineer'' award and the ''Life Time Achievement'' award, the highest honor given out to a West Virginia CPA by the West Virginia Society of CPAs.

Time and again, Jack has shown how greatly an individual can contribute to his community through passion, commitment and hard work.

Although Jack and his wife, Joy, temporarily left for a job opportunity in North Carolina right after college, they quickly returned to the place they call home and there has never been a doubt that Jack's roots are truly imbedded in the Mountain State. West Virginia is his home and I am forever grateful for his dedication to the state.

Jack's career and accomplishments are a testament to his hard work and commitment to the State of West Virginia. It is a privilege to know a man who has contributed so much of his life to strengthening our West Virginia communities. I am honored to call Jack my friend and I congratulate him on a long and happy retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO GABE GRIFFIN

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish today to honor a courageous young Alabamian Gabe Griffin. Gabe is a 9-year-old boy who lives with his family in Shelby County, AL.

Right now, Gabe lives like any other child, but that is expected to change soon. Without a cure, Gabe's doctors expect him to be in a wheelchair by the time he is 12 years old and lose his life around the age of 20. Gabe suffers from a fatal genetic mutation called Duchenne muscular dystrophy, DMD, which is caused by an absence of dystrophin, a protein that helps keep the body's muscles intact. The onset of this fatal disorder occurs during early childhood and causes generalized weakness and muscle wasting that increases over time. While medical advances have led to some very promising clinical trials, to date there is no cure and no one has survived. DMD affects approximately 1 in every 3,500 boys, which adds up to about 15,000 boys in America.

Symptoms usually appear in male children before age 6, and progressive proximal muscle weakness associated with a loss of muscle mass is observed first. This weakness eventually spreads to the arms, neck, and other areas, and most patients are wheelchair dependent by the age of 12.

Gabe can currently walk, breathe, and feed himself like any other child. Since his diagnosis, his family has been relentlessly striving to raise awareness and increase research funding for DMD. They play an active role in the fight against this devastating disease and are tireless in their efforts to find a cure.

Recently, a cross-country bicycle ride to raise awareness of DMD was completed. Wes Bates, a student at Indiana University; Michael Staley, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. BACHUS; and their support team rode 3,300 miles from Astoria, OR, on June 28 to Mobile, AL, on August 14. They worked to educate people across America about DMD, and the funds they raised will be used to raise awareness and advance current research.

Through his struggle, Gabe has continued to bring happiness and light to those around him. He is a wonderful and courageous boy. It is my honor to recognize Gabe Griffin and his family for their incredible efforts to defeat Duchenne muscular disorder. It is my hope that with their continued efforts, Gabe may live to see the cure of DMD.●

RECOGNIZING THE CANNON LAKE ALL STARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Canyon Lake Little League all-star team for qualifying for the 68th Little League World Series in South Williamsport, PA.

The Canyon Lake Little League all-star team's journey to the World Series was drama filled. After a rough first two innings in the qualifying game, Canyon Lake scored six runs in the bottom of the third, capturing the lead and continued their rally into the fourth inning, where they scored another eight runs, defeating the Nebraska Little League team, 15 to 4. This final win in Indianapolis captured for the team the Midwest Regional title with an impressive 6-to-0 record. Previously, the Canyon Lake team gave equally impressive performances at the South Dakota/North Dakota district games, including a sixth inning comeback against Fargo to win 10 to 9 in the final. Once in Pennsylvania, the team rounded out their performance at the Little League World Series on a high note, as they captured South Dakota's first win at the world level. Canyon Lake defeated the Czech Republic 5 to 3 in the consolation round, ending their run on a high note.

Canyon Lake was led by manager Rich Hegre and assistant coaches Scott Spencer and Steve Richey. The athletes of the 2014 Canyon Lake all-star little league team, in alphabetical order, are as follows: Colton Hartford, Matthew Hegre, Jake Kostenbauer, Mason Litz, Logan Miller, Bridger Nesbit, Dylan Richey, Adam Salter, True Synhorst, Daniel Vigoren, Cooper Voorhees, and Blake Weaver.

I commend the players and coaches of the Canyon Lake all-star team for their efforts. These athletes should be incredibly proud of all their remarkable achievements. On behalf of the state of South Dakota, I am pleased to congratulate the Canyon Lake All-Stars on this impressive accomplishment.●

YELLOW RIBBON FUND FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a group of incredible individuals who are part of the Yellow Ribbon Fund Family Caregiver Program. The Yellow Ribbon Fund Family Caregiver Program is an outstanding organization that supports both wounded service members and veterans, and the extraordinary people who care for them. I would like to recognize the hard work, passion, and dedication of the following caregivers: Brian Vines, Sharon Roberts, Autumn Bailey, Margaret Jones, Stacey Kelley, Heather Miller, Dawna Barber, Helen Gooding, Kellene Cole, Alicia Lee, Joey Caswell, Vicki Boswell, Elizabeth Martin, Rose Haley and Jessica Allen.

The Yellow Ribbon Fund was founded in 2005, when several Washington-area business owners came together to help a mother struggling to take care of her son, a wounded Marine being treated in a hospital far from home.

These individuals have sacrificed much in order to care for their wounded loved ones, and their hard work often goes unnoticed and under-appreciated. The Yellow Ribbon Fund Family Caregiver Program recognizes the challenges faced and sacrifices made by caregivers, and offers support programs, family-oriented activities, and retreats for caregivers and their families.

Our military men and women and their families serve and sacrifice for our country. I would like to thank the Yellow Ribbon Fund for the services they provide to our wounded veterans as well as the invaluable support they offer to caregivers.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 83. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2569. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Missisquoi River and the Trout River in

the State of Vermont, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

H.R. 2866. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2996. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

H.R. 3006. An act to authorize a land exchange involving the acquisition of private land adjacent to the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona for inclusion in the refuge in exchange for certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Riverside County, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3044. An act to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi.

H.R. 3222. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of site associated with the 1657 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance in Queens, New York, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3374. An act to provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4119. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4771. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate anabolic steroids.

H.R. 5108. An act to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5205. An act to authorize certain land conveyances involving public lands in northern Nevada to promote economic development and conservation, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 276. An act to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir.

H.R. 4197. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2866. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3006. An act to authorize a land exchange involving the acquisition of private land adjacent to the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona for inclusion in the refuge in exchange for certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Riverside County, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3044. An act to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3222. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the 1657 signing of the Flushing Remonstrance in Queens, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3374. An act to provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4119. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4771. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate anabolic steroids; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5108. An act to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5205. An act to authorize certain land conveyances involving public lands in northern Nevada to promote economic development and conservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 16, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 276. An act to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–324. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to review and support H.R. 3930, the National Commission on the Structure of the Army Act of 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

Whereas, H.R. 3930 was introduced on January 27, 2014, and seeks to establish the National Commission on the Structure of the Army to undertake a comprehensive study of the structure of the Army; and

Whereas, the focus of this study is to determine two factors, which include the proper force mixture of the active component and reserve component, and how the structure should be modified to best fulfill mission requirements in a manner that is consistent with available resources; and

Whereas, H.R. 3930 also directs the commission to give careful consideration in evaluating a structure that meets current and anticipated requirements of combat commands, achieves a cost-efficient balance between the regular and reserve components with particular focus on fully burdened and lifestyle costs of Army personnel, and ensures that the regular and reserve components possess the capacity needed to support homeland defense and disaster assistance missions in the United States; and

Whereas, H.R. 3930 further provides for sufficient numbers of regular members of the Army to provide a base of trained personnel from which the personnel of the reserve components could be recruited; maintains a peacetime rotation force to support operational tempo goals of a ratio of one to two for regular members and a ratio of one to five for members of the reserve components; and further maximizes and appropriately balances affordability, efficiency, effectiveness, capability, and readiness; and

Whereas, H.R. 3930 further prohibits the use of any funds made available for the 2015 Fiscal Year for the Army to divest, retire, or transfer any aircraft of Army assigned units of the Army National Guard as of January 15, 2014, or to reduce personnel below the authorized and strength levels of three hundred fifty thousand members of the Army National Guard as of September 30, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to review and support H.R. 3930, which would, if enacted, be known as the National Commission on the Structure of the Army Act of 2014, and be it further

Resolved, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–325. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States to enact the Earthquake Insurance Affordability Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

Whereas, The magnitude 6.7 Northridge Earthquake in 1994 was the costliest natural disaster in the history of the State of California to date, with more than $25 billion in property damage, and $49 billion in economic losses to region and the state; and

Whereas, A major earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area or in southern California could have an even greater impact than Hurricane Katrina had in Louisiana and Mississippi; and

Whereas, Risk Management Solutions, Inc., estimated the potential cost of a repeat of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake at $260 billion, and a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rupturing the southern and northern Hayward Fault between $210 and $235 billion; and

Whereas, The seven southern California counties that would be most affected by an earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault are home to 621,000 businesses, 6.3 million employees, and an annual payroll of $303.3 billion; and

Whereas, A magnitude 7.8 southern California earthquake modeled by the United States Geological Survey and the Southern California Earthquake Center at the University of Southern California in 2008 found that such an earthquake could cause more than $213 billion in damage, and affect roughly 1 out of every 15 workers in the United States, and that the nationwide toll on unemployment and lost productivity could be severe; and

Whereas, Risks from flood and earthquake are generally not included in homeowners' insurance and must be purchased separately, but few homeowners purchase earthquake insurance for many reasons, including its high cost; and

Whereas, The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in exchange for state and community floodplain management regulations that reduce future flood damages; and

Whereas, Unlike flood insurance, there is no requirement at the federal or state level to obtain earthquake insurance for purposes of securing financing for real property located in high risk areas, leaving the mortgage industry, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, effectively the insurer of last resort; and

Whereas, Under current federal law, earthquake insurance premiums that are collected and not used for claims arising within the year of collection are taxed and there is no ability to reserve profits or accumulate capital for Future losses, leading to the need for higher premiums; and

Whereas, California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have introduced the Earthquake Insurance Affordability Act (EIAA) that would authorize a federal guarantee of limited postearthquake borrowing by actuarially sound state residential earthquake insurance programs; and

Whereas, The EIAA would lower the cost of earthquake insurance for homeowners who buy coverage from nonprofit, state earthquake insurance programs and direct funding to effective seismic-mitigation measures; and

Whereas, The EIAA would allow the California Earthquake Authority to sell postevent bonds in the private capital market, reducing the need to purchase reinsurance preevent and resulting in rate reductions and lower deductibles; and

Whereas, With more Californians insured, postevent disaster assistance would cost less to both the state and the federal government, and communities could recover more quickly; and

Whereas, A Congressional Budget Office analysis of a similar bill introduced in 2007 estimated that the cost to the federal government for loan guarantees and post disaster loans would be negligible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California jointly, That the Legislature memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to enact the Earthquake Insurance Affordability Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–326. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the intent of congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, or local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same Social Security benefit as a worker who has worked only in employment covered by Social Security throughout his career; and

Whereas, congress enacted these reduction provisions to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to the Social Security Administration, in 2013, at least 614,644 individuals nationally were affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to the Social Security Administration, in 2013, at least 1,549,544 individuals nationally were affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States of America to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–327. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise awareness of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the remaining two hundred seventy-six missing girls; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 138

Whereas, on April 14, 2014, three hundred twenty-nine girls were kidnapped from their school in Chibok, Nigeria, by dozens of gunmen who stormed the girls' dormitories while they were sleeping; and

Whereas, in a region where only four percent of girls complete secondary schooling, the kidnapped girls were the best and the brightest; looking forward to bright futures as global leaders, teachers, or lawyers; and

Whereas, the girls were abducted by a radical Islamic group called Boko Haram, which in English, means ''Western education is sinful''; and

Whereas, on January 31, 2012, in testimony before United States Congress, the director of national intelligence, James Clapper, included Boko Haram in his worldwide threat assessment, stating, ''There are also fears that Boko Haram, elements of which have engaged al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb, is interested in hitting Western targets, such as the United States Embassy and hotels frequented by Westerners''; and

Whereas, the United States has offered a seven million dollar bounty for the group's elusive leader, Abubakar Shekau; and

Whereas, the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group's large-scale and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including women and children; and

Whereas, fifty-three girls were able to escape and have described their experiences as extremely distressing; and

Whereas, concern is growing about the safety of those who are still missing; and

Whereas, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has accepted offers from the United States of military personnel, law enforcement officials, and other experts; and

Whereas, Boko Haram's militant leader, Abubakar Shekau, released a video in which he expresses his abhorrence of Western education, saying that the girls should be married instead of being educated and further claims that he will sell the women as he has been commanded by Allah; and

Whereas, Abubakar Shekau referred to the girls as slaves and stated that he plans to kidnap more girls; and

Whereas, United Nations and the United States have both stressed an absolute prohibition against slavery and sexual slavery in international law, making these actions crimes against humanity; and

Whereas, the White House press secretary has said that appropriate action must be taken to locate and to free these young women before they are trafficked or killed; and

Whereas, Louisiana has taken a most aggressive stand to abolish and condemn slavery among women in Louisiana and worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise awareness of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this

modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the remaining two hundred seventy-six missing girls; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–328. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Delaware memorializing a commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and Delaware; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing friends with a shared historical relationship and dearly cherished values of freedom, democracy, and human rights; and

Whereas, 2014 marks the 14th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Delaware and Taiwan; and

Whereas, for the past 13 years, the sister-state relationship with Taiwan has been strengthened through the efforts of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) resulting in better mutual understanding; and

Whereas, Taiwan is the world's eighteenth-largest economy and one of the key trading partners of the United States, with the two-way trade volume between the United States and Taiwan reaching sixty-three billion in 2013; and

Whereas, Taiwan is now a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (effective November 1, 2012), reflecting the friendship, trust, and cooperation shared between our two countries and making travel between Taiwan and the United States for business and tourism even more convenient; and

Whereas, negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement (B1A) between Taiwan and the United States are ongoing and are an important step towards strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way for entering into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA); and

Whereas, encouraging trade between the people of Delaware and the people of Taiwan helps to forge a closer relationship and is beneficial to both Delaware and Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the 147th General Assembly of the State of Delaware that we hereby reaffirm our commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and Delaware; and be it further,

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate; and the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

POM–329. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or to take such actions as are necessary to require that places of public accommodation and commercial facilities be equipped with seating for persons who are unable to rise from a seated position without assistance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

Whereas, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12181) requires places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with the accessibility standards established by federal regulation; and

Whereas, as our population ages and our veterans return home from overseas, there is a growing population who are unable to rise from the seated position without physical hands-on assistance from others, including strangers; and

Whereas, the need to require assistance from others to complete the task of rising from a seated position robs persons of their independence and dignity; and

Whereas, if seating accommodations were to be equipped with raised arms or parts from which a person could push when rising then this would eliminate the need for persons to obtain assistance from others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12181) or to take such actions as are necessary to require that places of public accommodation and commercial facilities be equipped with seating for persons who are unable to rise from a seated position without assistance, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–330. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

Whereas, the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act would allow Medicare to reimburse retail community pharmacies for delivery of diabetic testing supplies to Medicare recipients' homes; and

Whereas, seniors would be safe from entering hazardous circumstances, risking debilitating falls, or other comparable inconveniences to obtain diabetic testing supplies because of lack of supply delivery; and

Whereas, the cost of delivery of diabetic testing supplies may be equivalent regardless of whether they are delivered same-day by local pharmacies or through the mail; and

Whereas, the integrity of health care access to seniors in need of diabetic testing supply access would be increased; and

Whereas, in July 2013, the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act of 2013 was introduced as H.R. 2845 by United States Representative Peter Welch of Vermont; and

Whereas, in January 2014, Senator John Thune of South Dakota introduced the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act of 2014 as S. 1935; and

Whereas, the percentage of people diagnosed with diabetes from 1980–2011 for those aged sixty-five to seventy-four years increased one hundred forty percent, and one hundred twenty-five percent for those age seventy-five years and older, and the overall prevalence of diagnosed diabetes has risen sharply among all groups for which data is available; and

Whereas, community pharmacies play a pivotal role in affordable and accessible health care within rural and other underserved communities by providing delivery services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–331. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental illness is defined as ''health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired function''; and

Whereas, approximately sixty-one million five hundred thousand Americans experience mental illness in a given year; and

Whereas, approximately thirteen million six hundred thousand Americans live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder; and

Whereas, more than eleven million Americans have severe schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression; and

Whereas, one-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of fourteen; and

Whereas, fewer than one-third of adults and one-half of children with a diagnosed mental disorder receive mental health services in a given year; and

Whereas, individuals living with mental health challenges and their families soon discover that the illness affects many aspects of their lives and that they need more than medical help; and

Whereas, many loved ones are left feeling hopeless in receiving effective and appropriate treatment for their family members who suffer from mental illness; and

Whereas, there is a need to better allocate current resources to focus on the most effective services and most severe mental illnesses; and

Whereas, it is prudent to promote stronger interagency coordination, increase data collection on treatment outcomes, and raise efforts to drive evidence-based care; and

Whereas, Congressman Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania has introduced the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 as H.R. 3717; and

Whereas, the bill will create within the Department of Health and Human Services a new assistant secretary for mental health and substance-abuse disorders who would lead federal mental illness efforts, be responsible for promoting the medically oriented models of care adopted by the National Institute of Mental Health, and oversee the grant process while holding community centers accountable by ensuring they are meeting evidence-based standards; and

Whereas, H.R. 3717 would push states to efficiently allocate funds towards modernizing mental illness state laws and raise support for community mental health centers and hospital psychiatric care; and

Whereas, to address issues regarding the shortage of psychiatric professionals, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 would advance medical tools like telepsychiatry which links primary physicians in underserved areas to psychiatric professionals in order to decrease the average span of time between an initial episode of psychosis for a patient and his preliminary evaluation and treatment procedures; and

Whereas, H.R. 3717 would give physicians legal safe harbor to volunteer at understaffed mental health centers; and

Whereas, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 will adjust the federal privacy law known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, by allowing mental health professionals and families to share information about loved ones to promote more appropriate and effective treatment procedure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–332. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire expressing support for the right of residents of the District of Columbia to be fully represented in the Congress of the United States of America; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 21

Whereas, over 600,000 citizens of the District of Columbia pay taxes to the federal government but are denied voting representation in the Congress of the United States; and

Whereas, over 194,000 citizens of the District of Columbia have fought in our armed forces in service to our nation; and

Whereas, the federal government has sent its armed forces, among them District of Columbia citizens, to fight on foreign soil in support and defense of democratic ideals while denying the residents of our own national capital the right of legislative representation; and

Whereas, those efforts to spread liberty and democracy to the far corners of the globe are undermined and diminished by the denial of democratic rights to over 600,000 citizens of the United States of America; and

Whereas, 9 service members from the District of Columbia have lost their lives in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas, the United States is the only nation in the world with a representative, democratic constitution that denies voting representation in the national legislature to the citizens of the capital; and

Whereas, the District of Columbia is the only political and geographical entity within the United States whose citizens bear the full responsibilities of citizenship without sharing in the appropriate privileges of citizenship; and

Whereas, the New Hampshire house of representatives is a shining example of representational democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That the New Hampshire house of representatives declares its support for the right of residents of the District of Columbia to be fully represented in the Congress of the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of 41 representatives, be forwarded by the house clerk to the President of the United States of America, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia and to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM–333. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota relative to their ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, on March 10, 1971, the Senate voted 94–0 in favor of proposing a Constitutional amendment to guarantee that the voting age could not be higher than eighteen; and

Whereas, on March 23, 1971, the House of Representatives voted 401–19 in favor of the proposed Constitutional amendment; and

Whereas, forty-two of the fifty states have ratified the 26th amendment to the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, both Houses of the Ninety-Second Congress of the United States of America by a constitutional majority of two-thirds of each House thereof, made the following proposal to amend the Constitution of the United States of America as follows:

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right to vote to citizens eighteen years of age or older.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

''ARTICLE . . . .

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.'' Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Eighty-Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the 26th Amendment of the United States is hereby ratified by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota; and be it further,

Resolved, That certified copies of this Joint Resolution be forwarded by a I the Secretary of State, to the Secretary of State of the United States, to the presiding officers of both Houses of the Congress of the United States, and to the Archivist of the United States.

POM–334. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to make any murder of a police officer or corrections officer while in the line of duty a federal offense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 123

Whereas, Michigan law enforcement and corrections officers are highly-trained and courageous individuals, often finding themselves in dangerous situations in order to enforce and maintain the laws of the state and to protect the residents of Michigan; and

Whereas, The killing of a federal law enforcement or corrections officer is a federal offense. However, the killing of a state law enforcement or corrections officer is only considered a federal offense if the officer was working with federal agents in furtherance of a federal investigation. In addition, certain circumstances can elevate a state crime to a federal crime; and

Whereas, There should be a consistent national policy to protect our law enforcement and corrections officers. Law enforcement is a necessary and vital function of our government at all levels. All U.S. citizens rely on federal and state law enforcement and corrections officers to keep us safe in our home states and all states throughout the nation. Creating a uniform penalty for the crime of taking the life of a law enforcement or corrections officer while on duty will underscore the importance of all peace officers nationwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to make any murder of a police officer or corrections officer while in the line of duty a federal offense; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–335. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland relative to their ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

Whereas, The 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution provides for the direct election of Senators of a state to the United States Congress rather than for their election or appointment by a state legislature; and

Whereas, The 17th Amendment passed the United States Senate on June 12, 1911, and then passed the United States House of Representatives on May 13, 1912; and

Whereas, The 17th Amendment thereafter was ratified to become part of the United States Constitution when on April 8, 1913, Connecticut became the 36th state to ratify its adoption, thereby satisfying the requirement of the United States Constitution that any proposed constitutional amendment be approved by at least three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, Following its formal ratification, the 17th Amendment subsequently also was ratified by Louisiana on June 11, 1913, and Delaware on June 25, 2010; and

Whereas, By its vote on February 26, 1913, Utah was the only state to reject the 17th Amendment (although the Florida legislature, which also took up the amendment, failed to complete action as the amendment never reached the Florida Senate); and

Whereas, The General Assembly of Maryland has not taken action to either ratify or reject the 17th Amendment to be part of the United States Constitution, the State of Maryland now wishes formally to record its support for and also ratify the amendment, viz:

''ARTICLE

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of each State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the foregoing amendment to the

United States Constitution is ratified by the State of Maryland to all intents and purposes as a part of the United States Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Governor of the State of Maryland is requested to forward authentic copies of this Resolution, under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, to: the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20520; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate, 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1011 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; and the Honorable Martha N. Johnson, Acting Administrator of General Services of the United States, 1800 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20405.

POM–336. A Senate joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland rescinding Maryland's ratification of the Corwin Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Whereas, On February 27, 1861, in an attempt to avert the secession of Southern states, United States Representative Thomas Corwin of Ohio proposed an amendment to the United States Constitution that would prohibit the United States Constitution from being amended in a manner that authorizes Congress to abolish or interfere with the states' domestic institutions, including slavery; and

Whereas, On March 2, 1861, the Corwin Amendment passed the United States Congress and was submitted to the states for ratification; and

Whereas, With the enactment of Chapter 21 of the Acts of 1862, the General Assembly of Maryland ratified the Corwin Amendment; and

Whereas, The Corwin Amendment has not been ratified by three-fourths of the states and, therefore, is not part of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, With the end of the Civil War and the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the purposes of the Corwin Amendment have become moot: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the State of Maryland rescinds its ratification of the Corwin Amendment to the United States Constitution, viz:

''ARTICLE

No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.'', and be it further

Resolved, That the Governor of the State of Maryland is requested to forward authentic copies of this Resolution, under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, to: the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Suite S–212, United States Capitol Building, Washington, DC 20510; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate, 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1011 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; and the Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 709 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20408.

POM–337. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland relative to their ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

Whereas, The 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution provides for the direct election of Senators of a state to the United States Congress rather than for their election or appointment by a state legislature;

Whereas, The 17th Amendment passed the United States Senate on June 12, 1911, and then passed the United States House of Representatives on May 13, 1912; and

Whereas, The 17th Amendment thereafter was ratified to become part of the United States Constitution when on April 8, 1913, Connecticut became the 36th state to ratify its adoption, thereby satisfying the requirement of the United States Constitution that any proposed constitutional amendment be approved by at least three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, Following its formal ratification, the 17th Amendment subsequently also was ratified by Louisiana on June 11, 1913, and Delaware on June 25, 2010; and

Whereas, By its vote on February 26, 1913, Utah was the only state to reject the 17th Amendment (although the Florida legislature, which also took up the amendment, failed to complete action as the amendment never reached the Florida Senate); and

Whereas, The General Assembly of Maryland has not taken action to either ratify or reject the 17th Amendment to be part of the United States Constitution, the State of Maryland now wishes formally to record its support for and also ratify the amendment, viz:

''ARTICLE

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of each State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.'' Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the foregoing amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified by the State of Maryland to all intents and purposes as a part of the United States Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Governor of the State of Maryland is requested to forward authentic copies of this Resolution, under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, to: the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate, 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1011 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the Honorable Martha N. Johnson, Acting Administrator of General Services of the United States, 1800 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20405.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2061. A bill to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services (Rept. No. 113–257).

S. 1898. A bill to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2651. A bill to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Gustave F. Perna, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Capt. Kathleen M. Creighton, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Todd J. Squire, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Brian B. Brown and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Brett C. Heimbigner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Steven L. Kwast, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Scott G. Perry, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Joseph J. Heck, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Mark S. Inch, to be Major General.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Philip S. Davidson, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, to be Vice Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Tod D. Wolters, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Veralinn Jamieson, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. John W. Nicholson, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Paul M. Benenati, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Michael A. Calhoun, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel Raul E. Escribano and ending with Colonel Jeffrey L. Milhorn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2014.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Lisa L. Adams, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Richard D. Mink, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with David L. Allison and ending with Kwani D. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Stephen R. Abrams and ending with G010257, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Isaiah C. Abbott and ending with D012187, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Jason K. Abbott and ending with D012084, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Army nomination of Claudia D. Henderson, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Jesse Abreu and ending with D011533, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Army nomination of Sun S. Macupa, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Brian S. Adams and ending with G010266, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Clark C. K. Adams II and ending with G010269, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Herbert J. Brock IV and ending with Gregory S. Phipps, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Syed Ahmed and ending with Amy Zingalis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Bradley Aebi and ending with Kevyn Wetzel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2014.

Navy nomination of Edward J. Eder, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of William A. Burns, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Kevin L. Bell, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Clayton M. Pendergrass, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Casey D. Ferguson and ending with Anthony K. Tobias, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Crystal R. Aandahl and ending with Lina M. Yecpot, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Cynthia N. Abella and ending with Yu Zheng, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher A. Adams and ending with Marlin Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jesse D. Adams and ending with Nicholas B. Stampfli, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jon A. Angle and ending with Khalid J. Woods, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Todd A. Anderson and ending with Shevonne K. Wells, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Austin G. Aldridge and ending with Nathan T. Woodward, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Alwin L. Albert and ending with Jack M. Zuckerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2014.

Navy nomination of Gregory E. Oxford, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Benjamin I. Abney, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Joel N. Peterson, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Gregory C. Cathcart and ending with Michael D. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2014.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 2812. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2813. A bill to establish the National Prostate Cancer Council for improved screening, early detection, assessment, and monitoring of prostate cancer, and to direct the development and implementation of a national strategic plan to expedite advancement of diagnostic tools and the transfer of such tools to patients; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2814. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2815. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the term of marketing assistance loans in cases in which a purchaser has bought the loan commodity subject to the loan and declared bankruptcy prior to paying for the loan commodity; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2816. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the specific exemption for professional football leagues and to provide a special rule for other professional sports leagues, and to provide an additional authorization of appropriations for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2817. A bill to assign the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis of the Federal Communications Commission the responsibility of bringing institutional focus to the important function of approving new technologies and improving regulatory certainty at the Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2818. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2819. A bill to amend chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the rental of motor vehicles that contain a defect related to motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2820. A bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain Federal land in Garden Valley, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2821. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2822. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2823. A bill to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2824. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to promote sustainable conservation and management for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2825. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to treat as dispensing the delivery of a controlled substance by a pharmacy to a practitioner, pursuant to a patient-specific prescription of the practitioner, under certain circumstances; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2826. 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2827. A bill to amend section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude Federal student aid from taxable gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2828. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2829. A bill to require certain financial regulators to determine whether new regulations or orders are duplicative or inconsistent with existing Federal regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2830. A bill to permanently reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Indians; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2831. A bill to direct the President to establish an interagency mechanism to coordinate United States development programs and private sector investment activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2832. A bill to provide for youth jobs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. Res. 546. A resolution congratulating Indonesia's President-elect Joko Widodo on his electoral victory and commending the people of Indonesia on their commitment to democracy and free and fair elections; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 547. A resolution designating the week beginning September 14, 2014, as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HAGAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. THUNE, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 548. A resolution designating November 29, 2014, as ''Small Business Saturday'' and supporting efforts to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 549. A resolution designating October 26, 2014, as Day of the Deployed; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 550. A resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of ''The Star-Spangled Banner''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 809

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 809, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require that genetically engineered food and foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients be labeled accordingly.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 952

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal distributions for medicine qualified only if for prescribed drug or insulin.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 2174

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2174, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide greater flexibility in offering health insurance coverage across State lines.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

S. 2210

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2210, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2481

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2481, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide authority for sole source contracts for certain small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2501, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the Medicare Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program.

S. 2527

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2527, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 2543

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2543, a bill to support afterschool and out-of-school-time science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2599

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2599, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2714, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2782, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2793

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2793, a bill to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson.

S. 2796

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2796, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the income protection allowances.

S. 2802

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2802, a bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 and the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002 to strengthen research in adult education.

S. 2809

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2809, a bill to require the Environmental Protection Agency to obtain a court order to garnish wages to pay a nontax debt.

S. RES. 541

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 541, a resolution recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

S. RES. 543

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 543, a resolution designating November 1, 2014, as National Bison Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2813. A bill to establish the National Prostate Cancer Council for improved screening, early detection, assessment, and monitoring of prostate cancer, and to direct the development and implementation of a national strategic plan to expedite advancement of diagnostic tools and the transfer of such tools to patients; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the National Prostate Cancer Council Act with my colleague, Senator SESSIONS. This bipartisan legislation addresses the urgent need for a national strategy for the accelerated creation, advancement, and testing of diagnostic tools to be used in the fight against prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in the United States, and the second-leading cause of cancer-related death in men. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2014, 233,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and almost 30,000 men will die from the disease.

Early detection of prostate cancer saves lives. Unfortunately, current screening techniques result in numerous false-negatives, leaving men at risk to wrongly believe they are cancer-free, and false-positive alarms, which often lead to painful, costly, and unnecessary procedures. In addition, the prostate is one of the few organs in the human body where biopsies are performed blindly, which can miss cancer even when multiple samples are taken.

The National Prostate Cancer Council Act mirrors the commitment the Federal government has made to fight Alzheimer's disease under the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which was signed into law in 2011. Similarly, this bill will bring together federal agencies, medical and scientific experts, advocacy organizations, and patient survivors to create a clear national plan for achieving the ultimate goal developing reliable tests that can detect prostate cancer and diagnose its severity.

The National Prostate Cancer Council will evaluate our current efforts across all Federal agencies, and it will coordinate those efforts to be more effective. Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services will receive a report from the Council each year detailing the progress made toward fulfilling the national plan.

A national strategy and commitment can be the key to diagnosing prostate cancer earlier and more accurately. It will help us identify the best use of our resources and focus on the most pressing needs, ultimately saving lives and reducing unnecessary procedures. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort, and to cosponsor this legislation.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2814. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I am introducing the NLRB Reform Act with Senator MCCONNELL. Our legislation is very simple. It will change the NLRB from an advocate to an umpire. That is the role the National Labor Relations Board was always supposed to have. The Board was created 79 years ago to act as an impartial umpire in labor disputes that threaten the free flow of commerce. The Board's decisions affect millions of private sector workers. But over time the Board has become an advocate for one interest group or the other, changing positions with each new administration.

There are three significant problems the Board faces today:

No. 1, the biggest problem is partisan advocacy. Today the majority of the five-member Board is made up of appointees who follow President Obama's political leanings. President Obama has appointed three labor union leaders to the Board.

No. 2, the Board also has a freewheeling advocate for its general counsel. The Board's most recent general counsels have been exceeding their statutory authority and bringing questionable cases that threaten American jobs and threaten sending overseas manufacturing jobs that we need to keep here.

No. 3, the National Labor Relations Board has been slow to resolve disputes. Last year 109 cases—that is 30 percent of the Board's caseload—were pending for more than a year.

Occasionally someone will say to me: If Republicans were to win the Senate, what would Republicans do?

What we would do is try to come up with sensible proposals that lead us in the right direction, proposals that have so much commonsense that they attract the support of enough Democrats and the House of Representatives and the President to become law. This is one such proposal.

Our bill provides three solutions to the problems I identified:

No. 1, it would end partisan advocacy on the National Labor Relations Board. The Board would become a six-member board of three Republicans and three Democrats, and a required majority of four will force both sides to find a middle ground.

No. 2, it reins in the general counsel. Businesses and unions would be able to challenge complaints filed by the general counsel by taking them to the Federal district court, and they will have greater transparency about the basis and legal reasoning for the charges brought by the general counsel.

No. 3, our legislation would encourage timely decisions. First, either party in a case before the Board may appeal to a Federal court of appeals if the Board fails to reach a decision in 1 year. Second, funding for the entire NLRB would be reduced by 20 percent if the Board is not able to decide 90 percent of its cases within 1 year over the first 2-year period following reform.

Our bill would offer these solutions without taking away one single right, one single remedy from any employee, business, or union.

With each new administration, the pendulum at the NLRB has swung further from the middle, further away from being an umpire. The result is that labor policy whipsaws back and forth, taking employees and employers for a wild ride. This has happened under most administrations, but it has been worse under the current administration. The minority leader mentioned several of those examples.

Under the partisan advocacy of today's National Labor Relations Board, workers are losing their right to privacy. The Board is embarking on a regulatory effort to expand requirements that employers give employees' names and addresses to union organizers. The Board wants more personal information about these employees to be given to the organizing union, including telephone numbers, email addresses, the employee's work location, the employee's shift, the job classifications. They propose doing everything but attaching a GPS to the lapel of each employee.

In my State of Tennessee, for example, we have had an ongoing organizing effort in the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga. In a secret ballot election last February, employees at the Volkswagen plant said: We don't want a union; we don't need a union. So 712 to 626 they rejected the United Auto Workers' bid to unionize the plant. Imagine if you were one of those 712 employees who voted against unionizing. Now organizers can get your private email address and all of this other personal information.

Here is another example. Factions of employees within single stores now have a path to forming their own unions. In 2011 the Board suddenly adopted a new way to define what makes a local union bargaining unit. The Board changed the law so that any group of employees with an overwhelming community of interest could become a bargaining unit and therefore a union. At the same time, the Board is moving a regulation to limit the employer's ability to question which employees should be in a bargaining unit. This allows a union to cherry-pick employees who will be most likely to support forming a union.

How has this worked in the real world? Here is an example. The Board just approved a bargaining unit for cosmetic and fragrance employees in a Macy's department store—not the shoe salespeople, not the lady's fashion employees, not the junior's department, just cosmetic and fragrance. Imagine if every department of Macy's decided to form a union. The employer would have dozens of different groups to negotiate with, and the different unions would be fighting each other over who got the better raises and break rooms in terms of employment.

During this administration the NLRB has ruled that common employment policies are unfair labor practices, such as—and Senator SCOTT brought this up at a hearing the other day—the NLRB has said that an employer may not have a policy that requires employees to be courteous to customers and fellow employees, or prohibiting employees from making negative comments about the business that employs them on social media or selecting arbitration for employment disputes.

Our solution: Senator MCCONNELL and I would solve this by requiring a six-member board of three Republicans and three Democrats. Like the Federal Election Commission, a majority of four will require both sides to find a middle ground.

Here is the second problem. The Board's general counsel is acting like a freewheeling advocate, stretching labor law to its limits and sometimes beyond its limits. For example, in 2011 the general counsel moved to stop Boeing from building new airplanes at a nonunion plant in South Carolina. The general counsel to the NLRB jeopardized a $1 billion factory and hundreds of jobs with this move, but even worse, he tried to make the case that a unionized American company can't expand its operations into one of the 24 States, such as Tennessee, with right-to-work laws which protect a worker's right to join or not to join a union. The general counsel eventually withdrew this outrageous complaint against Boeing, but if it had set a precedent, jobs would have fled overseas as manufacturers look to find a competitive environment in which to make and sell cars around the world.

We want to make sure manufacturers such as Boeing, Nissan, and General Motors can have a competitive environment in the United States in which they can make airplanes and cars and other goods and sell them around the world. We do not want them making them in Mexico or Japan or Europe or somewhere else because we have undermined right-to-work laws. Our solution would allow employers and unions to challenge complaints filed against them by the general counsel in Federal court and give employers and unions new rights to learn the basis and legal reasoning of charges filed against them by the general counsel.

Finally, the NLRB is taking too long to resolve cases. For example, one case has been pending at the Board for more than 7 years. The case involves the question of whether an employer has to allow labor union organizers access to private property.

Our solution—Senator MCCONNELL and I encourage a timely resolution of

cases, first, by allowing either party to appeal to a Federal court of appeals for a de novo, or fresh, review if the Board fails to reach a decision on the case within 1 year. To further incentivize timely resolution, we include the threat of a 20-percent budget cut with the Board if 90 percent of the cases are not decided within a year.

In conclusion, while the increasing partisanship of the Board has appeared in Republican administrations as well as Democratic administrations, it has reached a climax in this administration. Three of this President's recent nominees came from major labor unions' leadership. One law professor at a major university said she can't use the most recent labor law textbook. The decisions changing the law are coming out so rapidly and the NLRB is venturing into new territory with these efforts at rulemaking. This is no way to maintain a national labor law policy.

Our plan, the NLRB Reform Act, will, first, end partisan advocacy; second, rein in the general counsel; third, it will encourage timely decisions. Our bill would offer these solutions without taking away one right or one remedy from one employee, one business, or one union. I hope my colleagues will carefully review this proposal and consider cosponsoring the NLRB Reform Act.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2817. A bill to assign the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis of the Federal Communications Commission the responsibility of bringing institutional focus to the important function of approving new technologies and improving regulatory certainty at the Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, today I introduced the Helping Innovation and Revitalizing Innovation Act. It is a Federal Communications Commission, FCC, process reform idea called the HIRE Act. This measure seeks to make the FCC more efficient and accountable in processing new technology applications.

Section 7 of the Communications Act requires the FCC to review new technologies and determine whether or not approval is in the public interest within one year of application—a deadline Congress imposed on the FCC in 1982. Part of Section 7 reads, ''The Commission shall determine whether any new technology or service proposed in a petition or application is in the public interest within one year after such petition or application is filed.''

The HIRE Act would complement Section 7. Specifically, it would: require the FCC Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis to help facilitate attention and response to pending technology applications and licenses and it would require the FCC to report to Congress any time it fails to comply with the 1-year deadline for review of such applications.

Right now when the FCC misses its 1 year deadline nothing happens. The notification clause in this bill would provide a backstop for the FCC to enhance regulatory certainty for innovators and consumers alike.

Specifically, the HIRE Act would bring institutional focus to the important function of approving new technologies. FCC delays stall new opportunities for investment and job creation that are critical at this time in our Nation's history. FCC delays also deprive consumers from the benefits of accessing new technologies at lower prices.

The senior Republican Commissioner at the FCC, Ajit Pai, has identified assisting new technology applications as a high priority. In a July 18, 2012, speech at Carnegie Mellon University, he said, ''Bureaucratic inertia should not be a barrier to the deployment of new services or capital investment. Rather, the Commission should facilitate economic growth and job creation by making decisions in a timely manner . . . Entrepreneurs need an advocate at the FCC—one that will hold us accountable if we delay, rather than decide.'' Additionally, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, IEEE, has encouraged the FCC improve its decision-making process for spectrum management.

The HIRE Act is about improving the FCC's decision-making process and supporting job creation. It is a small, common-sense reform that increases government efficiency without increasing spending. I look forward to working with consumers, businesses, and those in the Federal Government who want to make our government more effective, efficient, and responsive. The HIRE Act is one proposal that would do that, and I welcome a conversation with others about this important issue.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2820. A bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain Federal land in Garden Valley, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2820

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 ''Garden Valley Withdrawl Act''.

SEC. 2. GARDEN VALLEY, NEVADA, WITHDRAWAL.

Subject to valid existing rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the approximately 805,100 acres of Federal land generally depicted on the map entitled ''Garden Valley Withdrawal Area'' and dated July 11, 2014, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2823. A bill to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to present the North American Energy Infrastructure Act. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that I think is very important to helping our country build the infrastructure we need to truly become energy independent or energy self-sufficient—energy secure, if you will.

This is bipartisan legislation. It is legislation that has already passed the House. It was sponsored in the House by Representative FRED UPTON, who is the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. It was cosponsored on the Democratic side by GENE GREEN, a Congressman from Texas. I have bipartisan sponsors for this legislation in the Senate as well—on the Republican side, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, who is the ranking member on the energy committee; and then I have two other members of the energy committee who are Democrats cosponsoring this legislation as well, Senator JOE DONNELLY from Indiana and Senator JOE MANCHIN from West Virginia. Certainly Senator MANCHIN is recognized as one of the leaders in the Senate on important energy issues. I am very appreciative of having him join me on this legislation as well. I am introducing this legislation now.

This is the sixth anniversary of the application by TransCanada for a permit to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. They applied for approval of a pipeline project—the Keystone XL Pipeline project—6 years ago as of Friday of this week. Can you imagine that? Americans fought and won World War II in less time than this application has been pending before the President of the United States, yet still no decision from this administration after 6 years.

This is vital infrastructure we need to truly make this country energy secure. Working with Canada, we can truly produce more energy than we consume and make our country energy secure, but we cannot do it without the necessary infrastructure—the roads, the pipelines, the rail, the transmission lines—the energy infrastructure we need to get energy from where it is produced, places such as my State of North Dakota, which is now the second largest producer of oil in this country, second only to Texas. We produce more than 1 million barrels a day of oil, but we have to get it to market. It is getting loaded and overloaded on rail. We have tremendous congestion on rail. Our farmers cannot get their ag products to market anymore because we

have so much congestion on the rail. Yet here we have an application that has been held for 6 years by the President of the United States without a decision. That is after last year when he came to the Republican caucus and told us point blank that he would have a decision before the end of 2013. No decision. Here we are in 2014, the sixth anniversary.

Well, look, we cannot continue to have that problem.

We have to find a way to build this infrastructure. Even though we are working on Keystone on a separate track—and I believe we will have the votes next year to pass it. We will have the 60 votes in the Senate we need to pass it. We are at 57 right now. We are very close. I think by next year we will have those 60 votes to pass Keystone, and we will work to do that and attach it to legislation the President will not veto. So we will continue to work on Keystone on that track, but at the same time we have to avoid this problem in the future with oil pipelines, with gas pipelines, and with transmission lines.

We have to be able to build that infrastructure not only in this country, but we have to be able to cross the border with Canada. Canada is a huge producer of energy. So working together, we have this incredible opportunity if we can build the infrastructure to do it. It is not just for fossil fuels. It is not just for oil. It is not just for gas. It is for renewables as well. Canada produces an incredible amount of hydro, which, of course, is electricity. We need transmission lines to bring that renewable hydro across the border.

So this is about all forms of energy, and this is about working with our closest friend and ally to truly address that energy issue. It is a job-creation issue. It is a national security issue.

What does this legislation do, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act? What it does is it expedites, streamlines the approval process for cross-border construction of oil pipelines, gas pipelines, and electric transmission lines.

How does it work? First, oil pipelines. Right now, a Presidential national interest determination is needed for approval or authority to build an oil pipeline across the Canadian border. Of course, that is the problem we see with Keystone. That has been held up now for 6 years. So this changes that process for future projects. As I said, it has already passed the House overwhelmingly—overwhelmingly. I think it had pretty much all of the Republican votes and I think more than 50 votes on the Democratic side. They had very strong bipartisan support in the House.

What it does is it changes that approval process for crossing the border with an oil pipeline, moving it to the State Department. So the State Department will make that determination approving a cross-border transfer. It will still be subject to the NEPA process. You will still have to do an environmental impact statement. But the focus of that EIS—environmental impact statement—or the NEPA process, will be on the border section, not on the entire length of the project throughout all the States that pipeline may cross. It will focus on the border section. And the State Department has to come up with reasonable rules to determine what that distance is that constitutes crossing the border with Canada.

Then the rest of the NEPA process will continue just as it does today for any other project that does not come across the border. Right now States have their jurisdiction in some cases and the Federal Government has its jurisdiction in some cases, depending on whether it is private land or it is public land or Federal land. Maybe it is a body of water. Whatever. So the NEPA process continues as before, driven by the States or the Federal Government depending on what particular part of the country or the type of land or the body of water you are crossing.

I think that is why it garnered such strong bipartisan support. We continue that process and those protections, but we do not allow the determination on the cross-border process or the cross-border piece to be held up by all of the NEPA process and all of the sitings that may be covered in all the respective States that pipeline crosses. Those processes are already in place. Do not use crossing the border as an excuse to tie up all these other processes and basically usurp the authority of the States that are affected by that project.

I think it is a very reasonable process, and it is one that I think we should be able to come together on in a bipartisan way to say: It is open. It is fair. That is why we have bipartisan support in the sponsorship—Senator DONNELLY, Senator MANCHIN, Senator MURKOWSKI, myself, all people who work on energy—because we have struck that balance. It is about creating a good business climate that will encourage that investment to create the infrastructure we need to move the energy from where it is produced to where it is consumed in the safest way possible—in the safest way possible—in the most economic way possible.

That is what it is about, the best environmental stewardship. Isn't that what we all want? Obviously it is. But if we don't do this, where are we? Well, right now we are waiting 6 years for a determination on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Here is another example I will give, the Bakken North pipeline, a pipeline that goes from North Dakota to Cushing, and they have been waiting for 1½ years on an ownership name change from the Department of State, 1½ years to change the name. Really? Does that make sense to anybody? If it takes that long for something that simple, what do we do when we actually need to build this infrastructure that is so important to the energy future of our country?

What about gas pipelines? Gas pipelines will be covered by FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. What we say is: Look, they will go through the NEPA process too. Just as we describe with the Department of State on an oil pipeline, they will take that cross-border piece and do the same thing, do a NEPA process so you have an environmental impact statement and cover all the bases. But then 30 days after, they have to make a decision. They can't just sit on it, and the rest of the NEPA process continues as we described on an oil pipeline. Again, very simple, very straightforward, and it comports with the free trade agreements we have with Canada and with Mexico.

On the third piece, electric transmission lines, that process will be overseen by the Department of Energy. We simply streamline the process. Right now there are two permits required, one that is driven by the administration, one that is congressionally driven. We combine those and make it one process; again, cover all the bases, as I have described, with an oil pipeline or a gas pipeline, but we make it one process instead of a duplicative process.

When we look at what is going on in the world today, we see why this legislation is so important. Look at ISIL. Look at ISIL in the Middle East and what is happening there. We are right now confronting how we need to address this very significant challenge, how we need to work with allies in the region to take out ISIL. Do we really want to continue to be dependent on oil from the Middle East? I think we could ask every single American that question and the answer would be a resounding no. There is no way we want to have to get oil from the Middle East. But we still are today. Yet we can produce more oil and gas in this country, particularly with Canada, than we can consume.

Why would we continue to want to be dependent on the Middle East or Venezuela or any other place that is antagonistic or hostile toward our interests? We don't. This is a national security issue. It is an energy issue. It is a job creation issue. It is an economic growth issue. And it is for darned sure a national security issue. Which is why every time we ask the public about it, more than two-thirds say: Yes, build that infrastructure. Build that Keystone Pipeline. Let's work with Canada, our closest friend and ally in the world, to get our energy.

Look what is going on in Europe. Look what is going on with Russia and Ukraine. Look at the situation a country such as Ukraine or the European Union is in because of Russian aggression. Where do they get their energy? Where does Ukraine get its energy? Where does the European Union get their energy? They get a third or more—from? Russia. Russia, the same

country that is invading Ukraine, the same country occupying Crimea and the eastern part of Ukraine.

Then when we try to get the European Union to join with us to push back, what do they say? Geez, I don't know. We can't, because Russia is going to cut off the gas and it is fall and it is getting colder.

Does that make sense to anybody? Is that the situation we want to be in? I think it is pretty compelling. Do we want to be in a situation where we have to try to get oil out of the Middle East with ISIL over there operating the way they are? I don't think so.

These issues are all interrelated, and they are not short-term issues. We can't start building that infrastructure today and have it done tomorrow. These are billion-dollar investments. They don't cost the government a single penny, but they are billion-dollar investments that private enterprise is willing to make and put people to work, provide that energy more safely, more securely, with better environmental stewardship, and address our national security challenges. That type of energy plan is a long-term plan for this country, and it is one we need to start now.

For six years we have been waiting for a decision from the President on a multibillion dollar pipeline project that will not only bring oil from Canada to the United States but will move 100,000 barrels a day of oil from my home State to refineries in this country, that by the State Department's own admission will create more than 40,000 jobs, that will create hundreds of millions in tax revenue, that will help us create energy security for our country, that will allow us to work with our closest friend and ally, Canada, rather than telling them: No, we are not going to work with you. Send that oil to China. It is something the American people overwhelmingly want by about 70 percent in most of the polls that I guess is being held up by special interest groups.

This is about how we run this country. This is about who we work for. This is about having a long-term plan to build the kind of energy future for America that I believe the American people very much want.

Let's go to work and pass this bipartisan legislation.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2832. A bill to provide for youth jobs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, if you talk to the people in Vermont, and I suspect in any other State in America, they will say the most serious crisis facing this country is the lack of decent-paying jobs, particularly when it comes to young Americans. This is an issue we do not talk enough about, and this is an issue on which we have to focus.

Yes, we are better off today than we were 6 years ago when we were hemorrhaging 700,000 jobs a month and the Nation's financial system was on the verge of collapse, but the truth is that the economy for working families and lower income families today remains in very difficult straits. The middle class of this country—the backbone of this country—continues to disappear and more and more people are living in poverty. In fact, we have almost more people living in poverty today than at any time in the history of this country, and all the while we are seeing more wealth and income inequality, such that 95 percent of all new income generated in America since the Wall Street crash is going to the top 1 percent.

The fact is that real unemployment in this country is not the ''official'' 6.1 percent we see on the front pages of newspapers. The truth is that if you count those people who have given up looking for work because they live in high-unemployment areas or the people—and there are many of these—who are working part time when they want to work full time, real unemployment is 12 percent. That is a crisis situation.

As bad as that is, the unemployment rate is far worse for young Americans. Today the youth unemployment rate is 20 percent—20 percent. We all paid a lot of attention to the tragedy in Ferguson, MO, a few weeks ago, but what was not discussed is that African-American youth unemployment is 33 percent, and in many areas of the country it is even higher than that. Today over 5.5 million young people have either dropped out of high school or have graduated high school. And do you know what they are doing? Nothing. They have no jobs. Many of them in Vermont and throughout this country are hanging out on street corners and many of them are getting into trouble. Maybe they are doing drugs, maybe they are involved in crime, but this I will tell you, and the statistics are very clear on this: If you leave school—either you drop out or you graduate high school—and you don't get a job in your first year, you don't get a job in your second year, you don't get a job in your third year, there is a strong likelihood you will never get a job, never get a career, never make it to the middle class, never be part of mainstream America.

Youth unemployment at 20 percent is clearly one of the reasons why in the United States of America we have more people in jail today than any other country on Earth. A lot of people don't know that. China's a great big country, a Communist authoritarian country. Doesn't China have more people in jail than we do? No. We have more people in jail than China.

I think the time is long overdue for us to start investing in our young people, helping them get the jobs they need, helping them get the education they need, helping them get the job training they need so they can be part of our economy, part of the middle class, and not end up in jail or dead from overdoses of drugs. The situation is so dire that there are studies out there that tell us now that one out of every three African-American males born today, if we do not change this, will go to prison in his lifetime—one out of three. This is a crisis situation, and it is one that cannot be ignored.

The legislation I have introduced today, along with Congressman JOHN CONYERS of Michigan, is called the Employ Young Americans Now Act. This legislation will provide $5.5 billion in immediate funding to States and localities throughout the country to employ 1 million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 and provide job training to hundreds of thousands of other young Americans. Under our bill the U.S. Department of Labor would provide $4 billion in grants to States and local governments to provide summer jobs and year-round employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth, with direct links to academic and occupational learning. There is another $1.5 billion in there to provide such services as transportation or childcare, which would be necessary to enable young Americans to participate in job opportunities.

I am very grateful this legislation has already been endorsed by the AFL–CIO, which is the largest labor union in the country, representing some 13 million workers; the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; the United Auto Workers; the United Steel Workers of America; the Campaign for America's Future; and the National Employment Law Project.

I thank Senator DEBBIE STABENOW of Michigan for her support on this legislation as well.

We cannot continue to ignore the crisis of youth unemployment in America. We are talking about the future of an entire generation. We are talking about the future of the United States of America. Let's start focusing on this issue. Let's give millions of young people the opportunity to earn a paycheck and to make it into the middle class.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 546—CONGRATULATING INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT-ELECT JOKO WIDODO ON HIS ELECTORAL VICTORY AND COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA ON THEIR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 546

Whereas the United States and Indonesia are the world's second and third largest democracies, respectively;

Whereas the United States and Indonesia share many common values, including respect for human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas in November 2010, the United States and Indonesia launched the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, which solidified a long-term commitment to cooperation on key bilateral, regional and global issues;

Whereas the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership's Democracy and Civil Society Working Group promotes enhanced cooperation on parliamentary and electoral processes and political empowerment for women;

Whereas Indonesia, a regional and global leader, has undergone a remarkable democratic transformation over the last 2 decades;

Whereas on July 9, 2014, approximately 135,000,000 votes were cast in Indonesia's presidential election, which was the largest single day election in the world to date;

Whereas on July 22, 2014, Joko Widodo was declared the winner in Indonesia's presidential election; and

Whereas Indonesia, with its vast geography, large multi-ethnic population, and largest Muslim majority population in the world, is a powerful model for a peaceful, democratic transition of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Indonesia's President-elect Joko Widodo on his electoral victory;

(2) commends the people of Indonesia on their commitment to democracy and free and fair elections;

(3) affirms the commitment of the United States to strengthening our bilateral relationship with Indonesia;

(4) supports the advancement of an inclusive democracy and an active role for civil society in Indonesia; and

(5) recognizes Indonesia's 2014 presidential election as an example of a peaceful, democratic transition of power for other transformational democracies throughout the world to follow.

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14, 2014, AS NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 547

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas 370 Hispanic-Serving Institutions operate in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions represent just 11 percent of all institutions of higher learning, yet serve nearly 60 percent of all Hispanic students, enrolling more than 1,500,000 Hispanic students in 2012;

Whereas the number of ''emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions,'' defined as institutions that do not yet meet the threshold of 25 percent Hispanic enrollment but serve a Hispanic student population of between 15 and 24 percent, grew to 270 colleges and universities in 2012;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the institutions are located;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the United States;

(2) designates the week beginning September 14, 2014, as ''National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week''; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 29, 2014, AS ''SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY'' AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF LOCALLY OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HAGAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. THUNE, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 548

Whereas there are 28,200,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States;

Whereas small businesses employ over 48 percent of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

Whereas small businesses pay over 42 percent of the total payroll of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

Whereas small businesses constitute 98 percent of firms exporting goods;

Whereas small businesses are responsible for more than 46 percent of private sector output;

Whereas small businesses generated 63 percent of net new jobs created from 1993 through 2013;

Whereas 87 percent of consumers in the United States agree that the success of small businesses is critical to the overall economic health of the United States;

Whereas 89 percent of consumers in the United States agree that small businesses contribute positively to local communities by supplying jobs and generating tax revenue;

Whereas 93 percent of consumers in the United States agree that it is important to support the small businesses in their communities; and

Whereas November 29, 2014, is an appropriate day to designate as ''Small Business Saturday'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 29, 2014, as ''Small Business Saturday''; and

(2) supports efforts—

(A) to encourage consumers to shop locally; and

(B) to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses and the impact of locally owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2014, AS DAY OF THE DEPLOYED

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 549

Whereas more than 2,500,000 individuals serve as members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces rotate each year through deployments to 150 countries in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,500,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the area of operations of the United States Central Command since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal military personnel from the total force (the regular components and the National Guard and the Reserves), who protect the precious heritage of the country through their positive declaration and actions;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call to duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty, courage, and sacrifice;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States; and

Whereas the Senate designated October 26 as ''Day of the Deployed'' in 2011, 2012, and 2013: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 26, 2014, as ''Day of the Deployed'';

(2) honors the deployed members of the United States Armed Forces and their families;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the Armed Forces, wherever they serve, past, present, and future; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe Day of the Deployed with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 550—COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ''THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER''

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 550

Whereas during the War of 1812, Great Britain turned its full attention to the war effort in North America following its defeat of Napoleon's armies on the European continent in April 1814;

Whereas British forces dealt a devastating blow to the forces of the United States at the Battle of Bladensburg and were, as a consequence, able to march into Washington, D.C. unopposed and, on August 24, 1814, burn the United States Capitol Building, the Executive Mansion, now known as the White House, and other government buildings;

Whereas on September 13, 1814, with the fate of the Nation uncertain, Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, withstood 25 hours of bombardment by the British Royal Navy;

Whereas on the following morning, the soldiers of Fort McHenry hoisted an enormous American flag, the sight of which inspired Francis Scott Key to write a poem he titled ''The Star-Spangled Banner'';

Whereas on December 24, 1814, American and British commissioners signed the Treaty of Ghent, which would be ratified the following February, bringing the War of 1812 to an end and firmly establishing the United States of America as a sovereign nation within the family of nations;

Whereas on March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed Public Law 71–823, designating ''The Star-Spangled Banner'' as the national anthem of the United States;

Whereas ''The Star-Spangled Banner'' was written to celebrate American courage at a time when the torch of liberty looked as if it were about to be extinguished;

Whereas singing the national anthem at large public gatherings, such as sporting events, brings patriotic unity to the great melting pot known as the United States of America;

Whereas our national anthem has become an enduring symbol of ''the land of the free and the home of the brave'';

Whereas the people of the United States are celebrating the bicentennial of ''The Star-Spangled Banner'' with a variety of commemorative events nationwide during the week of September 10 through 16, 2014, including the ''O Say Can You See! Star-Spangled Spectacular'' festival in Baltimore on September 13, 2014, which included concerts and an extraordinary fireworks display over Fort McHenry and the Baltimore harbor; and

Whereas it is especially important to educate young people and new citizens of the United States about the history and meaning of the national anthem: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate designates the period from September 2014 through September 2015 as the ''Year of National Thanksgiving for 'The Star-Spangled Banner' '';

(2) the Senate encourages all State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe this period of thanksgiving with appropriate ceremonies, activities, educational outreach, and reflection; and

(3) it is the sense of the Senate that ''The Star-Spangled Banner'' shall retain all current verses and remain our national anthem in perpetuity.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3812. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3813. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3814. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3815. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3816. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3817. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3818. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3819. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3820. Ms. HEITKAMP (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. WARNER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4194, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

SA 3821. Ms. HEITKAMP (for Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2117, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

SA 3822. Ms. HEITKAMP (for Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2440, to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3812. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. 562. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO WILLIAM SHEMIN FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING WORLD WAR I.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to William Shemin for the acts of valor during World War I described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of William Shemin while serving as a Rifleman with G Company, 2d Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy on the Vesle River, near Bazoches, France, from August 7 to August 9, 1918, during World War I for which he was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

SA 3813. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XXXV, add the following:

SEC. 3502. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT A GIFT FROM THE USMMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 51315 of title 46, United States Code, the Maritime Administrator may accept a gift of money from the United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc. (also known as the USMMA Alumni Association and Foundation) for the purpose of renovating Melville Hall on the campus of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

(b) CONTRACT.—If the Maritime Administrator accepts a gift authorized by subsection (a), the Administrator shall enter into a contract with the United States Merchant Marine Alumni Foundation, Inc. for the operation of Melville Hall and for the purpose of official academy functions, third party catering functions, industry events, and conferences.

SA 3814. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. INTEGRATED PLAN ON SPACE LAUNCH ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall jointly, in coordination with the National Security Council, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the heads of other appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, develop a plan (to be known as the ''Integrated Federal Space Launch Plan'') to achieve the effective planning, coordination, and execution of the civilian and national security space launch activities of the Federal Government in order to ensure that the mission needs of the Federal Government for reliable, timely, and affordable access to space are met in a cost-effective manner.

(b) ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—The plan developed under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) An estimate of the anticipated annual space launch demand of the Federal Government during the 10 fiscal years beginning with the fiscal year beginning in the year in which the plan is developed.

(2) A description of the capabilities required to meet the demand estimated for purposes of paragraph (1).

(3) A description of the acquisition plans of each Federal agency covered by the plan for purposes of meeting the demand estimated for purposes of paragraph (1).

(4) An identification and assessment of opportunities for coordination among Federal agencies in space launch acquisition efforts, and a summary of the lessons learned by the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration regarding their launch service programs.

(5) An assessment whether the Department of Defense is currently achieving assured access to space with its space launch in a manner consistent with the provisions of section 2273 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) SUBMITTAL OF PLAN TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Administrator shall jointly submit the plan developed under subsection (a) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) FORM.—The plan shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ASSESSMENT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth an assessment of the adequacy of the plan developed under subsection (a), including the extent to which the plan includes the launch needs and capabilities of the civilian agencies and the national security agencies of the Federal Government.

(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on the Budget, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on the Budget, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 3815. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 343. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TRANSFER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FIREFIGHTING PROPERTY TO FIREFIGHTING AGENCIES.

(a) COMPLIANCE OF PROPERTY WITH EMISSION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2576b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

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

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

''(3) the recipient firefighting agency accepts full responsibility for compliance of the property after transfer with all applicable emission requirements and regulations;'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''subsection (b)(4)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(5)'';

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

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) NO PROHIBITION OR DELAY IN TRANSFER FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH EMISSION REQUIREMENTS.—The transfer of personal property under this section shall not be prohibited or delayed by reason of the failure of such property to comply with applicable emission requirements or regulations at the time of transfer.''.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN AIRPORTS AS FIREFIGHTING AGENCIES.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(3) of this section, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including an airport or airport authority that is required by law to maintain firefighting assets on site''.

SA 3816. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title I, add the following:

Subtitle B—Army Programs

SEC. 111. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UH–60A MODERNIZATION.

(a) PLAN FOR MODERNIZATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a prioritized plan for modernizing the Army National Guard's entire fleet of UH–60A Black Hawk helicopters.

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

(1) A detailed timeline for the modernization of the Army National Guard's entire fleet of UH–60A helicopters.

(2) A description of the number of UH–60L, UH–60L Digital, and UH–60M aircraft that the Army National Guard will possess upon completion of the modernization plan.

(3) A description of the cost, by year, associated with the modernization plan.

SA 3817. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. ASSESSMENT OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF A NEW AIRCRAFT OR SENSOR BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION UNDER THE TREATY ON OPEN SKIES.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—The Director of National Intelligence, in conjunction with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commander of each appropriate combatant command, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment of all potential intelligence collection implications of any new aircraft or sensor proposed to be deployed by the Russian Federation under the Open Skies Treaty not later than 30 days prior to the date of the intended approval of such aircraft or sensor by the United States.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(C) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 3818. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) complete a study on matters relating to the interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study required under paragraph (1).

(b) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters studied under subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

(1) Determining the scope of issues relating to unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans.

(2) Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for working with persons or entities having custody of unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(3) Assessing State and local laws that affect the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(4) Developing recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) METHODOLOGY.—

(1) NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.—In estimating the number of unclaimed remains of veterans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may review such subset of applicable entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, including a subset of funeral homes and coroner offices that posses unclaimed veterans remains.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.—In assessing State and local laws under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applicable State and local laws.

SA 3819. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE

SEC. 1701. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Utah.

(3) UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Utah Test and Training Range'' means the portions of the military operating area of the Utah Test and Training Area that are located in the State.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''Utah Test and Training Range'' includes the Dugway Proving Ground.

Subtitle A—Withdrawal and Overflights

SEC. 1711. WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF CERTAIN LAND FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land (including the interests in Federal land) described in subsection (b) is withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The Federal land (including the interests in land) referred to in subsection (a) is the Bureau of Land Management land comprising approximately 625,643 acres in the State, as generally depicted on the map entitled **[**_____**]**, numbered **[**_____**]**, and dated **[**_____**]**.

(c) RESERVATION FOR SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE; SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The land withdrawn by subsection (a) is reserved—

(1) for use by the Secretary of the Air Force for—

(A) the enhancement of the Utah Test and Training Range;

(B) the testing of—

(i) 5th generation weapon systems; and

(ii) the standoff distance for weapons;

(C) the testing and evaluation of hypersonic weapons;

(D) other purposes related to meeting national security needs; and

(2) for use by the Secretary for—

(A) public recreation—

(i) during any period in which the land is not being used for military training; and

(ii) as determined to be suitable for public use; and

(B) the conservation of natural resources.

(d) GRAZING.—

(1) NO NEW GRAZING LEASES OR PERMITS.—The Secretary shall not issue any new grazing lease or permit on the land withdrawn by subsection (a).

(2) EXISTING GRAZING LEASES OR PERMITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any grazing of livestock on the land withdrawn by subsection (a) that commenced before the date of enactment of this Act shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers to be necessary.

(B) LEVEL.—As the Secretary determines to be necessary to allow the appropriate use of resources, the Secretary may adjust the level of grazing authorized under subparagraph (A), as measured in animal unit months.

(3) MITIGATION.—To mitigate the loss of new grazing leases or permits on the land withdrawn by subsection (a), the Secretary may issue new grazing leases or permits on other Federal land not withdrawn by that subsection.

(e) PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.—The land withdrawn by subsection (a) shall remain eligible as entitlement land under section 6901 of title 31, United States Code.

(f) TEMPORARY CLOSURE TO PUBLIC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Air Force determines that military operations, public safety, or national security require the temporary closure to public use of any road, trail, or other portion of the land withdrawn by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Air Force may take such action as the Secretary of the Air Force determines necessary to carry out the temporary closure.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—Any temporary closure under paragraph (1) shall be limited to the minimum areas and periods during which the Secretary of the Air Force determines are required to carry out a closure under this subsection.

(3) NOTICE.—Before and during any temporary closure under this subsection, the Secretary of the Air Force shall—

(A) keep appropriate warning notices posted; and

(B) take appropriate steps to notify the public concerning the temporary closure.

(g) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the land withdrawn by subsection (a) shall be adjusted as necessary to ensure access to the Secretary for the purposes described in subsection (c)(2).

(h) WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION.—The withdrawal and reservation made by this section shall not terminate—

(1) other than by an election and determination of the Secretary of the Air Force; or

(2) until such time as the Secretary can permanently transfer administrative jurisdiction of the land withdrawn and reserved by this section to the Secretary of the Air Force.

SEC. 1712. MILITARY OPERATIONS AND OVERFLIGHTS IN UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the testing and development of military weapons systems and the training of military forces are critical to ensuring the national security of the United States;

(2) the Utah Test and Training Range is a unique and irreplaceable national asset at the core of the test and training mission of the Department of Defense; and

(3) continued access to the special use airspace and land that comprise the Utah Test and Training Range, under the terms and conditions described in this section—

(A) is a national security priority; and

(B) is compatible with the protection and proper management of the natural, environmental, cultural, and other resources of the land.

(b) SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE AND TRAINING ROUTES.—Nothing in this subtitle precludes—

(1) the designation of new units of special use airspace; or

(2) the expansion of existing units of special use airspace.

(c) EMERGENCY ACCESS AND RESPONSE.—Nothing in this section precludes the continuation of the memorandum of understanding that is between the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Air Force with respect to emergency access and response, as in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) EFFECT ON LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the limitation established under section 2815(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 852).

SEC. 1713. ANALYSIS OF MILITARY READINESS AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS IN LAND USE PLANS FOR FEDERAL LAND IN UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall develop, maintain, and revise land use plans under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) with respect to Federal land located in the Utah Test and Training Range.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later 180 days after receiving a request from the Secretary of the Interior relating to a revision to a land use plan under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, as part of the required consultation with respect to land use plans, shall submit to the Secretary an analysis of the military readiness and operational impacts of the proposed revision to the applicable land use plan.

Subtitle B—Land Exchange

SEC. 1721. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the State owns approximately 68,057 acres of land and approximately **[**_____**]** acres of mineral interests located within the Utah Test and Training Range in Box Elder, Tooele, and Juab Counties, Utah;

(2) the State owns approximately 68,057 acres of land and approximately 4,520 acres of mineral interests located wholly or partially within the Cedar Mountains Wilderness in Tooele County, Utah;

(3) the parcels of State land described in paragraphs (1) and (2)—

(A) were granted by Congress to the State pursuant to the Act of July 16, 1894 (28 Stat. 107, chapter 138), to be held in trust for the benefit of the public school system and other public institutions of the State; and

(B) are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion among Federal land;

(4) continued State ownership and development of State trust land within the Utah Test and Training Range and the Cedar Mountains Wilderness is incompatible with—

(A) the critical national defense uses of the Utah Test and Training Range; and

(B) the Federal management of the Cedar Mountains Wilderness; and

(5) it is in the public interest of the United States to acquire in a timely manner all State trust land within the Utah Test and Training Range and the Cedar Mountains Wilderness, in exchange for the conveyance of the Federal land to the State, in accordance with the terms and conditions described in this subtitle.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subtitle to direct, facilitate, and expedite the exchange of certain Federal land and non-Federal land between the United States and the State.

SEC. 1722. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) EXCHANGE MAP.—The term ''Exchange Map'' means the map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Utah Test and Training Range Enhancement/Cedar Mountains Wilderness Land Exchange'' and dated **[**_____, 2014**]**.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means the Bureau of Land Management land located in Millard, Juab, Tooele, and Beaver Counties, Utah, that is identified on the Exchange Map as ''BLM Lands Proposed for Transfer to State Trust Lands''.

(3) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''non-Federal land'' means the land owned by the State in Box Elder, Tooele, and Juab Counties, Utah, that is identified on the Exchange Map as—

(A) ''State Trust Land Proposed for Transfer to BLM''; and

(B) ''State Trust Minerals Proposed for Transfer to BLM''.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Utah, acting through the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

SEC. 1723. EXCHANGE OF FEDERAL LAND AND NON-FEDERAL LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the State offers to convey to the United States title to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall—

(1) accept the offer; and

(2) on receipt of all right, title, and interest in and to the non-Federal land, convey to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.—The exchange authorized under subsection (a) shall be subject to valid existing rights.

(c) TITLE APPROVAL.—Title to the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged under this section shall be in a format acceptable to the Secretary and the State.

(d) APPRAISALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land to be exchanged under this section shall be determined by appraisals conducted by 1 or more independent appraisers retained by the State, with the consent of the Secretary.

(2) APPLICABLE LAW.—The appraisals under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with nationally recognized appraisal standards, including, as appropriate, the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions.

(3) MINERAL LAND.—

(A) MINERAL REPORTS.—The appraisals under paragraph (1) shall take into account mineral and technical reports provided by the Secretary and the State in the evaluation of mineral deposits in the Federal land and non-Federal land.

(B) MINING CLAIMS.—An appraisal of any parcel of Federal land that is encumbered by a mining or millsite claim located under sections 2318 through 2352 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the ''Mining Law of 1872'') (30 U.S.C. 21 et seq.) shall take into account the encumbrance created by the claim for purposes of determining the value of the parcel of the Federal land.

(4) APPROVAL.—The appraisals conducted under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Secretary and the State for approval.

(5) DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—If, by the date that is 90 days after the date of submission of an appraisal for review and approval under this subsection, the Secretary or State do not agree to accept the findings of the appraisals with respect to 1 or more parcels of Federal land or non-Federal land, the dispute shall be resolved in accordance with section 206(d)(2) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(d)(2)).

(6) DURATION.—The appraisals conducted under paragraph (1) shall remain valid until the date of the completion of the exchange authorized under this subtitle.

(e) CONVEYANCE OF TITLE.—The land exchange authorized under this subtitle shall be completed by the later of—

(1) the date that is 180 days after the date of final approval by the Secretary and the State of the appraisals conducted under subsection (d); or

(2) the date that is 180 days after the date of completion of the dispute resolution process authorized under subsection (d)(5).

(f) PUBLIC INSPECTION AND NOTICE.—

(1) PUBLIC INSPECTION.—At least 30 days before the date of conveyance of the Federal land and non-Federal land, all final appraisals and appraisal reviews for land to be exchanged under this section shall be available for public review at the office of the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Utah.

(2) NOTICE.—The Secretary or the State, as applicable, shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in Salt Lake County, Utah, a notice that the appraisals conducted under subsection (d) are available for public inspection.

(g) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged under this section—

(A) shall be equal; or

(B) shall be made equal in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) EQUALIZATION.—

(A) SURPLUS OF FEDERAL LAND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the value of the Federal land exceeds the value of the non-Federal land, the value of the Federal land and non-Federal land shall be equalized by the State conveying to the United States State trust land located within any of the wilderness areas or national conservation areas in Washington County, Utah, established under subtitle O of title I of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1075) that has an appraised value equal to the difference between—

(I) the value of the Federal land; and

(II) the value of the non-Federal land.

(ii) ORDER OF CONVEYANCES.—Any non-Federal land required to be conveyed to the United States under clause (i) shall be conveyed until the value of the Federal land and non-Federal land is equalized, in the following order:

(I) State trust land parcels located in the Docs Pass Wilderness.

(II) State trust land parcels located in the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area.

(III) State trust land parcels located in the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area.

(B) SURPLUS OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—If the value of the non-Federal land exceeds the value of the Federal land, the value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land shall be equalized by the Secretary making a cash equalization payment to the State, in accordance with section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy Management (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)).

(h) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND FROM MINERAL ENTRY PRIOR TO EXCHANGE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land to be conveyed to the State under this section is withdrawn from mineral location, entry, and patent under the mining laws pending conveyance of the Federal land to the State.

SEC. 1724. STATUS AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-FEDERAL LAND AFTER EXCHANGE.

(a) NON-FEDERAL LAND WITHIN THE UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE.—On conveyance to the United States under this subtitle, the non-Federal land located within the Utah Test and Training Range shall be withdrawn in accordance with section 1711.

(b) NON-FEDERAL LAND WITHIN THE CEDAR MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—On conveyance to the United States under this subtitle, the non-Federal land located within the Cedar Mountains Wilderness shall, in accordance with section 206(c) of the Federal Land Policy Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(c)), be added to, and administered as part of, the Cedar Mountains Wilderness.

SEC. 1725. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

(a) COSTS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the costs of remedial actions relating to hazardous materials on land acquired under this subtitle shall be paid by those entities responsible for the costs under applicable law.

(b) REMEDIATION OF PRIOR TESTING AND TRAINING ACTIVITY.—The United States shall bear all costs of evaluation, management, and remediation caused by the previous testing of military weapons systems and the training of military forces on non-Federal land to be conveyed to the United States under this subtitle.

Subtitle C—Amendments to the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999

SEC. 1731. AMENDMENTS.

(a) TERMINATION.—Section 3015 of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 892) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) TERMINATION.—The withdrawal and reservation of land by section 3011 shall not terminate other than by an election and determination of the Secretary of the military department concerned or until such time as the Secretary of the Interior may permanently transfer administrative jurisdiction of the land withdrawn and reserved by that section to the Secretary of the military department concerned.''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 3016 of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 893) is repealed

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SA 3820. Ms. HEITKAMP (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. WARNER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4194, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sec. 101. Reports eliminated.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Sec. 201. Reports eliminated.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sec. 301. Reports eliminated.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Sec. 401. Reports eliminated.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Sec. 501. Report on Impact Aid construction justifying discretionary grant awards eliminated.

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Sec. 601. Reports eliminated.

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Sec. 701. Great Lakes management comprehensive report eliminated.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sec. 801. Report relating to waiver of certain sanctions against North Korea eliminated.

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Sec. 901. Reports eliminated.
Sec. 902. Reports modified.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Sec. 1001. Reports eliminated.
TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Sec. 1101. Royalties in-kind report eliminated.
TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Sec. 1201. Report eliminated.
TITLE XIII—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
Sec. 1301. Report eliminated.
TITLE XIV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Sec. 1401. Report eliminated.
TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Sec. 1501. Reports eliminated.
Sec. 1502. Report modified.
TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Sec. 1601. Reports eliminated.
TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Sec. 1701. Report eliminated.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SEC. 101. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) PEANUT BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1302(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8752(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3);

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''Paragraphs (1) through (3)'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (2)''; and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(b) REPORT ON EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES TO EMERGING MARKETS.—Section 1542(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 7 U.S.C. 5622 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(1) EFFECT OF CREDITS.—''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(c) EVALUATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM FINANCING OF LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (iv); and

(2) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

(d) QUARTERLY EXPORT ASSISTANCE REPORTS.—Section 603 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5713) is repealed.

(e) RURAL COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) SECRETARIAL REPORT ON REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARDS.—Section 385C(b)(7) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–2(b)(7)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) REPORT BY REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD TO NATIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD AND THE SECRETARY.—Section 385D(a)(7) of Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–3(a)(7)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(f) STATUS REPORT FOR FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—Section 702 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5722) is amended by striking subsection (c).

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SEC. 201. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EFFORTS AND PROGRESS IN BECOMING DESIGNATED AS SEA GRANT COLLEGE OR INSTITUTE.—Section 207 of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1126) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 3 of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 278g-5) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(c) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO SEA GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 208(a) of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by striking the fourth sentence.

(d) TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by redesignating subsections (h) through (l) as subsections (g) through (k), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (k)(5), as redesignated, by striking ''under subsection (k)'' and inserting ''under subsection (j)''.

(e) TIP ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is further amended in subsection (j), as redesignated by subsection (d), by striking paragraph (5).

(f) NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ACTIVITIES.—Section 212 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5611) is repealed.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SEC. 301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) SERVICE-LEARNING IMPACT STUDY.—The National and Community Service Act of 1990 is amended by repealing part IV of subtitle B of title I (42 U.S.C. 12565).

(b) REPORTS BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO THE CORPORATION.—Section 182 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12642) is amended—

(1) by striking the following:

''(a) DESIGN OF PROGRAMS.—''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. 401. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) DISPLAY OF ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR SOVEREIGNTY ALERT MISSION.—Section 354 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 221 note) is hereby repealed.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON RELIABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Section 1008 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''(b) or''.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 501. REPORT ON IMPACT AID CONSTRUCTION JUSTIFYING DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDS ELIMINATED.

Section 8007(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7707(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SEC. 601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 983 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16323) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) STRATEGIC UNCONVENTIONAL FUELS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 369(i) of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15927(i)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 342(a)(6)(C) of Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)(6)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (v); and

(2) by redesignating clause (vi) (as added by section 310(a)(4) of Public Law 112–110; 126 Stat. 1524) as clause (v).

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SEC. 701. GREAT LAKES MANAGEMENT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 118(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (10); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (13) as paragraphs (10) through (12), respectively.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SEC. 801. REPORT RELATING TO WAIVER OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA ELIMINATED.

Section 1405 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2799aa–1 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SEC. 901. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1904 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6574) is repealed.

(b) USE OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BY STATES AND LOCALITIES REPORT.—Section 901 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 191) is repealed.

(c) HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS AUDIT.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF AUDIT.—Section 902(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15542(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)'';

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (5).

(2) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY TO RECOUP FUNDS RESULTING FROM PRIOR AUDITS.—Section 902(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15542(c)) is amended by inserting after ''subsection (b)'' the following: ''prior to the date of the enactment of the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

(d) STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 3011 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5710) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(e) SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND PROGRAM AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 4107 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 4741 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(f) HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT.—Section 6303(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1490e note) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 902. REPORTS MODIFIED.

(a) NATIONAL PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL.—Subsection (i) of section 4001 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–10) is amended by striking ''The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the

United States shall jointly conduct periodic reviews'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall conduct periodic reviews''.

(b) POSTCARD MANDATE.—Section 719(g)(2) of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''The Comptroller General shall make each list available through the public website of the Government Accountability Office.''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting ''of Congress'' after ''committee or member''.

(c) ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOUNDATION.—

(1) USE OF PRIVATE INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.—Section 107 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 807) is amended to read as follows:

''AUDITS

''SEC. 107. (a) CONTRACTS WITH INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.—The Board shall enter into a contract with an independent public accountant to conduct an annual audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, of the financial records of the Board and of any corporation established under section 106(i), and shall ensure that the independent public accountant has access for the purpose of the audit to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation (or any agent of the Board or such corporation) which the independent public accountant reasonably determines to be pertinent to the Congressional Award Program.

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON AUDIT RESULTS.—Not later than May 15 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to appropriate officers, committees, and subcommittees of Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the results of the most recent audit conducted pursuant to this section, and shall include in the report information on any such additional areas as the independent public accountant who conducted the audit determines deserve or require evaluation.

''(c) REVIEW BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF ANNUAL AUDIT.—

''(1) The Comptroller General of the United States shall review each annual audit conducted under subsection (a).

''(2) For purposes of a review under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General, or any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation, or any agent of the Board or such corporation, including the independent external auditor designated under subsection (a), which, in the opinion of the Comptroller General, may be pertinent.

''(3) Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives a report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1) with respect to the preceding year.''.

(2) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—Section 104(c) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by—

(i) inserting ''policies and'' before ''procedures''; and

(ii) striking ''fund''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''The Comptroller General of the United States'' and inserting ''The independent public accountant conducting the annual audit of the financial records of the Board pursuant to section 107(a)''; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking ''the Comptroller General'' and inserting ''the independent public accountant''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

(d) ANNUAL GAO REVIEW OF PROPOSED HHS RECOVERY THRESHOLD.—The third sentence of section 1862(b)(9)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(B)(i)) is amended by striking ''for a year'' and inserting ''for 2014''.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SEC. 1001. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS MADE WITH DOG OR CAT FUR.—Section 308 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1308) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) PORT OF ENTRY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT STUDY AND NATIONAL LAND BORDER SECURITY PLAN.—The Border Infrastructure and Technology Modernization Act of 2007 (title VI of division E of Public Law 110–161; 6 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 603 and 604.

(c) FEES FOR CERTAIN CUSTOMS SERVICES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 13031 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–272; 19 U.S.C. 58c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(9), by striking subparagraph (C) and redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C); and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D);

(ii) by striking paragraph (4); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (f) of such section is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''.

(d) MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 346 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295; 14 U.S.C. 88 note) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 346.

TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 1101. ROYALTIES IN-KIND REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 342 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15902) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (j) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SEC. 1201. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3205) is repealed.

TITLE XIII—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SEC. 1301. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105–5) (commonly referred to as the ''CFE Flank Document''), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

TITLE XIV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEC. 1401. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 620F of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2376) is amended by striking subsection (c).

TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 1501. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORTS OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES COMMITTEE.—Section 106(p)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H).

(b) ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF AIRPORT FINANCIAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (k).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is further amended—

(i) by redesignating subsections (*l*) through (t) as subsections (k) through (s), respectively;

(ii) in paragraph (5) of subsection (k), as redesignated by clause (i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (n)(7)'' and inserting ''subsection (m)(7)''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subsection (n)'' and inserting ''subsection (m)'';

(iii) in subsection (m), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking ''subsections (b) and (l)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsections (b) and (k)''; and

(II) by striking ''subsection (o)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (n)'';

(iv) in subsection (n), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsection (n)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (m)'';

(v) in subsection (o), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsection (o)'' and inserting ''subsection (n)'';

(vi) in subsection (p), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsections (a) through (p)'' and inserting ''subsections (a) through (o)''; and

(vii) in subsection (q), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsections (q)(1) through (3)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (p)''.

(B) Section 46301(d)(2) of such title is amended by striking ''section 47107(l)'' and inserting ''section 47107(k)''.

(C) Section 47111(e) of such title is amended by striking ''section 47107(l)'' and inserting ''section 47107(k)''.

(D) Section 9502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''section 47107(n)'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 47107(m)''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM FOR INNOVATIVE FINANCING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT.—Section 182 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2515; 49 U.S.C. 44502 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(e) REPORTS ON JUSTIFICATIONS FOR AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONES.—Section 602 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2563), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents contained in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT ON STANDARDS FOR AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT ENGINES TO REDUCE

NOISE LEVELS.—Section 726 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (114 Stat. 167; 49 U.S.C. 47508 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 1502. REPORT MODIFIED.

Section 1138(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''at least annually, but may be conducted''.

TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SEC. 1601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—Section 2 of Public Law 108–215 (22 U.S.C. 290m–6) is repealed.

(b) REPORT ON VOTING ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LOAN PROPOSALS.—Section 701 of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262d) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) through subsection (g) (as added by section 501(g) of Public Law 96–259) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively.

(c) REPORT ON NEW IMF ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING RATES AND MATURITIES.—Section 605 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–222), as enacted into law by section 101(d) of division A of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277), is amended by striking subsection (d).

(d) REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS.—The Government Securities Act Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103–202; 31 U.S.C. 3121 note) is amended—

(1) by striking section 203; and

(2) in the table of contents for such Act, by striking the item relating to section 203.

TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SEC. 1701. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 8125 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

SA 3821. Ms. HEITKAMP (for Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2117, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Smart Savings Act''.

SEC. 2. THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN DEFAULT INVESTMENT FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8438(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if an election has not been made with respect to any sums available for investment in the Thrift Savings Fund, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in an age-appropriate target date asset allocation portfolio of the funds described in subsection (b), as determined by the Executive Director.

''(B) If an election has not been made by a member (as defined in section 211 of title 37) contributing to the Thrift Savings Fund under section 8440e with respect to any sums available for investment in such member's Thrift Savings Fund account, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in the Government Securities Investment Fund.''.

(b) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK.—Section 8439(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''Each employee''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Before the date on which an individual is enrolled to make contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund, or as soon as practical thereafter, an individual who is automatically enrolled under section 8432(b)(2) shall receive the risk acknowledgment information described in paragraph (1).''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8472(g)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''required by section 8438 of this title to be invested in securities of the Government'' and inserting ''under section 8438(c)(2)(B)''.

(d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Executive Director (as that term is defined under section 8401(13) of title 5, United States Code) shall develop and issue guidance implementing the amendments made by this section.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall—

(1) take effect on the date on which the Executive Director issues guidance under subsection (d); and

(2) apply to individuals who enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan on or after such date.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF FIDUCIARY PROTECTIONS.

Section 8477(e)(1)(C)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subclause (II)—

(A) by inserting ''or beneficiary'' after ''participant''; and

(B) by inserting ''or option'' after ''fund''; and

(2) in subclause (III)—

(A) by inserting ''or beneficiary'' after ''participant''; and

(B) by inserting ''or beneficiaries'' after ''participants''.

SA 3822. Ms. HEITKAMP (for Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2440, to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 5, line 13, insert ''and Indian trust mineral estate'' after ''Federal''.

On page 6, line 5, insert ''and Indian trust mineral estate'' after ''Federal''.

On page 7, line 11, insert ''and Indian trust mineral estate'' after ''Federal''.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to consider the following bill: S. 2670, a bill to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian land in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Examining the State of Small Depository Institutions.''

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Oversight of and Policy Considerations for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Retirement Savings 2.0: Updating Savings Policy for the Modern Economy.''

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Ebola in West Africa: A Global Challenge and Public Health Threat.''

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2014, at 2:45 p.m., in

room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Children's Health Insurance Program: Protecting America's Children and Families''.

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

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 483, S. 2539.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2539) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. CDC PROGRAMS FOR PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) PREVENTION OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—Section 393B(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b–1c(b)(3)) is amended by striking ''2010, commonly referred to as Healthy People 2010'' and inserting ''2020, commonly referred to as Healthy People 2020''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 394A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b–3) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through ''For the purpose'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 394A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose'';

(2) by striking the second period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—To carry out sections 393B and 393C, there are authorized to be appropriated $6,564,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.''.

SEC. 3. STATE GRANTS FOR PROJECTS REGARDING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

Section 1252 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–52) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking '', acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration,'';

(2) in paragraphs (1)(A)(i) and (3)(E) of subsection (f), by striking ''brain injury'' and inserting ''traumatic brain injury'';

(3) in subsection (h), by striking ''under this section, and section 1253 including'' and inserting ''under this section and section 1253, including''; and

(4) in subsection (j), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012'' and inserting ''$5,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019''.

SEC. 4. STATE GRANTS FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES.

Section 1253 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–53) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking '', acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (referred to in this section as the 'Administrator'),'';

(2) in subsections (c), (d)(1), (e)(1), (e)(4), (g), (h), and (j)(1), by striking ''Administrator'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary'';

(3) in subsection (h)—

*(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting ''**REPORTING**'';*

(B) by striking ''Each protection and advocacy system'' and inserting the following:

''(1) REPORTS BY SYSTEMS.—Each protection and advocacy system''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the services and activities carried out under this section during the period for which the report is being prepared.'';

(4) in subsection (i), by striking ''The Administrator of the Health Resources'' and all that follows through ''regarding'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall facilitate agreements to coordinate the collection of data by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services regarding'';

(5) in subsection (k), by striking ''subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000'' and inserting ''subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.)'';

(6) in subsection (l), by striking ''$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for each the fiscal years 2009 through 2012'' and inserting ''$3,100,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019''; and

(7) in subsection (m)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''part C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6042 et seq.)'' and inserting ''subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.)''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''part C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6042 et seq.)'' and inserting ''subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.)''.

SEC. 5. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY COORDINATION PLAN.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall develop a plan for improved coordination of Federal activities with respect to traumatic brain injury. Such plan shall—

(1) review existing interagency coordination efforts with respect to Federal activities related to traumatic brain injury, including services for individuals with traumatic brain injury;

(2) identify areas for improved coordination between relevant Federal agencies and programs, including agencies and programs with a focus on serving individuals with disabilities;

(3) identify each recommendation in the report required by section 393C(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b–1d(b)) that has been adopted and each such recommendation that has not been adopted, and describe any planned activities to address each such recommendation that has not been adopted; and

(4) incorporate, as appropriate, stakeholder feedback, including feedback from individuals with traumatic brain injury and their caregivers.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit the plan developed under subsection (a) to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 6. REVIEW OF BRAIN INJURY MANAGEMENT IN CHILDREN.

The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall conduct a review of the scientific evidence related to brain injury management in children, such as the restriction or prohibition of children from attending school or participating in athletic activities following a head injury, and identify ongoing and potential further opportunities for research. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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 the results of such review.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2539), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ALL-AMERICAN FLAG ACT

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 504, S. 1214.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1214) to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1214) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1214

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 ''All-American Flag Act''.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR PURCHASE OF DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS FOR USE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b), only such flags of the United States of America, regardless of size, that

are 100 percent manufactured in the United States, from articles, materials, or supplies 100 percent of which are grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States, may be acquired for use by the Federal Government.

(b) WAIVER.—The head of an executive agency may waive the requirement under subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis upon a determination that—

(1) the application of the limitation would cause unreasonable costs or delays to be incurred; or

(2) application of the limitation would adversely affect a United States company.

(c) AMENDMENT OF FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council established under section 1302 of title 41, United States Code, shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to implement this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—The term ''Federal Acquisition Regulation'' has the meaning given the term in section 106 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 2 shall apply to purchases of flags made on or after 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

This Act shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ELIMINATION ACT OF 2014

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 505, H.R. 4194.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4194) to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Sec. 101. Reports eliminated.
TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Sec. 201. Reports eliminated.
TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
Sec. 301. Reports eliminated.
TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Sec. 401. Reports eliminated.
TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Sec. 501. Report on Impact Aid construction justifying discretionary grant awards eliminated.
TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Sec. 601. Reports eliminated.
TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Sec. 701. Great Lakes management comprehensive report eliminated.
TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Sec. 801. Report relating to waiver of certain sanctions against North Korea eliminated.
TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
Sec. 901. Reports eliminated.
Sec. 902. Reports modified.
TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Sec. 1001. Reports eliminated.
TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Sec. 1101. Royalties in-kind report eliminated.
TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Sec. 1201. Reports eliminated.
TITLE XIII—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
Sec. 1301. Reports eliminated.
TITLE XIV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Sec. 1401. Report eliminated.
TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Sec. 1501. Reports eliminated.
Sec. 1502. Reports modified.
TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Sec. 1601. Reports eliminated.
TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Sec. 1701. Reports eliminated.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SEC. 101. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) INFORMATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ON COMMODITY PROMOTION PROGRAMS.—Section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d);

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(3) in paragraph (4) of subsection (d) (as so redesignated), by striking ''subsection (f)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)''.

(b) UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES REPORT AND RELATED MEETING.—Section 108 of the Act of August 28, 1954 (commonly known as the ''Agricultural Act of 1954'') (7 U.S.C. 1748), is repealed.

(c) FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 1546 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4207) is repealed.

(d) PEANUT BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1302(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8752(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3);

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''Paragraphs (1) through (3)'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (2)''; and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(e) OTHER BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1101(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8711(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3);

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''Paragraphs (1) through (3)'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (2)''; and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(f) BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM REPORT.—Section 333B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (h) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively.

(g) RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT.—Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking ''(k)'' and inserting ''(j)'';

(2) by striking subsection (j); and

(3) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively.

(h) REPORT ON EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES TO EMERGING MARKETS.—Section 1542(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 7 U.S.C. 5622 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(1) EFFECT OF CREDITS.—''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(i) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION QUARTERLY REPORT.—Section 13 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714k) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(j) EVALUATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM FINANCING OF LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (iv); and

(2) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

(k) UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REPORTS.—Section 17B of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–2) is repealed.

(l) NOTIFICATIONS TO CONGRESS ON RELEASE OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRODUCERS OPERATING UNDER MARKETING AGREEMENTS AND ORDERS.—Section 8d(2) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608d(2)), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended by striking the third sentence.

(m) PLANT PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER PREVENTION ACTION PLANS REPORTS.—Section 420(c) of the Plant Protect Act (7 U.S.C. 7721(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(n) QUARTERLY EXPORT ASSISTANCE REPORTS.—Section 603 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5713) is repealed.

(o) RURAL COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) SECRETARIAL REPORT ON REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARDS.—Section 385C(b)(7) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–2(b)(7)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) REPORT BY REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD TO NATIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD AND THE SECRETARY.—Section 385D(a)(7) of Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–3(a)(7)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(p) STATUS REPORT FOR FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—Section 702 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5722) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(q) SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA TIMBER REPORTS.—Section 706 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 539e) is repealed.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SEC. 201. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EFFORTS AND PROGRESS IN BECOMING DESIGNATED AS SEA GRANT COLLEGE OR INSTITUTE.—Section 207 of the National Sea Grant

Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1126) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 3 of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 278g-5) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(c) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO SEA GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 208(a) of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by striking the fourth sentence.

(d) TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by redesignating subsections (h) through (l) as subsections (g) through (k), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (k)(5), as redesignated, by striking ''under subsection (k)'' and inserting ''under subsection (j)''.

(e) TIP ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is further amended in subsection (j), as redesignated by subsection (d), by striking paragraph (5).

(f) NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ACTIVITIES.—Section 212 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5611) is repealed.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SEC. 301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) SERVICE-LEARNING IMPACT STUDY.—The National and Community Service Act of 1990 is amended by repealing part IV of subtitle B of title I (42 U.S.C. 12565).

(b) REPORTS BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO THE CORPORATION.—Section 182 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12642) is amended—

(1) by striking the following:

''(a) DESIGN OF PROGRAMS.—''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. 401. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) DISPLAY OF ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR SOVEREIGNTY ALERT MISSION.—Section 354 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 221 note) is hereby repealed.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON RELIABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Section 1008 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''(b) or''.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 501. REPORT ON IMPACT AID CONSTRUCTION JUSTIFYING DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDS ELIMINATED.

Section 8007(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7707(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SEC. 601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 983 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16323) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) STRATEGIC UNCONVENTIONAL FUELS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 369(i) of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15927(i)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 342(a)(6)(C) of Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)(6)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (v); and

(2) by redesignating clause (vi) (as added by section 310(a)(4) of Public Law 112–110; 126 Stat. 1524) as clause (v).

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SEC. 701. GREAT LAKES MANAGEMENT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 118(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (10); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (13) as paragraphs (10) through (12), respectively.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SEC. 801. REPORT RELATING TO WAIVER OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA ELIMINATED.

Section 1405 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2799aa–1 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SEC. 901. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1904 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6574) is repealed.

(b) USE OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BY STATES AND LOCALITIES REPORT.—Section 901 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 191) is repealed.

(c) HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS AUDIT.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF AUDIT.—Section 902(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15542(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)'';

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (5).

(2) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY TO RECOUP FUNDS RESULTING FROM PRIOR AUDITS.—Section 902(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15542(c)) is amended by inserting after ''subsection (b)'' the following: ''prior to the date of the enactment of the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014''.

(d) STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 3011 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5710) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(e) SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND PROGRAM AUDIT AND REPORT.—Section 4107 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 4741 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(f) HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT.—Section 6303(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1490e note) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 902. REPORTS MODIFIED.

(a) NATIONAL PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL.—Subsection (i) of section 4001 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–10) is amended by striking ''The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States shall jointly conduct periodic reviews'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall conduct periodic reviews''.

(b) POSTCARD MANDATE.—Section 719(g)(2) of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''The Comptroller General shall make each list available through the public website of the Government Accountability Office.''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting ''of Congress'' after ''committee or member''.

(c) ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOUNDATION.—

(1) USE OF PRIVATE INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.—Section 107 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 807) is amended to read as follows:

''AUDITS

''SEC. 107. (a) CONTRACTS WITH INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.—The Board shall enter into a contract with an independent public accountant to conduct an annual audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, of the financial records of the Board and of any corporation established under section 106(i), and shall ensure that the independent public accountant has access for the purpose of the audit to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation (or any agent of the Board or such corporation) which the independent public accountant reasonably determines to be pertinent to the Congressional Award Program.

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON AUDIT RESULTS.—Not later than May 15 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to appropriate officers, committees, and subcommittees of Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the results of the most recent audit conducted pursuant to this section, and shall include in the report information on any such additional areas as the independent public accountant who conducted the audit determines deserve or require evaluation.

''(c) REVIEW BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF ANNUAL AUDIT.—

''(1) The Comptroller General of the United States shall review each annual audit conducted under subsection (a).

''(2) For purposes of a review under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General, or any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation, or any agent of the Board or such corporation, including the independent external auditor designated under subsection (a), which, in the opinion of the Comptroller General, may be pertinent.

''(3) Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives a report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1) with respect to the preceding year.''.

(2) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—Section 104(c) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by—

(i) inserting ''policies and'' before ''procedures''; and

(ii) striking ''fund''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''The Comptroller General of the United States'' and inserting ''The independent public accountant conducting the annual audit of the financial records of the Board pursuant to section 107(a)''; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking ''the Comptroller General'' and inserting ''the independent public accountant''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

(d) ANNUAL GAO REVIEW OF PROPOSED HHS RECOVERY THRESHOLD.—The third sentence of section 1862(b)(9)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(B)(i)) is amended by striking ''for a year'' and inserting ''for 2014''.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SEC. 1001. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS MADE WITH DOG OR CAT FUR.—Section 308

of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1308) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) PORT OF ENTRY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT STUDY AND NATIONAL LAND BORDER SECURITY PLAN.—The Border Infrastructure and Technology Modernization Act of 2007 (title VI of division E of Public Law 110–161; 6 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 603 and 604.

(c) FEES FOR CERTAIN CUSTOMS SERVICES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 13031 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–272; 19 U.S.C. 58c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(9), by striking subparagraph (C) and redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C); and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D);

(ii) by striking paragraph (4); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (f) of such section is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''paragraph (5)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''.

(d) MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 346 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295; 14 U.S.C. 88 note) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 346.

TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 1101. ROYALTIES IN-KIND REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 342 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15902) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (j) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SEC. 1201. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965.—Section 515 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056m) is repealed.

(b) ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT.—Section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3205) is repealed.

TITLE XIII—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SEC. 1301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE.—Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105–5) (commonly referred to as the ''CFE Flank Document''), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

(b) REPORTS ON COMMERCE WITH, AND ASSISTANCE TO, CUBA FROM OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 108 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6038) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 108.

TITLE XIV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEC. 1401. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 620F of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2376) is amended by striking subsection (c).

TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 1501. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) REPORTS OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES COMMITTEE.—Section 106(p)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H).

(b) ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF AIRPORT FINANCIAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (k).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is further amended—

(i) by redesignating subsections (l) through (t) as subsections (k) through (s), respectively;

(ii) in paragraph (5) of subsection (k), as redesignated by clause (i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (n)(7)'' and inserting ''subsection (m)(7)''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subsection (n)'' and inserting ''subsection (m)'';

(iii) in subsection (m), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking ''subsections (b) and (l)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsections (b) and (k)''; and

(II) by striking ''subsection (o)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (n)'';

(iv) in subsection (n), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsection (n)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (m)'';

(v) in subsection (o), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsection (o)'' and inserting ''subsection (n)'';

(vi) in subsection (p), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsections (a) through (p)'' and inserting ''subsections (a) through (o)''; and

(vii) in subsection (q), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsections (q)(1) through (3)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (p)''.

(B) Section 46301(d)(2) of such title is amended by striking ''section 47107(l)'' and inserting ''section 47107(k)''.

(C) Section 47111(e) of such title is amended by striking ''section 47107(l)'' and inserting ''section 47107(k)''.

(D) Section 9502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''section 47107(n)'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 47107(m)''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM FOR INNOVATIVE FINANCING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT.—Section 182 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2515; 49 U.S.C. 44502 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(e) REPORTS ON JUSTIFICATIONS FOR AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONES.—Section 602 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2563), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents contained in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT ON STANDARDS FOR AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT ENGINES TO REDUCE NOISE LEVELS.—Section 726 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (114 Stat. 167; 49 U.S.C. 47508 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 1502. REPORT MODIFIED.

Section 1138(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''at least annually, but may be conducted''.

TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SEC. 1601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—Section 2 of Public Law 108–215 (22 U.S.C. 290m–6) is repealed.

(b) REPORT ON VOTING ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LOAN PROPOSALS.—Section 701 of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262d) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) through subsection (g) (as added by section 501(g) of Public Law 96–259) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively.

(c) REPORT ON NEW IMF ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING RATES AND MATURITIES.—Section 605 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–222), as enacted into law by section 101(d) of division A of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277), is amended by striking subsection (d).

(d) REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS.—The Government Securities Act Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103–202; 31 U.S.C. 3121 note) is amended—

(1) by striking section 203; and

(2) in the table of contents for such Act, by striking the item relating to section 203.

TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SEC. 1701. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 8125 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the passage of the Government Reports Elimination Act—a bill that will eliminate or modify 53 Congressionally mandated reports.

In 2010, we passed the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act, which added several new reporting requirements for Federal agencies. Too often, we add these new reporting requirements without looking back to see if there are any outdated reports that could be eliminated.

So we asked Federal agencies to identify any duplicative or outdated reports that we could cut. In response, the administration published its first list of more than 300 reports from about 30 agencies and we turned this list into the Government Reports Elimination Act.

Senator AYOTTE and I introduced this bill in the Senate and Congressmen DARRELL ISSA and GERRY CONNOLLY introduced the companion in the House. The final bill will eliminate or modify 53. In doing so, we are removing real barriers to productivity across the government. This represents a real step, albeit a modest one, toward making our government work better.

If these reports are not being used—and are simply collecting dust on a shelf—then they are wasteful, and we cannot afford that kind of waste Eliminating a handful of reports won't solve our budget challenges—but every hour and dollar saved helps. This bill helps free up time for our Federal employees to focus on priorities.

The passage of the Government Reports Elimination Act makes a small down payment on the broader problem, which is why I'm also working on another bill to make further reductions in Congressionally mandated reports.

In June, the administration sent over the second list of outdated reports for

elimination and our new bill will include their recommendations and reflects my ongoing commitment to eliminating these outdated reports.

I wish to thank Senator AYOTTE for being my partner on this work. It has been an honor to work with her on our Budget Committee Government Performance Task Force.

I also want to thank Senators CARPER and COBURN for their leadership on this issue and advancing this bill through their Committee. Additionally, I would like to thank our other cosponsors, Senators FEINSTEIN and MCCASKILL for their support.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered; the Carper amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3820) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 4194), as amended, was passed.

SMART SAVINGS ACT

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 522, S. 2117.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2117) to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Warren substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3821) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Smart Savings Act''.

SEC. 2. THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN DEFAULT INVESTMENT FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8438(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if an election has not been made with respect to any sums available for investment in the Thrift Savings Fund, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in an age-appropriate target date asset allocation portfolio of the funds described in subsection (b), as determined by the Executive Director.

''(B) If an election has not been made by a member (as defined in section 211 of title 37) contributing to the Thrift Savings Fund under section 8440e with respect to any sums available for investment in such member's Thrift Savings Fund account, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in the Government Securities Investment Fund.''.

(b) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK.—Section 8439(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''Each employee''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Before the date on which an individual is enrolled to make contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund, or as soon as practical thereafter, an individual who is automatically enrolled under section 8432(b)(2) shall receive the risk acknowledgment information described in paragraph (1).''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8472(g)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''required by section 8438 of this title to be invested in securities of the Government'' and inserting ''under section 8438(c)(2)(B)''.

(d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Executive Director (as that term is defined under section 8401(13) of title 5, United States Code) shall develop and issue guidance implementing the amendments made by this section.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall—

(1) take effect on the date on which the Executive Director issues guidance under subsection (d); and

(2) apply to individuals who enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan on or after such date.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF FIDUCIARY PROTECTIONS.

Section 8477(e)(1)(C)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subclause (II)—

(A) by inserting ''or beneficiary'' after ''participant''; and

(B) by inserting ''or option'' after ''fund''; and

(2) in subclause (III)—

(A) by inserting ''or beneficiary'' after ''participant''; and

(B) by inserting ''or beneficiaries' '' after ''participants' ''.

The bill (S. 2117), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 552, S. 2511.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2511) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the definition of substantial cessation of operations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SUBSTANTIAL CESSATION OF OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 4062 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1362) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) TREATMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CESSATION OF OPERATIONS.—

''(1) GENERAL RULE.—Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), if there is a substantial cessation of operations at a facility in any location, the employer shall be treated with respect to any single employer plan established and maintained by the employer covering participants at such facility as if the employer were a substantial employer under a plan under which more than one employer makes contributions and the provisions of sections 4063, 4064, and 4065 shall apply.

''(2) SUBSTANTIAL CESSATION OF OPERATIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'substantial cessation of operations' means a permanent cessation of operations at a facility which results in a workforce reduction of a number of eligible employees at the facility equivalent to more than 15 percent of the number of all eligible employees of the employer, determined immediately before the earlier of—

''(i) the date of the employer's decision to implement such cessation, or

''(ii) in the case of a workforce reduction which includes 1 or more eligible employees described in paragraph (6)(B), the earliest date on which any such eligible employee was separated from employment.

''(B) WORKFORCE REDUCTION.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), the term 'workforce reduction' means the number of eligible employees at a facility who are separated from employment by reason of the permanent cessation of operations of the employer at the facility.

''(C) RELOCATION OF WORKFORCE.—An eligible employee separated from employment at a facility shall not be taken into account in computing a workforce reduction if, within a reasonable period of time, the employee is replaced by the employer, at the same or another facility located in the United States, by an employee who is a citizen or resident of the United States.

''(D) DISPOSITIONS.—If, whether by reason of a sale or other disposition of the assets or stock of a contributing sponsor (or any member of the same controlled group as such a sponsor) of the plan relating to operations at a facility or otherwise, an employer (the 'transferee employer') other than the employer which experiences the substantial cessation of operations (the 'transferor employer') conducts any portion of such operations, then—

''(i) an eligible employee separated from employment with the transferor employer at the facility shall not be taken into account in computing a workforce reduction if—

''(I) within a reasonable period of time, the employee is replaced by the transferee employer by an employee who is a citizen or resident of the United States; and

''(II) in the case of an eligible employee who is a participant in a single employer plan maintained by the transferor employer, the transferee employer, within a reasonable period of time, maintains a single employer plan which includes the assets and liabilities attributable to the accrued benefit of the eligible employee at

the time of separation from employment with the transferor employer; and

''(ii) an eligible employee who continues to be employed at the facility by the transferee employer shall not be taken into account in computing a workforce reduction if—

''(I) the eligible employee is not a participant in a single employer plan maintained by the transferor employer, or

''(II) in any other case, the transferee employer, within a reasonable period of time, maintains a single employer plan which includes the assets and liabilities attributable to the accrued benefit of the eligible employee at the time of separation from employment with the transferor employer.

''(3) EXEMPTION FOR PLANS WITH LIMITED UNDERFUNDING.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a single employer plan if, for the plan year preceding the plan year in which the cessation occurred—

''(A) there were fewer than 100 participants with accrued benefits under the plan as of the valuation date of the plan for the plan year (as determined under section 303(g)(2)); or

''(B) the ratio of the market value of the assets of the plan to the funding target of the plan for the plan year was 90 percent or greater.

''(4) ELECTION TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SATISFY LIABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer may elect to satisfy the employer's liability with respect to a plan by reason of paragraph (1) by making additional contributions to the plan in the amount determined under subparagraph (B) for each plan year in the 7-plan-year period beginning with the plan year in which the cessation occurred. Any such additional contribution for a plan year shall be in addition to any minimum required contribution under section 303 for such plan year and shall be paid not later than the earlier of—

''(i) the due date for the minimum required contribution for such year under section 303(j); or

''(ii) in the case of the first such contribution, the date that is 1 year after the date on which the employer notifies the Corporation of the substantial cessation of operations or the date the Corporation determines a substantial cessation of operations has occurred, and in the case of subsequent contributions, the same date in each succeeding year.

''(B) AMOUNT DETERMINED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the amount determined under this subparagraph with respect to each plan year in the 7-plan-year period is the product of—

''(I) 1/7 of the unfunded vested benefits determined under section 4006(a)(3)(E) as of the valuation date of the plan (as determined under section 303(g)(2)) for the plan year preceding the plan year in which the cessation occurred; and

''(II) the reduction fraction.

''(ii) REDUCTION FRACTION.—For purposes of clause (i), the reduction fraction of a single employer plan is equal to—

''(I) the number of participants with accrued benefits in the plan who were included in computing the workforce reduction under paragraph (2)(B) as a result of the cessation of operations at the facility; divided by

''(II) the number of eligible employees of the employer who are participants with accrued benefits in the plan, determined as of the same date the determination under paragraph (2)(A) is made.

''(iii) LIMITATION.—The additional contribution under this subparagraph for any plan year shall not exceed the excess, if any, of—

''(I) 25 percent of the difference between the market value of the assets of the plan and the funding target of the plan for the preceding plan year; over

''(II) the minimum required contribution under section 303 for the plan year.

''(C) PERMITTED CESSATION OF ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS WHEN PLAN BECOMES SUFFICIENTLY FUNDED.—An employer's obligation to make additional contributions under this paragraph shall not apply to—

''(i) the first plan year (beginning on or after the first day of the plan year in which the cessation occurs) for which the ratio of the market value of the assets of the plan to the funding target of the plan for the plan year is 90 percent or greater, or

''(ii) any plan year following such first plan year.

''(D) COORDINATION WITH FUNDING WAIVERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Treasury issues a funding waiver under section 302(c) with respect to the plan for a plan year in the 7-plan-year period under subparagraph (A), the additional contribution with respect to such plan year shall be permanently waived.

''(ii) NOTICE.—An employer maintaining a plan with respect to which such a funding waiver has been issued or a request for such a funding waiver is pending shall provide notice to the Secretary of the Treasury, in such form and at such time as the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide, of a cessation of operations to which paragraph (1) applies.

''(E) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(i) NOTICE.—An employer making the election under this paragraph shall provide notice to the Corporation, in accordance with rules prescribed by the Corporation, of—

''(I) such election, not later than 30 days after the earlier of the date the employer notifies the Corporation of the substantial cessation of operations or the date the Corporation determines a substantial cessation of operations has occurred;

''(II) the payment of each additional contribution, not later than 10 days after such payment;

''(III) any failure to pay the additional contribution in the full amount for any year in the 7-plan-year period, not later than 10 days after the due date for such payment;

''(IV) the waiver under subparagraph (D)(i) of the obligation to make an additional contribution for any year, not later than 30 days after the funding waiver described in such subparagraph is granted; and

''(V) the cessation of any obligation to make additional contributions under subparagraph (C), not later than 10 days after the due date for payment of the additional contribution for the first plan year to which such cessation applies.

''(ii) ACCELERATION OF LIABILITY TO THE PLAN FOR FAILURE TO PAY.—If an employer fails to pay the additional contribution in the full amount for any year in the 7-plan-year period by the due date for such payment, the employer shall, as of such date, be liable to the plan in an amount equal to the balance which remains unpaid as of such date of the aggregate amount of additional contributions required to be paid by the employer during such 7-year-plan period. The Corporation may waive or settle the liability described in the preceding sentence, at the discretion of the Corporation.

''(iii) CIVIL ACTION.—The Corporation may bring a civil action in the district courts of the United States in accordance with section 4003(e) to compel an employer making such election to pay the additional contributions required under this paragraph.

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.—The term 'eligible employee' means an employee who is eligible to participate in an employee pension benefit plan (as defined in section 3(2)) established and maintained by the employer.

''(B) FUNDING TARGET.—The term 'funding target' means, with respect to any plan year, the funding target as determined under section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(I) for purposes of determining the premium paid to the Corporation under section 4007 for the plan year.

''(C) MARKET VALUE.—The market value of the assets of a plan shall be determined in the same manner as for purposes of section 4006(a)(3)(E).

''(6) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(A) CHANGE IN OPERATION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND PROPERTY.—For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), an employer shall not be treated as ceasing operations at a qualified lodging facility (as defined in section 856(d)(9)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) if such operations are continued by an eligible independent contractor (as defined in section 856(d)(9)(A) of such Code) pursuant to an agreement with the employer.

''(B) AGGREGATION OF PRIOR SEPARATIONS.—The workforce reduction under paragraph (2) with respect to any cessation of operations shall be determined by taking into account any separation from employment of any eligible employee at the facility (other than a separation which is not taken into account as workforce reduction by reason of subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (2)) which—

''(i) is related to the permanent cessation of operations of the employer at the facility, and

''(ii) occurs during the 3-year period preceding such cessation.

''(C) NO ADDITION TO PREFUNDING BALANCE.—For purposes of section 303(f)(6)(B) and section 430(f)(6)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, any additional contribution made under paragraph (4) shall be treated in the same manner as a contribution an employer is required to make in order to avoid a benefit reduction under paragraph (1), (2), or (4) of section 206(g) or subsection (b), (c), or (e) of section 436 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the plan year.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to a cessation of operations or other event at a facility occurring on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) TRANSITION RULE.—An employer that had a cessation of operations before the date of enactment of this Act (as determined under subsection 4062(e) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 as in effect before the amendment made by this section), but did not enter into an arrangement with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to satisfy the requirements of such subsection (as so in effect) before such date of enactment, shall be permitted to make the election under section 4062(e)(4) of such Act (as in effect after the amendment made by this section) as if such cessation had occurred on such date of enactment. Such election shall be made not later than 30 days after such Corporation issues, on or after such date of the enactment, a final administrative determination that a substantial cessation of operations has occurred.

(c) DIRECTION TO THE CORPORATION.—The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation shall not take any enforcement, administrative, or other action pursuant to section 4062(e) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or in connection with an agreement settling liability arising under such section, that is inconsistent with the amendment made by this section, without regard to whether the action relates to a cessation or other event that occurs before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act, unless such action is in connection with a settlement agreement that is in place before June 1, 2014. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation shall not initiate a new enforcement action with respect to section 4062(e) of such Act that is inconsistent with its enforcement policy in effect on June 1, 2014.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2511), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BLM PERMIT PROCESSING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2440 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2440) to expand and extend the program to improve permit coordination by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Udall of New Mexico amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3822) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify the uses of the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Fund)

On page 5, line 13, insert ''and Indian trust mineral estate'' after ''Federal''.

On page 6, line 5, insert ''and Indian trust mineral estate'' after ''Federal''.

On page 7, line 11, insert ''and Indian trust mineral estate'' after ''Federal''.

The bill (S. 2440), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2440

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 ''BLM Permit Processing Improvement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO IMPROVE FEDERAL PERMIT COORDINATION.

Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15924) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**PILOT**'';

(2) by striking ''Pilot Project'' each place it appears and inserting ''Project'';

(3) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico'' and inserting ''the States in which Project offices are located'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''PILOT''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) Any other State, district, or field office of the Bureau of Land Management determined by the Secretary.'';

(5) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than February 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Act of 2014 and each February 1 thereafter, the Secretary shall report to the Chairman and ranking minority Member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, which shall include—

''(1) the allocation of funds to each Project office for the previous fiscal year; and

''(2) the accomplishments of each Project office relating to the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations during that fiscal year.'';

(6) in subsection (h), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) the States in which Project offices are located.'';

(7) by striking subsection (i); and

(8) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (i).

SEC. 3. BLM OIL AND GAS PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.

Section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) BLM OIL AND GAS PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2026, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall collect a fee for each new application for a permit to drill that is submitted to the Secretary.

''(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of the fee shall be $9,500 for each new application, as indexed for United States dollar inflation from October 1, 2015 (as measured by the Consumer Price Index).

''(3) USE.—Of the fees collected under this subsection for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall transfer—

''(A) for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019—

''(i) 15 percent to the field offices that collected the fees and used to process protests, leases, and permits under this Act, subject to appropriation; and

''(ii) 85 percent to the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Fund established under subsection (c)(2)(B) (referred to in this subsection as the 'Fund'); and

''(B) for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2026, all of the fees to the Fund.

''(4) ADDITIONAL COSTS.—During each of fiscal years of 2016 through 2026, the Secretary shall not implement a rulemaking that would enable an increase in fees to recover additional costs related to processing applications for permits to drill.''.

SEC. 4. BLM PERMIT PROCESSING IMPROVEMENT FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(c) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) USE OF FUND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior for expenditure, without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation, for the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations on onshore Federal and Indian trust mineral estate land.

''(B) ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary shall divide the Fund into—

''(i) a Rental Account (referred to in this subsection as the 'Rental Account') comprised of rental receipts collected under this section; and

''(ii) a Fee Account (referred to in this subsection as the 'Fee Account') comprised of fees collected under subsection (d).

''(4) RENTAL ACCOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the Rental Account for—

''(i) the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations on onshore Federal and Indian trust mineral estate land under the jurisdiction of the Project offices identified under section 365(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15924(d)); and

''(ii) training programs for development of expertise related to coordinating and processing oil and gas use authorizations.

''(B) ALLOCATION.—In determining the allocation of the Rental Account among Project offices for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall consider—

''(i) the number of applications for permit to drill received in a Project office during the previous fiscal year;

''(ii) the backlog of applications described in clause (i) in a Project office;

''(iii) publicly available industry forecasts for development of oil and gas resources under the jurisdiction of a Project office; and

''(iv) any opportunities for partnership with local industry organizations and educational institutions in developing training programs to facilitate the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations.

''(5) FEE ACCOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the Fee Account for the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations on onshore Federal and Indian trust mineral estate land.

''(B) ALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall transfer not less than 75 percent of the revenues collected by an office for the processing of applications for permits to the State office of the State in which the fees were collected.''.

(b) INTEREST ON OVERPAYMENT ADJUSTMENT.—Section 111(h) of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1721(h)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''the rate'' and all that follows through the period at the end of the sentence and inserting ''a rate equal to the sum of the Federal short-term rate determined under section 6621(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 plus 1 percentage point.''.

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

RECOGNIZING AUXILIARIES OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 506, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 506) recognizing the patriotism and contributions of auxiliaries of veterans service organizations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HEITKAMP. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 506) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 17, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 547, S. Res. 548, S. Res. 549, and S. Res. 550.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. HEITKAMP. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, reappoints the following Member to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable KAY R. HAGAN of North Carolina.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2014; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. HEITKAMP. The next rollcall vote will be at 12 noon on the Bass nomination, as provided for under the previous order.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HEITKAMP. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:04 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 16, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MATTHEW T. HARRINGTON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

LINDA A. SCHWARTZ, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (POLICY AND PLANNING).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NINA HACHIGIAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GORDON O. TANNER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TODD D. ROBINSON, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA.

JANE D. HARTLEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

JANE D. HARTLEY, OF NEW YORK, TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2015.

STEPHEN G. BURNS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2019.