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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, September 16, 2014)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Rev. Canon Andrew White, pastor of St. George's Church, Baghdad, Iraq.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Lord God, to You we submit the affairs of this new day, the work of this Senate as it takes its role in leading in a broken world. Today may You give this place great wisdom. May this Senate be the channel of Your healing, the source of Your glory. From this place may there flow the wisdom of not just humanity but of the Almighty.

O Lord, we the people of faith in Iraq—Jews, Christians, and Muslims—give thanks to You for the way this land and this place has stood with us in our terrors and trials. Through this House, we thank You that we have not been left alone. May Your glory be on this land, and may You, O God, bless America.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I extend to Chaplain Black our appreciation for the guest Chaplain today. That was a very moving prayer, and I very much appreciate the work our Chaplain does in always giving us courage and helping to build our faith.

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 noon today. During that period of time Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. Following morning business the Senate will proceed to one rollcall vote on the confirmation of John Bass to be the Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, followed by several voice votes on executive nominations.

TWO WASHINGTON NATIONALS STARS HAIL FROM NEVADA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Nevada is a relatively small State population-wise but a large area. We are a State of about 3 million people. We take pride in our home State, as we should. Even though we have grown a lot in the last couple of decades, we are still a big family.

Today Nevadans are celebrating two of our home State's native sons after the Washington Nationals clinched the National League East Division crown. There is a lot of dissension here on the Senate floor and a lot of talk back and forth, but one thing you never hear often enough is that the Republican leader and I love watching baseball. We often share our views of the team and how, if we were there, we may do things a little differently, but we are still a booster for the team.

The reason I mention this today is because there are two individuals who helped the Nationals clinch the National League East Division who have deep roots in Nevada.

In his first season as manager of the team, Matt Williams, from Carson City, NV, has led his team to the National Division series. He has a stunningly powerful record athletically and is just a nice person. He was a baseball and football star at Carson City High. Carson City is the capital of the State of Nevada.

Matt Williams played baseball collegiately for the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, where he was a star. He was so good, he played 16 years in the Major Leagues. He played for the Giants, Indians, and Diamondbacks. He played in the World Series for each of those teams. He is a five-time all-star and a four-time Gold Glove Award winner. He was a stunningly good third baseman, and he sports a World Series championship ring from the Diamondbacks.

Bryce Harper had his picture on the front of Sports Illustrated when he was 15 years old for hitting a home run more than 500 feet. He is a fine young man from a wonderful family. He came to the Major Leagues when he was 18 years old—he may have been 19. I believe he is going to turn 22 soon.

During his rookie year he had a very serious injury. What was the injury? He was running full speed and rammed into the wall at Dodger Stadium, and he was hurt. It took away from his stellar year, but he still did OK. He was Rookie of the Year and on the all-star team that first year. He played baseball at Las Vegas High School, and he left high school and went to a junior community college as a 17-year-old. Because of his power, he went to the National Junior College World Series. He is a two-time all-star. He is in his third season. In 2012 he was Rookie of the Year, and he was hurt again this year because of his enthusiasm for the

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

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game and his never-ending hustle. He hit a triple and went into third base and messed up his thumb. That required surgery, and as a result he missed much of this season. However, he is having a good season in spite of that.

We are very proud of our baseball athletes.

This year one of the greatest baseball players of all time, Greg Maddux, was, of course, on the first ballot and was made a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. This unassuming young man has been an example for how people should be athletes—not a lot of talk, other than when he does talk. He has a lot of humility. He is a great athlete.

I wish Matt Williams, Bryce Harper, and the rest of the team the best of everything when the playoffs get underway. It should be an exciting divisional series.

I also follow the Baltimore Orioles, and until the Nationals showed up, that was about all we had in the area. They have a great team. Their owner is a tremendous trial lawyer. He still works every day practicing law. They have a tremendous team. They have had a few bad breaks. Their very young third baseman was hurt. He lost a lot of this season, as he did last year.

Anyway, it would be a great World Series to have Baltimore playing the Nationals. That would be something I would really look forward to. Again, it was exciting to watch them all year. Two or three games ago Bryce Harper hit one of his towering home runs. They are still talking about how far he hit it.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in congratulating the Washington Nats in winning the Eastern Division of the National League. It is a pretty exciting development and has a lot of Nevada connections.

KENTUCKY COAL JOBS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is no secret that the Obama administration policies have been extraordinarily harmful to job creation and retention. From the perspective of my home State of Kentucky, there is no greater example of the ill-effects of these policies than the President's war on coal.

Given the unhealthy economy, the Senate should be regularly debating and voting on measures to overturn antijobs policies and pass bipartisan reforms to help grow our economy. But under the current majority, that, sadly, is not the case. The majority leader instead has refused to permit any amendments on preserving coal and coal-fired power all year long—none whatsoever; no votes at all—even though the Obama administration's anticoal rules not only adversely affect States with Republican Senators, such as Kentucky, but States represented by Democratic Members as well.

The Senate's failure to address coal is reflective of the Chamber's dysfunction. While the House is passing bipartisan jobs bills, Senate Democrats' priorities are show votes.

Let's review where we are and how we got here.

In 2008 Candidate Obama said:

> If somebody wants to build a coal power plant, they can—it's just that it will bankrupt them, because they are going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted.

I have to say he has been true to his word. Americans have seen a barrage of regulations and redtape from the President's Environmental Protection Agency, strangling the coal industry—one of my home State's most important sources of jobs and economic development. Kentucky miners and thousands more from the Commonwealth whose jobs rely on mining are feeling the pain from the President's efforts.

The regulations and lack of certainty in the coal industry that this administration has caused have contributed to a loss of 7,000 Kentucky jobs in that industry since President Obama took office—7,000 lost jobs. That tells me the overregulation this administration's EPA keeps piling on is contributing in a major way to the job decline in my home State.

Those of us who represent coal States have made numerous attempts to rein in EPA, but the majority leader and fellow Democrats here in Washington have blocked us at every turn.

Last September I introduced the Saving Coal Jobs Act. The bill would have ended the abuse of the permitting process by the EPA by requiring the Agency to approve or veto mining permit applications within 270 days of their submission. It was simply a time limit to make a decision. This legislation is necessary because the EPA's tactic of choice is to sit on permits, effectively killing them. My bill also included language prohibiting any new carbon emission standards on new or existing powerplants as mandated by Federal agencies without the approval of Congress. After all, Congress, not the executive branch, is supposed to write our Nation's laws.

Unfortunately, what happened when I introduced this legislation is something that has become all-too familiar. When I made a motion to proceed to the bill, it was blocked by the majority leader.

In April I offered my Saving Coal Jobs Act as an amendment to the then-pending unemployment insurance bill before the Senate. This motion was blocked by the majority leader as well.

In May I again offered the Saving Coal Jobs Act as an amendment to the then-pending energy efficiency bill. Once again it was blocked by the Senate majority leader.

A few days later in May I offered legislation to stop the EPA from moving forward with its anti-coal jobs carbon regulations. My amendment, introduced along with Senators VITTER and HOEVEN, would have halted the administration from moving forward with new regulations on coal-fired powerplants until the technology required to comply with the regulations is commercially viable, which currently it is not. Once again this commonsense measure on behalf of Kentucky coal miners and their families and jobs was blocked by the majority leader, and that bill was originally sponsored by a colleague on the other side of the aisle, on the Democratic side. It fared no better under the majority leader than do Republican procoal bills.

Moreover, the majority leader is not just blocking procoal legislation on the Senate floor, he is also willing to shut down the committee process for fear of procoal amendments having the votes to pass. In June, he had the Senate Democrats prevent the Energy and Water Appropriations bill from being marked up when they learned I had the votes for my amendment reining in government regulations on coal-fired powerplants. So once it was clear the votes might be there in committee, they shut down the committee process.

Earlier this year, the President's EPA announced new regulations it wanted to enact on existing powerplants that would be a dagger to the heart of my State's middle class and constitute the single worst blow to Kentucky's economy in modern times. The proposed EPA regulations on existing powerplants would kill jobs and raise utility rates across the State while making the transmission of electricity less reliable. The regulations would adversely affect Kentucky powerplants that account for literally thousands of Kentucky jobs.

These regulations are why this June I introduced the Coal Country Protection Act—legislation to block the President's proposed regulations on carbon emissions from existing powerplants if those regulations eliminate jobs, cost our economy dollars, increase electricity prices or jeopardize electricity reliability.

Those requirements are just common sense. Yet once again the majority leader refused to allow a vote on my legislation.

The importance of my Coal Country Protection Act is reflected in the findings of a recent Government Accountability Office, or GAO, study. My colleague Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska requested this study which found that as a result of EPA's existing and proposed regulations, the number of coal-fired powerplants closing across the country is even higher—even higher—than what was originally estimated by the GAO in 2012.

These coal plant retirements are largely due to EPA redtape. Current

proposed regulations, from carbon regulations to proposed lower ozone standards, will only make this number increase if they move forward.

These shutdowns mean higher electricity prices. Sadly, EPA bureaucrats don't understand or don't care about how the abundance of coal in Kentucky permits the State to benefit from relatively low energy rates which make our businesses more competitive and make it easier to attract jobs. As we saw during last winter's cold snap, our country needs coal and ready access to it. Coal allows us to generate affordable power when there is an uptick in electricity use combined with spikes in natural gas prices. But as the EPA uses the administrative fiat to terminate existing and future coal-fired powerplants, there will be less coal when we need it the most—when we need a source of affordable power. Families throughout the country who rely on coal for electricity could find themselves in a tough spot in the near future with the current administration in office.

Those are the facts about this administration's war on coal, but let me provide a more vivid picture about Kentucky coal itself.

Kentuckians have been mining coal for generations. Kentucky coal helped power the Industrial Revolution that transformed our economy into the largest and most prosperous in the world. Kentucky coal has even contributed to the struggle to defend our Nation in times of war. Kentucky's coal miners have done so much for our Nation. The Senate should not be turning its back on them now.

Jimmy Rose of Pineville, KY, is well known to many as the voice of coal country. Jimmy is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who served in Iraq, a former coal miner, and a finalist from the television show ''America's Got Talent.'' He is famous for his song ''Coal Keeps the Lights On.'' I think Jimmy put it best when he said, ''Coal keeps the bills paid, the clothes on the backs, and shoes on the feet.''

I am not going to stand idly by while this administration and this EPA try to wipe out the lifeblood of my home State. The Senate was created to be a deliberative body, one that would debate and legislate on the great issues of the day. Instead, the Senate, as it is currently run, does all it can to avoid important subjects such as the war on coal.

It doesn't have to be that way. The Senate can still reclaim its mantle as a body of vigorous debate and legislative achievement, and the Kentucky coal miner can still do an honest day's hard work for good pay, because after this administration is out of office, the coal will still be in the ground. After this administration leaves office, the coal will still be in the ground.

So I am going to fight for that Kentucky coal miner to hold on to our State's birthright. This war on coal is not over, not by a long shot.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. MCCONNELL. On another matter, I just explained why the war on coal has been so damaging to the people of my State. It is clear to me at least that we need to work together toward sensible, all-of-the-above energy policy. The good news is that the Republican-run House is set to present us with another perfect opportunity to work across the aisle and do just that this very week. The House plans to pass and send over a bipartisan legislative package that would create jobs while helping to make energy more affordable and more abundant.

Among other things, this energy package would finally approve the Keystone Pipeline. This is a project that is safe, shovel-ready, and could create tens of thousands of jobs right away. It is just unacceptable that the administration has now spent 6 years—6 years—dragging its feet on the Keystone Pipeline. I commend my colleague from North Dakota Senator HOEVEN for bringing attention to that fact and for his strong vocal leadership on this issue. While some on the other side of the aisle claim to be supportive of Keystone jobs, they have failed to stand up to the majority leader who has blocked this effort time and time and time again on behalf of the Obama administration. We need to approve the House legislative package and finally get this pipeline built and these Keystone jobs created.

But the House's energy package would do a lot more than just that. It would also modernize the permitting process, allow for more energy exploration, increase exports of American energy, and it would help us fight back against the Obama administration's war on Kentucky coal jobs in several different ways.

One bill would prevent the administration from developing more job-killing coal regulations and another from Representative WHITFIELD would push back on the coal regulations that have already been issued.

This package is common sense. I applaud our colleagues in the House for their efforts on this issue. It presents a perfect opportunity for our Democratic friends, if they are willing to support it, to prove they are serious about real solutions for middle-class families—that they have a real agenda beyond just designed-to-fail bills.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL N. FANNIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. This morning I wish to share with my colleagues the story of a brave Kentucky airman who loved his country so much he defended it at the cost of his life.

U.S. Air Force SSgt Daniel N. Fannin, of Morehead, KY, was killed in the crash of his reconnaissance plane near Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan on April 27, 2013. It was just a few weeks after his 30th birthday.

For his service in uniform, Staff Sergeant Fannin received several medals, awards, and declarations, including the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Bronze Star.

Daniel's mother Sharri Jones recalls this of her son:

> Daniel flew on this Earth as an airman. His faith has earned him angel wings now. He died serving others, serving his country, and serving God. This mother is blessed.

Daniel grew up in Morehead and attended Rowan County Senior High School, from which he graduated in 2001. He enlisted in the Air Force shortly after graduation and at the time of his death was a 12-year veteran.

Daniel's mother Sharri remembers:

> I frequently told Daniel he was my hero. Benjamin Disraeli said, ''The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.''
>
> These words epitomize my son. His name will be remembered, and his works are indeed great examples. He was then, and will forever be, my hero.

Daniel's mother Sharri continues:

> I used to tell Daniel that it didn't matter what he did as a career in life, but I expected him to be the best that he could be, no matter if he was a ditch digger or a CEO. He did me proud by doing just that. He was the best man that he could possibly be.

As Daniel grew up, he had to learn how to do chores such as laundry, cleaning, and cooking. Sharri's mother said:

> Like all kids do, he complained constantly, and sometimes it was a battle getting him to do those things. I was fortunate enough to get to attend his Air Force basic training graduation ceremony in San Antonio. During liberty, he took me aside and said: ''Mom, I want to thank you.'' I said: ''What for, son?'' He said: ''For making me do all of those things you made me do, like laundry. It sure made things a lot easier for me here. Some of these guys didn't even know how to turn a washer on!''

Daniel was an avid reader from his early childhood. ''The hardest form of punishment for him was not to allow him to read,'' says his mother Sharri. Daniel's wife Sonya Fannin certainly agreed. ''He could read a 400-page book in a day or less,'' she says.

Daniel met Sonya while stationed in Oklahoma City. Sonya says:

> One of my favorite stories to tell was that on our first date he went to the flower shop to pick a bouquet. He spent hours in the shop, he said, before finally picking two dozen white roses. When he presented them at the door, Danny didn't know that those were my favorite flowers, but that was the moment I knew.

Daniel loved to go camping, hiking, biking, and fishing. He loved the outdoors. On his and Sonya's 5-year anniversary trip to Maui, Danny's favorite activity was a submarine ride 170 feet below sea level. He liked to say he had been to the depths of the ocean and flown to the highest heights after that trip.

Daniel was assigned to the Air Force's 552nd Operations Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. He was an airborne sensor operator and a qualified Air Force air surveillance instructor who served with distinction at Tinker Air Force Base.

In his dozen years of service, Daniel deployed on three tours as an E–3 AWACS, or airborne warning and control system, aircraft surveillance technician. He was also an MC–12 sensor operator. While in Afghanistan, Daniel was assigned to the 361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron as a member of the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing at Kandahar Air Base.

His mother said:

After his death, multiple superior officers have told me how respected he was, how well Daniel performed his duties, and that he was exceptional at mentoring young airmen personally as he was professionally. Daniel was a very devout man. Many have said that he led them to Christ or reconnected them with the Lord.

His wife Sonya agrees:

He was a Christian man of Christian values and morals. He served God in all that he did.

Daniel also liked to laugh and joke with his family and friends. Sonya says:

He went by many nicknames; ''Dan the man,'' ''Fan Dannin,'' and my dad's favorite, ''Lieutenant Dan.'' My dad would always ask, ''Lieutenant Dan, have you flown much lately?'' Danny would stick his arms out to each side and say he had been flying as much as he could.

After Daniel's death, at a park located near Tinker Area Force Base, where he had been stationed, Daniel's legacy was honored with a replica E–3 AWACS aircraft dedicated in his honor in a ceremony in April of this year. Inscribed on the tail of the E–3 replica honoring Daniel are the words ''Service Before Self,'' one of the Air Force's core values those who knew Daniel knew he lived by.

Sonya Fannin was present for the dedication to her husband, and she spoke to the crowd of about 300. She said:

This memorializes Daniel's very essence, his giving spirit in a way which those in the public can see. Memorializing Danny here in the public park, a place in which our civilian friends and family can visit and heal on their own time, is truly special.

Daniel's family members and friends are foremost in our thoughts as I recount this story for my Senate colleagues today. They include his wife Sonya Fannin, his mother Sharri Jones, his grandparents Henry and Fern Hamm, and many other beloved family members and friends.

I would like to close with some words from Daniel's mother Sharri about her son. Here is what she said:

I know that there are many who continue to grieve deeply over Daniel's passing. To them I would say, take the things that Daniel shared with you, learn from them, and pass them forward. Give others what he gave you. In that way, he will live forever.

I couldn't agree more with such a heartfelt sentiment.

I would like the family of SSgt Daniel Fannin to know that Members of the Senate do indeed recognize the things Daniel gave to his country—namely, his service, his life, and his sacred honor. We will be forever grateful.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING MATT HALEY

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I come to the floor today my heart heavy with a challenging task, which is to convey the remarkable, the special, the powerful spirit of a friend who passed 3 weeks ago in a tragic accident in India.

Matt Haley was a remarkable Delawarean. Matt Haley was a gifted and accomplished chef and entrepreneur. Matt Haley was someone who touched so many lives in my home State of Delaware.

In 2012 Matt won the Delaware Restaurant Association's Cornerstone Award, a lifetime achievement award recognizing restaurateurs who dedicate their lives to humanitarian efforts.

Matt owned eight different restaurants all across the beach region so well known to folks here in Washington. Matt owned restaurants in Rehoboth Beach, Lewes, Ocean View, Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, and was involved in dozens of other business enterprises in other States.

In 2014 Matt had the best year he ever had in terms of the reach and scope of his potential and his vision and his recognition by his profession. He won the National Restaurant Association Cornerstone Humanitarian Award. I was thrilled to be able to join in that celebration here in Washington. He won the International Association of Culinary Professionals Humanitarian Award. He won the James Beard Humanitarian Award in a remarkable celebration in New York. He won all three major recognitions, major awards from the restaurant and culinary industry—the triple crown, as it were.

Having never met him, you might think this man, having been so successful as an entrepreneur and a businessman and so recognized and celebrated in all these different ways, would have been puffed up and filled with himself and with pride and with a sense of accomplishment and success. Matt did have a sense of accomplishment and success, but it came from a very different place. His spirit, his personality was profoundly different than that brief resume might suggest because Matt was someone who had a second and a third chance at life, so he embraced it with a passion and an openheartedness I have never seen anywhere else.

Matt was 53 years old and had been sober for 24 years. Not many years before this remarkable year of success he had this year, Matt had been riding the bus to work as a minimum-wage dishwasher as he was reinventing himself. Matt spent 4 years in prison on a 13-year prison sentence.

As he memorably remarked in a talk he gave days before he left on this trip to India, Matt had life-altering, terrible experiences as a child. Matt had managed to grow up in an environment of circumstances and have experiences that would cripple any human person, any spirit, and had become someone who was violent and addicted, and inevitably, as a consequence of a lot of his actions, he ended up in jail. He was exactly the sort of person so many would be willing to write off. Yet Matt found an opportunity through the culinary arts, through the simple and powerful skill of cooking for others. He found a pathway back and a roadway up. Matt was someone who cooked not just well but was gifted at pulling together completely unrelated items and making something simple, tasty, and powerful.

Matt understood what a remarkable pathway toward success and independence restaurants can be for those who start working at the very lowest end of the scale in our country in terms of pay scale and yet can steadily grow to be successful managers or even restaurant owners.

Matt was someone who also had just gotten a positive diagnosis after struggling with a nearly life-ending bout with cancer. Matt had nearly died to this world once as a young man in prison and then had nearly died to us a second time through cancer.

I was blessed to have gotten to know him just in the last few years and to have been touched by the power of his energy. Matt had a hunger to connect with and touch and help love others in the world who hadn't yet seen the possibilities of this world.

Matt would go anywhere, anytime to help someone in need in Delaware.

The stories are legend of what Matt did spontaneously and powerfully to reach out and touch folks in our home State and around the world who needed his special gift—not just his resources but his energy and his kindness.

Matt's business partner Scott shared with me a story that he was literally driving down the road and came across a van from the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc., DAPI, a van for a program that helps young moms complete school and be healthy and successful

mothers. Their van was broken down by the side of the road, and, after learning more about the program and its impact and its importance and seeing their dilapidated and outdated van, he literally bought them a new one on the spot.

Matt was someone who, having never traveled before until recent years when he first became successful, found himself challenged and then enlivened and then aflamed with a passion for traveling around the world and for hearing from and connecting with young people and their needs. He tells much more powerfully than I can the story of his becoming connected to young women, to girls, in Nepal, victims of trafficking, victims of sexual abuse, who were hungry and lonely and to whom he was able to help provide food and shelter and hope.

He later also connected with a whole community in Central America, and he traveled regularly to India and Nepal and to Central America as well as up and down my State. He volunteered in our prisons. He worked with our food bank. He spent time and gave resources in India and Nepal and in Central America. Literally the last time I spoke to Matt, I had just had an opportunity to meet a young woman who was truly struggling to find opportunity in our home State. She was a recovering drug addict and came up to me at an event in Dover and frankly said she never believed someone in my position would care and would work and take any risk to help someone like her find employment. She was interested in possibly working in a restaurant.

As we talked at greater length, I told her Matt's story. I told her how this young man, full of anger and abuse and difficulty in his young life, had ended up an addict and in prison and yet, through his own determination and through the kindness and partnership of others, had managed to go on to be an incredible success, an employer to hundreds, even thousands, and a contributor and a leader to groups such as La Esperanza and the food bank, and to support public school teachers and to support folks coming out of prison. I asked if she would be interested in hearing from him.

In my last conversation with Matt—a man who was incredibly busy, as he was finishing up several business projects and about to get on a plane to meet a long commitment with a group of girls in need—he said: Absolutely. I would love to talk to her. Get her on the phone with me.

He made time the next day to meet her, encourage her, and invite her to come to the food bank presentation he was making.

To his very last breath, Matt was passionate about touching and changing the lives of others. His very last initiative was to fund teachers and schools in southern Delaware and help provide supplies for them in their classrooms, and his very last day was spent riding a motorcycle on one of the highest and most dangerous roads in the world in the Himalaya to personally deliver supplies and engagement and support to girls in a remote village in a difficult and distant part of the world.

Matt Haley's compassion, his spirit, and his energy touched deeply me and so many others. His determination to do everything he could with every day he had and to make every difference he could in the world should inspire and challenge all of us. He has left a significant amount of his accumulated resources to his Global Delaware Fund, which will continue his great work in these many places.

It is my hope and my prayer that all of us who have had our lives touched by Matt and by his unique and infectious humor and spirit will continue his remarkable lifetime of work and that all of us will remember that in this Nation, every person has value and every person has potential no matter where they are from or where they are today. Their path forward can be lifted if we just continue to carry forward the remarkable passion and spirit of Matt Haley.

I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. AIR FORCE AND MAJOR K.C. COURTLAND

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, it is a good day for Major Courtland to be here because another thing I want to talk about today is the Air Force itself and to pay tribute to those in the Air Force. This is the anniversary of the 67 years of service and sacrifice for our Nation—clearly the greatest air power in the history of the world, the first place we turn when we want to make an immediate difference in a chaotic situation in the world.

We are talking this week, again, about how the Air Force can make a difference, whether it is those based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri or those based all over the world. The Air Force continues, in so many ways, to project our strength and our commitment to a more peaceful world by using the power that we do have in a way that ensures that in some cases the playing field is more fair because we keep people on the ground rather than let despotic governments get their weapons in the air. In some places we are able to intervene, as we did recently in conjunction with the Peshmerga, to allow the recapture of the dam in Iraq that is essential, and even beyond that, could have itself been used as a great weapon if that dam would have been allowed to be breached and then the flood that would have occurred because of that.

The Air Force was created in 1947 under President Harry Truman's leadership. Prior to that it was called the U.S. Army Air Corps. I am proud to stand today at one of the desks that Senator Truman used on the Senate floor—a desk later used by other Missourians, by Senator Eagleton, by Senator Danforth, by Senator Bond—but a desk used by President Truman as he served in what he said were the best years of his working life—his time as a Senator.

But he faced lots of hard challenges as President. One was how we moved forward in a new and different world after World War II and how we used our technology in different ways. One of those was to recognize that the U.S. Army Air Corps had risen to a place that it really deserved to be recognized for what it was—the Air Force. The first Secretary of the Air Force, another Missourian, was Senator Stuart Symington, who then would later serve in this body as a Senator.

Certainly, we have benefited in our office from having Kelly Courtland, Maj. K.C. Courtland, who has been helping us this year in my responsibilities on both the Armed Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. This is actually her anniversary as well as a member of the Air Force. She now completes 24 years of Air Force service on exactly the same day that the Air Force was established 67 years ago. Twenty-four years ago Major Courtland enlisted in the Air Force. For the last year she has helped us fulfill the responsibilities in our office that we have and the No. 1 responsibility of the Federal Government—the one thing almost no one would argue we could do for ourselves; that is the responsibility of defending the country.

We are hoping we see Major Courtland stationed in Missouri one of these days. She is from Ludington, MI. She will be running her 85th marathon this weekend—the Air Force Marathon. She values her military training. She served from enlisted to now her role as a major and has been unbelievably helpful to us at this time.

As we think about Major Courtland and all of the others who serve, we want to be very mindful of their service, their willingness to step forward to defend our freedom, to be willing to defend our freedom at a time when, once again, we are talking about this week those who would threaten our freedom and what we will do about that and how we are looking to be sure that the strategy we have and the resolve we have is a resolve that allows us to convince our enemies that a peaceful world—a world where people can pursue their own values, where they are able to pursue their own right of conscience, where they are able to look within themselves and determine their own religious convictions rather than have someone tell them what those convictions are and demand that everybody follow exactly the same path in the way they view religion and the way they consequently would be required, because of that one view, to view society and how people should live together—hopefully those who defend us will get the kind of support and the kind of thoughtful consideration and

determination they need from the people in the Senate and the House, from people in the Defense Department and the administration, from people in the White House, from the Office of the President himself on down who are going to be making decisions that will put others in harm's way as we try to prevent greater numbers of Americans, frankly, from being in harm's way.

I clearly count myself among those who believe this is a real danger to us—the location of this ISIS threat, the understanding from the Secretary of Defense that somewhere between 1 and 200 Americans are there fighting alongside this genocidal group, and many times that from Europe fighting alongside this group—people with passports that allow them to come to the United States, to not worry about coming over the border and just worrying about buying a plane ticket and coming in that way.

Of course there are those who say—and I agree: If we know who they are, we should take their passports away. That is easy if you know who they are to invalidate the passport. It is pretty hard if you do not know who they are to invalidate that passport. In fact, it just cannot be done. There are not only Americans coming back, but others from visa waiver countries who just simply have a passport from their country and they buy a plane ticket. Suddenly those who have become steeped in this wrong-headed view of the world—who have become conditioned to the idea that a life, if it does not agree with you, does not matter—they would be able to come into this country and into European countries in ways that we have not seen before and still have access—as terrorist groups have had before to many other countries—to poison the minds of people who are looking for an answer. I can assure you that this is not the right answer.

So I wish my colleagues well as we make these important decisions. We are going to be looking at whatever we decide to do in the next couple of days and over the next 75 days or so. We will have a chance to revisit that decision as we look at how force is being applied and how our hopes are being met. We will see if what the President thinks will happen as a response to what we are doing here is actually what appears to be happening later this year.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BLUNT. I have come to the floor almost every week. I think I have come to the floor every week it was possible to be on the Senate floor over the course of the last year to discuss the changes we have seen in health care. We are now approaching the 1-year anniversary of the—everybody would agree—disastrous launch of ObamaCare. Most Americans now agree, not only was the launch disastrous, but actually the changes in our health care system have not been what they would have hoped for.

The administration has delayed the 2015 open season, to sign up for health care, until the middle of November now. Interestingly, the middle of November is right after the election. I assume that is not a coincidence that the administration does not want voters to be reminded, between now and election day, of what the problems are in just trying to sign up and what the new costs and new deductibles may be.

But for whatever reason, of the many delays and the many determinations by the administration over and over again, no matter what the law said, the administration decided: Well, we can actually change that. There is no justification for November 15 except the first Tuesday in November. I think we all know that. No matter how many things we delayed, though, the health care plan continues to get less and less popular. Every month, as I look at those numbers, fewer Americans have confidence in the direction we are headed in health care than we did before.

Earlier this week, CMS began sending notices to consumers enrolled in the exchanges that have income-related discrepancies that do not match the Federal data. Apparently, about 363,000 individuals are receiving those letters. If they do not respond by September 30, the subsidy they thought they were having for their policy will not be there. In August CMS began to reach out to people who required proof of citizenship. Apparently, it is too much trouble to have proof of citizenship to take to the polls with you but not too much trouble to have citizenship proof if you are going to participate in this program that taxpayers pay for and that voters, ultimately, by who they send here and who they send to the White House, are responsible for.

On Monday, it was announced that around 115,000 individuals—1,700 of them were Missourians—were notified that their coverage would end by September 30 unless they could provide that verification of citizenship. That is not a very good notice to get with 2 weeks and a couple of days of notification: By the way, you are about to lose your health care coverage unless you can provide documents and provide them right now.

USA Today reported that healthcare.gov still remains so ''glitchy,'' according to them, ''remains so glitchy,'' that some people are being forced to send their information multiple times. Many cannot access their accounts, and then now there is the well-understood concern that the information may not be nearly as secure as we would want it to be.

Serco, a company that was hired to provide services for processing paper applications—we found out just a few days ago, after months of waiting, that the Federal Government finally responded to a St. Louis television station—KMOV's freedom of information request which they submitted in March. It takes a long time to get one simple question answered. The question was: How many paper applications are actually being processed at this processing center in Wentzville, MO? How many applications were processed between October of last year and March of this year?

The number was not so big that it should have been that hard to count. It was less than 5 percent of the anticipated number that the workforce was put in place for and the company was paid to process—about 271,000 people over that several months' period of time.

The director of the project testified in September that the company, he said, was ''prepared to manage an estimated 6.2 million paper applications'' between that period of time, and instead they managed 271,000. When you have a workforce in place to do 6.2 million applications and they do about one-quarter of a million, no wonder people from that workplace were coming forward. Numerous whistleblowers, according to KMOV, were saying: We are playing board games. We have library books stacked up on the tables. We are told, every once in a while, to push the button that refreshes our computers so that it at least appears that the computer has not just gone away in one of many miscalculations in how this was going to work.

A GAO report released on Tuesday confirmed that people who had had concerns about this bill because it would use Federal funding for the first time to lead to taxpayer-funded abortions—and many of my colleagues in the House voted for this and voted for it only because President Obama repeatedly promised that the health care law would not lead to American tax dollars being used for this purpose. It is a longstanding policy. It is a policy that Americans have strongly supported for a long time. Unfortunately, this new report by the government itself indicates that was one more government promise not kept.

We are on the verge of entering the second year of healthcare.gov. We are on the verge of entering the second year of this new Federal involvement in people's health care decisions. I think there is a reason that every week, every month, when Missourians are asked by the Kaiser Foundation and others about this, this is less popular than it was the month before.

Hopefully, when we come back next year, we will look for ways to make health care work better. Then we will begin to see people have more confidence if we would do that effectively month after month, instead of less confidence month after month.

I yield back 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. MANCHIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MANCHIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes or until my remarks are complete.

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

THE MIDDLE EAST AND ISIS

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the gravest and most important issue we can debate in Congress. I am here to talk about America's involvement in the Middle East and President Obama's plan to defeat ISIS. Make no mistake, we must defeat and destroy ISIS. But how we destroy them is what we must get right.

I applaud the President for presenting a plan to the American people. I support airstrikes against ISIS. I support providing humanitarian aid. I support cutting off terrorist funding sources. Doing these things has already helped to prevent genocide and has already begun to roll back ISIS's gains in Iraq.

I also support in engaging the world community, but most importantly Turkey and the Arab League nations. Unfortunately, I have not seen signs from the region that tell me we have their full support. This should be an Arab ground war and a U.S. air war, but I cannot and will not support arming or training the Syrian opposition forces. I did not come to this decision easily.

I spoke with military and foreign policy experts. I attended classified briefings and asked questions of this administration—but, most importantly, I studied our history.

We have been at war in that part of the world for the past 13 years. If money and military might could have made a difference, it would have by now.

In Iraq alone, we spent the better part of 8 years training the Iraqi police and military force of a 280,000-person army at the cost of $20 billion to the American people—$20 billion. The first time they had to step up and defend their country, their people, and their way of life, what did they do? They folded in the face of ISIS, abandoning their equipment and facilities to the enemy.

I ask my colleagues and the President, why do we think that training the rebels would turn out any differently?

In West Virginia, we understand the definition of insanity. We get it.

The first principle of war is to know your enemy. And we certainly know our enemy.

ISIS is a barbaric terrorist with no respect for humanity, and they deserve to die. I have seen the videos and, like every American, I was disgusted and outraged.

But as it is most important to know your enemy, it is equally important to know your allies—and I am not confident we know who our allies are.

To illustrate that point, I refer my colleagues to press reports that moderate Syrian opposition forces sold American journalist Steven Sotloff to ISIS, who beheaded him and put the video on the Internet. Are those people our allies?

Who are our other allies in this fight? As of today, we have only hints of military support from Arab countries that themselves face a greater threat from ISIS than any one of us.

Syria's neighbors have the technical ability and the financial resources to support and train the Syrian opposition forces. If that is the correct course of action we should take, they have the wherewithal to do it.

In the 1991 Iraq war, we had commitments from our allies around the world, but most importantly from the Arab community. We had a total buy-in. I know Secretary of State Kerry has been working tirelessly to build a similar coalition and to recruit support from Iraq's neighbors, because it is their neighborhood and theirs to defend. I hope it is successful because, as our intelligence community has said repeatedly, ISIS could soon become a direct threat to the United States of America. But I strongly believe that if our military arms and trains Syrian rebels, we will be involving ourselves in a ground conflict that we cannot resolve where potentially everyone involved is our enemy.

To my mind, the reasons not to arm Syrian rebels today are very clear. No. 1, first, the weapons we give to moderate opposition may not remain in their hands. If my colleagues have seen the videos of ISIS shipping U.S. Army humvees and MRAPs out of Iraq that we gave to the Iraqi Army, they will understand what I mean.

No. 2, I have seen no evidence that the Syrian rebels we plan to train and arm will remain committed to American goals or our interests. The vast majority of national level Syrian rebel groups are Islamist, none of whom are interested in allying with the United States. This is not to their best interests—and not in their interest—and none of whom we should be associating with.

Further, the opposition fighters we will train care more about overthrowing Assad's regime than they do about defeating ISIS. Assad is evil, make no mistake about it, but he is not a threat to America. If the moderate opposition has to choose between defeating Assad and defeating ISIS, why do we believe—think about this—they will choose our priority over their own? Why would we even think that? How do we know they won't join forces with ISIS if it helps them overthrow Assad, their main objective?

No. 3, authorizing military support for Syrian rebels will inextricably draw us into a civil war we have no way to end—and we have seen this picture unfold before. Our fight is against ISIS and the Islamist terrorist groups that threaten the United States. A limit of that fight should be doing what we need to do to protect Americans and to prevent genocide. Every further step we take from that basic principle of protecting Americans and preventing genocide takes us back down the road of Middle Eastern nation-building. That means we should support others with counterterrorism forces, intelligence gathering, air power, and diplomatic efforts—and it means stopping the flow of illicit oil, money, and fighters across Syria's borders. We do not need to arm and train Syrian rebels to protect Americans.

I would ask my colleagues to consider America's history of intervention in the Middle East. It has not been a successful one. Interventions have failed in Lebanon, Somalia, Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan is on the brink of failure.

What did we learn from our actions? Certainly not that going into Muslim countries to restore order or restore democracy is a winning strategy for us.

I have been very clear: We have every right to and we must—we must—defend ourselves and protect American citizens and interests against terrorists anywhere in the world. I again voice my strong support for the counterterrorism efforts already ongoing to protect Americans, but we have proven by blood and treasure already spent that we have not made a difference with American boots on the ground in this part of the world.

Some have used the examples of our garrisons in Germany, Japan, Korea, and the Balkans as examples of where the United States successfully established the rule of law with residual military forces, but such comparisons have little basis in history. Once our mission was achieved and occupation began, our troops did not face the threat of violence from the same people we had just defended and liberated.

Others have said if we had kept a residual force in Iraq that ISIS would never have taken hold, and I respectfully disagree. How can I fault a President for pulling troops out after 8 years, billions spent, and thousands of lives lost, with no end in sight? Again we trained in Iraq a military of 280,000 persons at a cost of $20 billion, and when they faced their first test, they folded. That was a fraction of the total cost of our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I wish to give a rundown of where we stand today. In Iraq, conservatively, we have spent $818 billion. In Afghanistan, we have spent $747 billion, and that is continuing to grow. The total cost of our recent wars: $1.6 trillion, and that is growing. That doesn't include the cost of long-term care of wounded veterans, over 50,000.

But the cost in money is nothing compared to the cost of lives. In Iraq, 4,400 dead, 36,000 wounded. In Afghanistan and still counting, 2,200 dead and 21,000 wounded.

I know my vote comes with a price. I know that. It is my understanding that

the same vote we make to train and fund the Syrian opposition forces will also be one to pass a CR to fund our government. I do not believe we should be forced to decide between funding our government and arming Syrian rebels in the same vote.

We should be ashamed for failing to pass appropriations bills to finance government operations for the fiscal year that starts 2 weeks from now, and more ashamed that for the sake of expediency—expediency because of an election coming up—that we are using a stopgap continuing resolution as a vehicle for authorizing major military activity that will have repercussions for generations to come.

Asking us to make this choice is a disservice to the American people. But if that is a decision I am forced to make—and I will say if that is a decision I am forced to make—it is one I am committed to making. I understand my vote will likely not be the deciding vote, but even if it were, I would still cast the same vote. I believe these votes should be separate and debated. We owe that to the American people. We have this time to do it. I believe with all my heart we have more than enough time to do this. I am prepared, as some of my colleagues, to stay in session so we can give the American people the debate and transparent transition they deserve.

We must learn from our past mistakes and we must not repeat them. I believe our country deserves this debate. Let me make it clear, I believe ISIS is a grave threat to the region and could become a direct threat to the United States. We must confront and defeat them. I just do not believe that arming the Syrian opposition forces is the correct approach, because I can foresee a Senate debate a few years from now—not that far off—I can see this coming about how to defeat the next group of Islamist terrorists we helped to train and install.

I have not come to this decision easily, and I know it comes with consequences, but I believe the people of West Virginia sent me to the Senate to make tough decisions and vote to do what is best for not only all West Virginians but for every American.

I yield the floor and 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.

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

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

THE EROSION OF THE SENATE

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, it brings me no pleasure to make the remarks I feel compelled to make today. I think it is important for us to understand how we, the Senate of the United States, are operating.

The Senate—the legislative body heralded by the late Senator Robert C. Byrd as the second great senate in history, the first being the Roman Senate—is being eroded beyond recognition by the tactics utilized by Senate Majority Leader REID and those who support him in that process.

Today is Constitution Day. It was Senator Byrd who moved legislation to declare today Constitution Day. Under that Constitution, there are two bodies in the Congress, the House and the Senate, and the Senate has always been known as the body where great debates are held, with an open ability to amend and discuss, and the great issues of the day are laid out. That is what we are about.

But the Senate has changed dramatically since I have been in the Senate, some 18 years, and not for the better—not for the better of the American people. It might be good for politicians, but it is not good for the American people and it is not good for the public interest, in my view.

As has been happening time and again, we are once again today, at nigh on the eleventh hour, being asked to vote for a spending bill before we recess. We have to recess, you see. Why? So Senators can go home to campaign, but we are being paid, whether we are here or back home or vacationing or whatever. Why don't we stay a few days longer if necessary? Oh, no. We have to get out of Washington and go back home and campaign.

This continuing resolution, covering a massive amount of spending that no Member can fully comprehend at this late hour and nobody can meaningfully analyze, scrutinize or investigate—once again, we are being asked to fund the entire government of the United States in one catch-all bill, with no opportunity for a single amendment. There is no way to improve the legislation or to engage in meaningful consideration of our financial status.

Aren't we facing a crisis financially? Hasn't the Congressional Budget Office told us we are on an unsustainable financial path? Yes. Are we going to discuss that at all? No. We are going to bring up this bill, vote it through, and go home and campaign.

This denies the American people the opportunity to know what is being passed and to analyze and hold their elected representatives accountable for their actions. So the American people can't comprehend or study what is behind this massive bill either.

Once again, as a tactic, this bill is being rushed through under the threat of a government shutdown. Without a funding mechanism, the government would shut down October 1 if we don't pass an appropriations bill to fund it because the Government of the United States cannot operate and spend a dime Congress hasn't appropriated. That is a fundamental constitutional power.

Yes, there is a problem out there. How did it happen that we are getting toward the end of the session and nothing has been done? I will talk about that.

Why is this happening? Is it because we don't have time? No, it is not because we don't have time. The reality—and I will say this, and I have not been contradicted on it by any Member of this Senate, to my knowledge. It is not a lack of time. We haven't done anything this week or last week, and we have next week and the next week if need be. We can vote 20 times a day. It doesn't take a lot of time to vote. People can have their ideas to improve legislation and bring them up and argue for them and get an up-or-down vote, yes or no.

So why is this happening? The purpose is to protect Members from having to cast votes that their constituents might disagree with, to protect them from being placed on record one way or the other on important issues facing the Nation. That is the problem. It is politics first, sad to say. It just is.

We have not voted on a single appropriations bill in the Senate this year, not one. Not 1 of the 12 appropriations bills that are required to fund our government each year has come before the Senate. Committees are being bypassed, secret deals rule the day, and millions of Americans are thereby robbed of their ability to observe and participate in the legislative process. They are denied the ability to write their Senators and say: I hear you have an amendment coming up on thus and so. Vote for it or vote against it. That is all being eliminated in this process.

It has been so long since we followed the regular order, I think it is necessary for me to share with the people and our colleagues what is supposed to happen and what is not happening.

Each year Congress is supposed to pass a budget resolution which outlines the spending goals and limits for the upcoming year. Then, based on the spending levels contained in the budget resolution, the individual authorization committees are to report out authorization bills. For example, they are to review the Defense Department. We don't do that anymore. They are to review the Defense Department. We normally do a Defense authorization bill—but it hasn't been done this year—to authorize certain spending and policy changes, utilizing the expertise of the members of the committees to shape where the spending is supposed to go, laying out priorities, setting and making decisions about what we can afford and what we can't afford, evaluating whether programs are effective, to serve the citizens of the United States.

Isn't that what we are supposed to do? This is the way we eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. This is the way we stop it.

After the authorization committees do their work, the Appropriations Committee actually is the one to fund the government. The subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee are tasked with producing appropriations bills for

each area of the budget, which are to be individually brought to the floor of the Senate, debated, and amended on the floor in the light of day before the American people. Each year the Senate is supposed to consider individually 12 appropriations bills. This gives each Member and their constituents a chance to review and analyze every line of the bill and to offer suggestions for saving money, improving efficiency, and better serving taxpayers—which we are failing to do and we need to do. We don't have a dime to waste, and we are wasting money regularly throughout our government, as anybody who has studied it knows.

Under the tenure of Senator REID, the budgeting process has been dismantled. We have only passed one budget in the last 5 years, although the Budget Act says we should pass a budget by April 15 every year. Our committees stand idle, and the floor is one run not for the high purpose of legislative debate but frankly as an extension of a Democratic political campaign committee.

So the Senate has ceased consideration of appropriations bills altogether, relying more and more on autopilot resolutions and catch-all continuing resolutions and omnibus spending packages.

When I first came to the Senate, almost every single Senate spending bill was debated. It was brought to the floor. A Senator was embarrassed if they didn't bring every bill to the floor. Sometimes they had two or three that couldn't be completed. They would be completed at the end and passed as an omnibus bill, and people would complain. Now none of them are passed—zero. We go year by year without debating a single stand-alone spending bill on the Senate floor. So a Senator has to ask, what are we here for?

One of the worst tactics the majority leader has used to suppress Senators' rights and block open debate is a technique called filling the tree. Under that tactic he uses his majority rights to keep Senators from offering amendments as representatives of their States and the American people.

Senator, a bill is coming on the floor, and you can't stand and give an amendment? Right, you cannot. He fills the amendment tree, we can't file another amendment, and he refuses to allow amendments to occur. His majority, having written the bill with President Obama—they move the legislation, and there is no real ability to challenge it.

It is not the way the Senate was supposed to be set up. The Senate was always to be set up to allow individual Senators and the minority rights to be able to influence legislation and to highlight what is in it.

Blocking amendments prevents this body from working its will, prohibits legislation from being improved, and protects Senators from being held accountable by the voters on the great issues of the day. I don't think there is any doubt about that. And that is the reason it is being done.

But we can do things the right way. It absolutely can be done. Members ought to be able to offer amendments. It just turns into a real debate, and people get to push for the agendas they believe in and advocate for their position. Who knows, 10 years from today an agenda not popular today will be popular then. That is the way we are supposed to do it. Senators being prohibited from offering amendments keeps the Senate from being a critical sounding board for the issues of the day.

Our majority leader has used this tactic, filling the tree, 90 times during his tenure. To put this in perspective, the 6 previous majority leaders filled the tree only 49 times, all total. Mr. REID has filled the tree on 40 more occasions than all 6 previous majority leaders. This stops amendments from being voted on, from being offered, and that is what is happening.

The majority leader has shut down one of the most important functions that Senators exercise to defend and advance the interests of their constituents.

It doesn't stop there. The Senate is supposed to be Washington's cooling saucer. That is why on many important and controversial matters 60 votes are required to adopt a measure or to confirm a nominee, and, importantly, to change the rules of the Senate requires a two-thirds vote to move such a question towards final passage.

That is, a two-thirds vote is required to change the rules of the Senate. Thus the two-thirds vote threshold is critical because it ensures the rules have meaning, they have power, they apply, and in years to come will not be likely changed, and protect minority rights in the Senate. The rules will apply when parties are in power and when they are out of power. To change Senate rules requires a broad consensus across the body. This protects the rights of individual Senators to be heard on the issues of the day. It is a key component of the Senate's heritage of discussion and debate and openness.

Yet Mr. REID, in an exercise of brute political force, last year changed the Senate rules by a simple majority vote. He ignored the counsel of the Senate Parliamentarian who ruled his tactic was contrary to the rules of the Senate. The Parliamentarian is our preeminent protector of Senate practices, and over the years different Parliamentarians have done a good job. In one stroke the majority leader changed the nature of this august body, perhaps forever.

So today the Democratic Senators who empower Mr. REID and the Senators who give him power and support him are not even allowed to consider important legislation either, effectively. Republicans or Democrats cannot offer amendments. They cannot even fully debate the issues. Huge bills are rushed through in the waning hours of a session. Systematically the rights of Senators to provide equal representation to each State are being dismantled.

But it gets worse still. As we know, President Obama has promised that after the midterms he would issue executive amnesty to 5 to 6 million people—immigrants who are unlawfully here, unlawfully entering the United States. This Executive order, Presidential order—fiat—amnesty—would include work permits for millions of illegal workers along with photo IDs and Social Security numbers, and it would include more guest workers. So businesses can bring in even more guest workers at a time of high unemployment and falling wages.

The President and the immigration lobbyists and business groups and activist groups are meeting secretly in the White House trying to implement through executive action the same disastrous, wrong policies that were rejected by Congress through the House of Representatives. The House said no to this. Once the public learned what was in the Senate amnesty and guest worker bill, they declared, no, no, no, and the House heard it. So the President is now conspiring to go around the Congress.

What did Mr. REID say? His duty is to represent the Congress, and we are a coequal branch with the executive branch and the executive branch doesn't have the power to change the immigration law that is in a law, in effect. The United States law says you cannot work in the United States—flat out, you cannot be hired if you are in the country illegally.

The President doesn't have any power to change that. The President can come back to the Senate and advocate it and see if he can pass that. But the Senate hasn't changed the law. You shouldn't be able to work in America if you are not lawfully here. Taking a job from a lawful immigrant? This is fundamentally wrong.

What does Mr. REID say about this? Does he defend the prerogative of Congress, the Senate? No, he doesn't. Instead, he has told the President to ''go real big'' and bypass Congress. Do the biggest amnesty you can do.

Majority Leader REID has blocked this Senate from considering the House-passed legislation that is sitting at the desk in this Senate that would stop the President from doing this. He would use legitimate congressional power to deny funding to execute any such bogus, unlawful amnesty plan. The Constitution and the American people's interests are at stake here. But Mr. REID is determined completely to ensure this executive amnesty happens anyway, and he is determined to do whatever he can to see that it does happen. The principles that govern our political system, separation of powers, and public debate are not important here at this time.

But, colleagues, I would note that we have to recognize Mr. REID does not operate all on his own. He operates with the support and empowerment of a Democratic Caucus that allows this to occur. We saw this vividly when I made a motion some weeks ago that would allow us to take action to stop the executive amnesty. I moved that we strike his filling the tree, remove it, clear the amendment tree, and allow new amendments to be brought up to stop executive amnesty. That would have been to bar the executive action, and every Senate Democrat voted with Mr. REID—except the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. MANCHIN—that would enable the President to go forward with his unlawful amnesty decree. It is unbelievable.

The posture we are in is the House has passed a bill that would stop the President from going forward, clearly. It has already passed the House of Representatives. It is sitting on our desk and the majority leader will not allow it to be brought up. Why?

He has the votes. Why doesn't he bring it up and vote it down? The reason is he wants to protect his Members. He believes in this policy. He is advocating this policy. But he thinks if he brings it up for a vote, his Members might find out that the people back home are not happy.

More than three-fourths of the American people believe the President is exceeding his authority if he goes forward with this executive amnesty. So why can't we have a vote on it? Because of politics. Protect our Members. They don't need to take tough votes. Let's get out of Washington and go home and play politics in our home State.

Nobody in the Senate Democratic Congress has spoken up to support the House bill. Some pretend or hope the President won't do it. What does that mean? Nothing.

But a vote means something. So let's vote. You are either for it or not.

Every Member who supports Mr. REID—and we will have another vote on this—is as much a supporter of President Obama's unlawful amnesty as if they were sitting in a room helping him sign the order.

This is the time. It is either stop now or it may never be stopped. We need to vote on it. People need to be held accountable. Every American needs to know where their Senator stands on the President's unlawful assumption of power to violate plain law of the United States to carry out a political agenda he has that the American people reject. It is that simple. It is about power and it is about politics and it is not about what is best for America.

All of us owe our constituents a full, open, and deliberative process where the great issues of the day are debated with their scrutiny and the people's scrutiny. We receive their input with our rights respected, our responsibilities honored, and our Senate strengthened in the process and respected in the process. The democratic process is messy sometimes, sometimes contentious, and often difficult, but it is precisely this legislative tug of war, this back-and-forth, which forges a national consensus. People have to stick their necks out and say what they believe on important issues facing America.

It is a process our Founders utilized, men of the Enlightenment they were, to find what truth is. Truth, they believe and I believe, is an objective reality. Words have meaning. Principles are valid. Things are true and things are false. Their theory was you have a full and open, robust debate and everybody says more through that process. It is the best way for you to tell what the truth is, and based on what the truth is you can make a good judgment for what is best for America. It is the same theory we use in jury trials: cross-examination of witnesses, bring in evidence, 12 good men and women judge the evidence in an attempt to find what the truth is.

Some of this crowd today, this postmodern group, they don't even believe in truth, if you want to know the truth. While secret deals may appear to keep the trains running on time, they also keep them running too often in the wrong direction. Only through a renewed, open legislative process carried out in the full light of day can we clean up this government, forge a real national consensus, confront the difficult choices we face, achieve accountability in Washington, allow our Senators and Congressmen to be there on the front lines and sink or swim on how they perform.

We are not guaranteed office. The American people don't work for us, we work for them, and to act as we have in the past returns power thereby to the everyday citizen.

It is time for us to restore once again the great Senate of the United States.

I thank the Chair and 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.

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

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

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, some of my colleagues will be coming to the floor later today to speak about the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and I am sorry I am not going to be able to join them, but LWCF is very important, especially to Montana, and so I want to make my voice heard this morning.

LWCF turned 50 earlier this month. Passed during the Johnson administration, LCWF harkens back to the time when folks reached across the aisle to conserve our treasured lands—treasured lands that exist in all corners of our Nation.

LWCF has contributed to the protection of well-known places such as Rocky Mountain National Park and the Appalachian Trail, but it has also supported lesser known but equally spectacular places such as Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho, and the Flathead National Forest in my State of Montana.

America is filled with amazing lands that make us stand in awe of their beauty, make us want to go out and explore, make us want to hunt, fish, and camp. We must make sure they are preserved for our future generations to enjoy just as we have been able to enjoy it.

From hunters and anglers to ranchers and sporting goods store owners, LWCF is a program that simply works. It uses the funds from offshore oil and gas receipts for a wide array of conservation programs. Some of these programs increase access to public lands, others preserve natural resources.

LWCF is also good for the economy. When people want to get out and enjoy the outdoors, they buy fly rods, tents, and hiking boots. The list goes on and on. Simply put, LWCF is an economic driver. America's outdoor economy generates nearly $650 billion each year and supports nearly 6 million direct jobs in many of this Nation's smallest communities.

In Montana, a State with only 1 million people, outdoor recreation contributes nearly $6 billion each year to our economic output and supports some 64,000 jobs in Montana. Outdoor recreation is a part of who we are as Montanans, and when I drive across the State, I often see vehicles with stickers in the back window that say, ''Get Lost,'' but what those stickers are really saying is: I am headed to a trailhead and I am going to get lost in some of the wild places in Big Sky Country. This way of life is passed down from generation to generation and the LWCF helps us keep our outdoor heritage alive.

We have come to expect a vibrant outdoor economy and amazing places to explore, but we need to remember this didn't happen by accident. It isn't by chance that we get to enjoy water and breathtaking landscapes.

As one of my many heroes Teddy Roosevelt said: ''We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible, this is not so.''

We invest in our majestic national park system, preserve lands from Alaska to Florida, and we have millions of people dedicated to conservation nationwide. LWCF is a critical part of our conservation effort, and if it is not authorized, it will run out at the end of the next fiscal year. As of right now, LWCF will stop strengthening our economy as of October 1, 2015. We must fund and reauthorize LWCF so our treasured places can be preserved for another 50 years and well beyond.

There is still time to make sure this critical initiative continues and receives the full funding it needs. Full funding for LWCF is supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

I wish to commend Senators RICHARD BURR and LINDSEY GRAHAM for their work on LWCF, and I look forward to working with them on full funding for this issue.

I will also push my legislation that requires 1.5 percent of LWCF funds to go to increased public access to our public lands. Making public lands public is a smart bill, and I will continue to fight for it.

There is a strong coalition behind LWCF, and I believe we can get this done by working together. Along with leaders in both the House and the Senate, we will show the American people we are still capable of working across the aisle to preserve our treasured lands and support our local economies.

Montanans have favorite places to camp and fish and hike. It may be the Bitterroot, it may be the Crazies or it may be the Bob Marshall Wilderness, but we all love the outdoors. We all want to make sure our sons and daughters can enjoy the same beautiful outdoor places that we do today. This is our legacy.

LWCF is a critical part of making sure all Americans can continue their outdoor traditions. It must be around for another 50 years and beyond.

With that, I thank the Presiding Officer.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN R. BASS, 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 TURKEY

NOMINATION OF ERIC T. SCHULTZ, 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 ZAMBIA

NOMINATION OF THOMAS FREDERICK DAUGHTON, 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 NAMIBIA

NOMINATION OF DAVID PRESSMAN TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF DAVID PRESSMAN TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

NOMINATION OF DEBRA S. WADA TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

NOMINATION OF LAURA S. WERTHEIMER TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

NOMINATION OF BRADFORD RAYMOND HUTHER TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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 bill clerk read the nominations of John R. Bass, of New York, 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 Turkey; Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, 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 Zambia; Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, 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 Namibia; David Pressman, of New York, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; David Pressman, of New York, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations; Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency; and Bradford Raymond Huther, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

VOTE ON BASS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John R. Bass, of New York, 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 Turkey?

There will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the nomination.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we yield back the remaining time and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 267 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Baldwin	Begich
Ayotte	Barrasso	Bennet

Blumenthal	Harkin	Murray
Blunt	Hatch	Nelson
Booker	Heinrich	Paul
Boozman	Heitkamp	Portman
Boxer	Heller	Pryor
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Burr	Hoeven	Reid
Cantwell	Inhofe	Risch
Cardin	Isakson	Roberts
Carper	Johanns	Rubio
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Coats	Kaine	Schumer
Coburn	King	Scott
Cochran	Kirk	Sessions
Collins	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Landrieu	Shelby
Corker	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Levin	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCain	Udall (NM)
Enzi	McCaskill	Vitter
Feinstein	McConnell	Walsh
Fischer	Menendez	Warner
Flake	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Graham	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—2

Gillibrand Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SCHULTZ NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time on this nomination be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, 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 Zambia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON DAUGHTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, 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 Namibia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON PRESSMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Pressman, of New York, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON PRESSMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Pressman, of New York, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WADA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WERTHEIMER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HUTHER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Bradford Raymond Huther, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will 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.

The Senator from Arkansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 503

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, last month we marked the 24th anniversary of the beginning of the gulf war. In August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait. Shortly after this development the United States launched Operation Desert Shield, which led to Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Arkansas made a huge sacrifice during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Arkansas Army National Guard had 13 units called to serve during these operations, and 10 units of the Arkansas Air National Guard were called up. More than 3,400 Arkansas Guard soldiers were called up altogether—the second highest percentage of any State. Of those Arkansans called to serve, nine of the Army Guard units served in combat, including the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade—the only National Guard artillery brigade called to Active Duty during the gulf war.

I thank all of the men and women—more than 600,000 Americans from across the United States—who served and sacrificed in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

These servicemembers deserve a place of honor and recognition in our Nation's Capital. My friend and colleague Senator DONNELLY and I have been working toward that goal. I am proud of my colleagues in the House who unanimously passed H.R. 503, the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act in May. I ask that we bring this bill up for final passage here in the Senate.

In a time where we are facing budget constraints, this bill is budget neutral. Private funds for construction of the memorial will be raised by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association. This bill simply authorizes the establishment of a monument on Federal lands here in our Nation's Capital, which is what Congress needs to act on to honor all of those men and women of the Armed Forces and their families. Passing this bill will be a great step in honoring our gulf war veterans. I am grateful to have the support of the full Senate and look forward to a swift ultimate passage.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 403, H.R. 503. I further ask that the bill be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, with a great deal of respect and deference to my good friend and an extraordinary Senator from Arkansas, I actually do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—H.R. 1033 AND H.R. 503

Mr. BOOKER. What I would like to do, because I fully support what an extraordinary and very important piece of legislation this is, honoring those who served and fought and fell in Desert Storm—what I object to is the decoupling of the two bills, both of which honor our veterans.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 398, H.R. 1033, the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act, and Calendar No. 403, H.R. 503, the Desert Storm Memorial en bloc, that the committee-reported amendment to H.R. 1033 be agreed to, that the bills, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and passed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me explain to the people watching what is happening here. We have a bill that everybody agrees to that is not going to get passed because everybody does not agree to another bill that is linked to it. We have offered multiple compromises on the battlefield protection act. We just have a $17.8 trillion deficit.

We are going to have a $599 billion debt this year. Yet this program they want to authorize that will keep this program that the Senator from Arkansas would like to honor our Desert Storm from happening—they refuse to take yes for an answer.

There are 26 critical sites that need to be protected that we know of. We said: Do that. We have said: Do not authorize more than we can afford. We will not do that. We have made compromises so that we can do what the intent of the battlefield protection act is and accomplish the leverage against the bill honoring our Desert Storm veterans. But that is not good enough. So what we have asked for is to quit allowing States and localities to game the system with any kind of pay-fors and do not have the Federal Government pay for the State's share or the local community's share plus the Federal Government's share. We have said some good government stuff.

You can pass this bill today if, in fact, they will take some adjustments to the bill. So what I would offer is rather than object, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from New Jersey modify his request so that my substitute amendment to H.R. 1033, which is at the desk, be agreed to.

If you agree to these simple, straight-forward, good government, financially secure items, you do not get the full basket, but you get the things that are critical to this country in terms of protecting battlefield sites and we will honor our Desert Storm veterans.

I ask that we have that modification be agreed to which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from New Jersey so modify his request?

Mr. BOOKER. There is no more eloquent a person when it comes to good government than Senator COBURN, but I do not modify my request. I object. I ask unanimous consent that the previous request I made be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, the sad thing is the people who were involved in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield are in the middle of this. We have this other bill that there are some concerns about. That is fine. That is what this place is all about. But the idea of holding the Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield bill hostage in this situation is not good. We live in an era of gridlock, and we have problems getting things done.

This bill passed the House unanimously and would pass the Senate unanimously. So I would hope that we can again get together and get things worked out. The reality is and the problem is that there is no reason to couple these two together. If the other bill has problems, it needs to be worked out. That is what it is all about. Let's have that discussion.

But the Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield bill has nothing to do with that. So I would hope that in the near future we can move forward and honor these 600,000 people who participated, so that one day their children can come and visit Washington and be able to look at the monument about which the committee will decide as to what is appropriate so that we can honor these individuals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CALENDAR NO. 12

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, 24 years ago, on July 26, 1990, President George Herbert Walker Bush, in a glorious sun-filled day on the White House lawn, attended by more people than had ever attended a bill signing in the history of our country—President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, a bill broadly supported by Democrats and Republicans here in the Senate and in the House.

It was a momentous occasion. You see, most people thought of civil rights as pertaining to people of color, religion, national origin, sex—that type of thing. But up until July 26, 1990, people with disabilities had no civil rights. I remember when President Bush signed that law, he uttered these words. He said: ''Let the shameful walls of discrimination come tumbling down.'' It was a wonderful day.

Looking back over those 24 years, can anyone deny that our country has made great progress in expanding our concepts of the rights of people with disabilities: the right to be educated and well educated; the right of people with disabilities to have independent living, to live on their own, not to be institutionalized; the right of people with disabilities to associate freely with others; the right of people with disabilities, children with disabilities, to go to school with other kids who are not disabled; the right of people with disabilities to travel freely with barriers broken down, ramps not stairs, buses that are fully accessible now, trains, everything accessible, every building designed in America. Think about that. Every building designed and built in America today is fully accessible.

We have gone a great way in making older buildings—even some of our national monuments—totally accessible to people with disabilities. People with disabilities are finding more and more employment. They are working—not at some minimum-wage job—but working alongside others, showing that they too can contribute to our society and be fully functioning members of our society.

That is what the Americans with Disabilities Act did for our country. In 1991 the United Nations decided that what we had done in America could be an example for the world. So a commission was established to draw up a convention, a treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities. I might point out, it was negotiated under the George W. Bush administration. It took several years, but it was hammered out with the concurrence—get this—with the concurrence and the approval of the George W. Bush administration.

That U.N. treaty has been sent out to nations to be ratified. Over 150 nations have now ratified it. Think about that. Of 196 members of the United Nations, 150 have already ratified it. One country is singularly absent—the United States—from whence it all started. If you look at the treaty—if you just read it—it just echoes the Americans with Disabilities Act language in what it does.

So I will have more to say about this later. But I just want to give that background. We brought it up 2 years ago for a vote. Now, under our Constitution, a treaty requires a two-thirds vote—two-thirds of those present and voting. It was brought up 2 years ago in December of 2012. We did not get a two-thirds vote. It failed. Well, that Congress ended and a new Congress started, so the President had to resubmit it. It had to go back to the committee, now under the leadership of Senator MENENDEZ.

As requested, the committee has reported out the bill again with new reservations, understandings, and declarations. Now it is incumbent upon the Senate to debate and vote again on this treaty.

I am hopeful we would have the votes this time—after due consideration over the past couple of years, that we would have the votes necessary.

The unanimous consent request I am about to proffer is the mirror image of the same one 2 years ago. I want everyone to understand that this unanimous consent request was not denied 2 years ago. We went ahead, debated, and we had a vote.

That is what this unanimous consent request would do, provide us with, again, 2 hours of debate, evenly divided in the usual form, and then an up-or-down vote. We have the time to do it.

I mean, what are we doing around here, one quorum call after another? People want to leave here tomorrow night. Two hours of debate, a vote, that is nothing to pass this momentous piece of legislation.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—TREATY NO. 112–7

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 12, the disabilities treaty document No. 112–7 (disability); that the treaty be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification; that any committee declarations be agreed to as applicable; that there be no amendments in order to the treaty or the resolution of ratification; that

there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote on the resolution; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; that if the resolution of ratification is adopted, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that if the resolution is not adopted, the treaty be returned to the calendar, and that there be no motions or points of order in order other than a motion to reconsider; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Reserving the right to object, I wish to note that this is a treaty that has attracted a fair amount of controversy. It is a treaty that was voted on in 2012 and failed to receive the requisite two-thirds majority vote in order to be ratified in this body.

This treaty received additional consideration this year in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 22 and received a 12-to-6 vote. There are a number of our colleagues, both on and off the committee, who have concerns with this treaty, who would like the opportunity to propose amendments, along with our consideration of this document. Under the proposed unanimous consent request, we would not be allowed to propose any amendments, and we would be given 2 hours—only 2 hours—to debate it.

Given the significance of treaties, and the fact that they carry the effect of the law of the land once ratified, I think this body deserves more, certainly, than the opportunity to debate it for only 2 hours. To be precluded here from the ability to present any amendments would not be an appropriate thing for to us do.

On that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this is another sad, irresponsible day in the Senate. I say to my friend from Utah, he was here 2 years ago when we proposed the same exact unanimous consent request, and the Senator did not object.

It also did not allow for any amendments. That is usual when we have treaties and it comes through the committee. So why is the Senator from Utah objecting today to even doing what we did 2 years ago? Maybe he has the votes to defeat it. I don't know. We won't know until we vote on it. But 2 years ago, the Senator from Utah did not object to the very same unanimous consent request.

He says there has been a lot of controversy about it. Well, that is not so. The only controversy has been raised by the tea party and some whom I call the black helicopter crowd, people who just don't like the United Nations. I don't care if they like the United Nations; that is up to them. But it seems to me we ought to at least bring it up again, debate it, and see if anyone has changed their minds. We have new people in the Senate who were not here 2 years ago—new Senators who have not had the opportunity to express themselves on this treaty.

I disagree with my friend from Utah. There is no controversy over this, basically. Controversy? This is a treaty supported by former President George H.W. Bush. Former President George W. Bush, former President Carter, and former President Clinton all support it. All the veterans groups support it. The American Legion, VFW, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Vietnam war veterans all strongly support ratification of this treaty.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has supported it strongly—and I don't just mean leaning back. Tom Donohue, the head of the Chamber of Commerce, has written, has called people about how important it is to the business community that we ratify it.

Former Governor John Engler, who is now the head of the Business Roundtable, brought this up to the Business Roundtable and they unanimously supported our ratification of this treaty.

I spoke to the Business Roundtable group last evening, and they all—the ones I talked to individually—couldn't understand why we would block this treaty because it is good for business, and they understand it.

It is supported by the Information Technology Industry Council—that is AT&T. I just spoke with the CEO of AT&T last evening who strongly supports it; Sprint, Adobe, Microsoft—all the high-tech people—because they understand we need strong, accessible standards for their products and their software across the globe.

All disability groups, every single disability group in America supports the treaty. Faith-based groups across the spectrum support it.

Senator Bob Dole has worked his heart out on getting votes to ratify this treaty. He has been on the phone, he has made appearances, and we have Republicans on it. Senator MCCAIN has been a strong supporter for this treaty from the very beginning. Senator MARK KIRK is a supporter. Mr. KIRK is a veteran himself.

We had a press conference with all the veterans groups here not too long ago and I thought Mr. KIRK said something very poignant. He said: A lot of disabled American veterans fought in places around the world to secure our freedom. They should have the right to travel freely in other parts of the world, even though they have a disability.

Think about that.

Senator BARRASSO is a strong supporter, and Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator COLLINS, Senator AYOTTE have all worked hard on this subject. But for a couple of people who have raised an objection, we can't bring up the treaty.

The Senator from Utah just objected to bringing it up for, what, 2 hours of debate and an up-or-down vote. I say: Hey, look around the Chamber. There is nobody here. There won't be anybody here all afternoon. We could have a little debate on this, 2 hours; they could make their case, we could make our case and have a vote for 15 minutes—and yet the Senator from Utah will not let it be brought up, even though he let it be brought up 2 years ago. He said: Well, we can't offer amendments. That was the same 2 years ago, but they didn't object to bringing it up.

When we see all of the support this has—and I might address an issue that has come up, and it seems to have its genesis in the tea party. They have raised objections on the basis that somehow, by ratifying this treaty, we give up our sovereignty as a nation, that it erodes our sovereignty. That is based upon the fact that there is a commission under this treaty. There is a U.N. commission set up, a 16-member commission of experts, to draft standards and advise countries on what they need to do to meet their obligations.

Again, if we are a signatory to the treaty, I have no doubt we would get a seat on that commission, and the high-tech industry council and the business groups know that. That is where we have our input to making sure that accessibility standards, software standards, and other things are adaptable for us, our business community, our software, and our hardware.

The tea party, some of these people, have objected to this commission, saying that the commission can issue findings and such that take away our sovereignty.

We have operated, at least for the past 20 years, under two other treaties that have the same kind of commission of experts, and it hasn't eroded our sovereignty. Do you know why? Because it is advisory. That commission has no authority to assess penalties or anything else on the United States or any other country. All they can say is: Well, you should do this, you should do that—but it is only advisory. How does that erode our sovereignty?

Yet the very same people who make the argument that somehow this erodes our sovereignty will rush to the front to vote on a trade agreement—a trade agreement such as NAFTA or other trade agreements we have, which do erode our sovereignty, because it turns over to the World Trade Organization the ability to fine America, to tell us what we have to do in order to make trade right. They have the ability to tell America what to do. Yet my friends who are objecting to this probably support those trade agreements.

Yet when it comes to people with disabilities, why is it they are so adamant that we cannot join 150 other nations of the world to advance the rights of people with disabilities globally? Why is it just people with disabilities they focused on?

They didn't focus on torture, they didn't focus on the worst forms of child labor, they haven't focused on any of

our trade agreements. Why people with disabilities? It makes us wonder, is this another blatant form of discrimination against people with disabilities?

Maybe some in that tea party would like to undo the Americans with Disabilities Act. I don't know. But we can't say honestly that, yes, the Americans with Disabilities Act is good, it has done a lot of good for our country, for our business community, for people with disabilities, everyone, and say but we don't want to be involved in helping other countries advance the cause of people with disabilities so people with disabilities in other countries have the same kind of rights, accessibilities, and standards we enjoy in this country for people with disabilities.

Some people may say we are the best in the world on disability law and policy—and that is true, we are—so why don't we shine our light around the world?

President Reagan always referred to America as the ''shining city on the hill.'' If we are a shining city on the hill and no one can get there and we are not willing to help other countries, what does it mean to be a shining city on the hill? Is that some kind of an idea that only we can have? We are a shining city on the hill when it comes to disability rights, and we ought to be involved in spreading it globally. This is our opportunity to do so.

Some people say: We can work with other countries. If they want our advice, we can go to other countries to help them with disability policy. Think about that for a second. We don't have the personnel or the wherewithal to go to 150 separate different countries to help them in terms of changing policy. It takes a kind of collective action where we can join with other countries that have done pretty darned well. There are a lot of other countries that have done very well in disability policy. To join with them, we are much better and much stronger that way than us just going to another country.

I was in China earlier this summer meeting with people about this treaty, which China has adopted. They have signed on. We talked about the United States working with China, not only in China but with other countries, to help advance the rights of people with disabilities.

China is doing some interesting things. They are starting to move ahead.

One person said to me: What is so important about America being a part of the treaty is that when we speak to one another, we speak in a common language of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. It seems to me that if the United States is not a part of it, they speak to us in a different manner. It is: The United States, here is what we do; here is what you ought to do. That doesn't get us very far in diplomacy.

But if we work with the Chinese and other countries to say: Here is what we ought to do, here is what other countries have done, here are the standards we ought to abide by, there is much more force and effect than if we try to go it alone.

I assume there are military analogies to this. Think about the present situation. Should we go it alone simply because we are the most powerful, we have the biggest military, the best weapons, and everything else? Should we just go it alone because we are the best militarily in the world? I don't think the American people would want that.

We have to join with other countries and sometimes ask other countries to take the lead and we will provide that strong backbone. That is how I see the disabilities treaty. We have to join with other countries.

How can we give up the moral leadership we have had on this issue, both here and abroad, the moral leadership we have had on advancing the rights of people with disabilities?

How can we abdicate that because a handful of people are afraid of giving up our sovereignty—which is a bogus argument because that committee is advisory only. It makes recommendations, but it has no enforcement authority whatsoever.

By not ratifying this treaty, we are left behind. Think about that. We, the United States, are left behind in a field in which we have carved out leadership, and we are just going to give it up: No, we don't want to lead the world.

Why wouldn't we want to lead the world in disability policies? To not join 150 other countries, to not provide the leadership, to not provide the expertise we have developed over 24 years or more relinquishes our responsibility to people with disabilities, both in America and around the world. Why on Earth would we want to do that?

In Ghana, a great young advocate named Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, a man born with no left leg but determined as a child to play soccer, turned his obsession for this sport into an obsession advocating for the rights of people with disabilities in Ghana.

Earlier this year in Malawi, 21 African nations met on this issue of changing their policies, advancing the rights of people with disabilities. I was asked to go and meet with them. I couldn't because we were in session in the Senate. But that is why they are reaching out to us. They want us to be involved with them to help move this issue forward.

In Nepal parents of children with autism banded together to start their own school to educate their children. They want their kids with disabilities to be fully included in society and have opportunities for work and for life. They want us to be joined together with them. It is conspicuous.

I was privileged to join Senator CARDIN earlier this summer in Baku, Azerbaijan, for a meeting of the committee for security and economic development in Europe. I offered an amendment putting all the nations of Europe that are in that OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—OECD countries—that we supported ratification of this treaty. It was adopted unanimously. They want the United States to be a partner in this effort.

Talk to a disabled veteran who would like to travel overseas maybe with his or her spouse and their children.

I recently talked to a mother whose family immigrated from Italy. She wanted to go over for a big family reunion, but she has a child with a disability, and where they were going they had no accessibility. She could have gone and left her son at home, but she couldn't do that. So she missed that big family reunion because of the lack of accessibility in Italy.

It is a sad day that one individual on the Senate floor would object to bringing this up when it has such broad support.

I will say one last thing about the issue of sovereignty. I have heard a couple Senators on the Republican side talk about the fact that with this Commission, we give up our sovereignty, which I have said is a bogus argument.

Of my friends on the other side, the few who have objected to this on the grounds that we would lose our sovereignty, let me ask this question.

Former President George H.W. Bush supports this treaty wholeheartedly. Does he not understand about sovereignty or does he not care about sovereignty?

Former President George W. Bush, under whose administration this treaty was hammered out, supports it. Does former President George W. Bush not understand this or does he just not care about our sovereignty?

Bob Dole knows this treaty backward and forward—a World War II hero, Presidential candidate, Republican leader of the Senate, disabled American veteran.

Are those few people over there who say this would erode our sovereignty saying they know more than Senator Dole or are they saying Senator Dole doesn't care about our sovereignty—which is it—or those few who raise the issue of sovereignty, that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce doesn't care about our sovereignty? I don't think we would like to say that to Tom Donohue or to John Engler at the Business Roundtable. Of course they care about our sovereignty. Tell that to the American Legion. Tell the American Legion they don't care about our sovereignty or they don't understand this or they are too stupid to understand it. Is that what they are saying or are they saying they are the arbiters—those few, they are the arbiters of what is and is not our sovereignty. They rise above all former Presidents. They rise above Republican leaders. They rise above JOHN MCCAIN, a war hero. Believe me, I think JOHN MCCAIN understands about our sovereignty. He knows this treaty. He supports it wholeheartedly. Are

those few who raise this issue of sovereignty saying JOHN MCCAIN doesn't get it or he doesn't care about our sovereignty? Which is it? The fact is, JOHN MCCAIN does care about our sovereignty, he does get it, and he knows this doesn't erode our sovereignty one single iota.

But I wish to make that point because those few keep raising this issue of sovereignty as though they are the guardians, they alone know what distinguishes our sovereignty and what erodes it—not former Presidents, former Republican leaders. In fact, every former Republican leader of this Senate still alive supports this treaty.

My, how far we have gotten off track since the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act that was strongly bipartisan and the Americans with Disabilities Act amendments we put through in 2008, strongly supported by both sides. I dare say, we have strong Republican support for this treaty but for a few on the Republican side who just want to adhere to that tea party nostrum that somehow this erodes our sovereignty and we can't join.

I will close where I started. The unanimous consent I offered today that was objected to by the Senator from Utah is the same as what we had 2 years ago and no one objected to it. The Senator from Utah was here 2 years ago, and he didn't object then to the same unanimous consent request. He did not object. So it goes back on the calendar. It goes back on the Executive Calendar and it will be there.

I guess I would say the action by a few on the Republican side blocking ratification of the convention on the rights of people with disabilities will not be the end. I may be retiring from the Senate, but I am not retiring from this fight. I will never retire in the fight for justice, fairness, and equality for people with disabilities both here and around the world. I will never retire from the fight to refute those absolutely unfounded and bogus objections to this crucial treaty.

I will continue to work with former Senator Bob Dole, with former Presidents, with veterans, with business leaders, with Republicans on the other side who support this treaty, with the national disabilities community, with our disabilities community. I will continue to work to advance this and to get it over the hurdle.

The false claims—the false claims—of those who object to this treaty will be overcome. We will succeed in ratifying this treaty. We will restore America's stature as the world leader on disability rights and we will continue to fight for justice and a fair shake for people with disabilities not just here in America but around the world.

It is a sad day, another sad and irresponsible day in the history of the United States Senate.

Mr. President, 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.

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

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

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. DONNELLY. I rise today in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month to once again bring attention to an issue that weighs heavy on many of our hearts and minds.

Last month the world paused to mourn the loss of a man who brought laughter and joy to countless lives, a man whose internal suffering didn't stop him from improving the lives of so many he touched, including our heroic men and women serving overseas. Robin Williams said the best audience he ever had was with the troops he entertained on USO tours. His death showed us that we may not always know who among us is living the life of unbearable pain and suffering. Even the strongest among us sometimes needs a helping hand, including the brave men and women in uniform who protect our country each and every day.

Today I wish to once again shine the light on the scourge of military suicide. Earlier this month the Department of Defense released a report which detailed the number of suicides among servicemembers during the first quarter of 2014. The Department of Defense reported that a total of 120 servicemembers committed suicide from January through March, including 74 active component servicemembers, 24 Reserve members, and 22 National Guard members. In 2013, 475 servicemembers took their own lives. In 2012, we lost 522 to suicide. We have seen 2 straight years of more deaths as a result of suicide than of combat in Afghanistan.

These men and women are giving their all to support our way of life and they risk making the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms. At a minimum we should honor this service and sacrifice by doing all we can to support them.

We all understand this is not a simple issue. There is no one solution to the problem, no cure-all that ends it tomorrow. I do believe, though, there are commonsense steps we can take now to make meaningful progress.

In May I introduced the bipartisan Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2014. This legislation is named after Jacob Sexton, an Indiana National Guardsman from Farmland, IN, who took his own life while home on a 15-day leave from Afghanistan. Building upon legislation I introduced last year, the Sexton act ensures that mental health is evaluated regularly and is a central element of a servicemember's overall readiness in four key ways.

First, it requires annual mental health assessments for all servicemembers, including active duty, the Guard, and the Reserves. Right now the military provides the most effective mental health care only for those who are preparing for or returning from deployment, despite research that shows the majority of military suicides occur among servicemembers who have never been deployed.

Second, it establishes a working group between the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services to find innovative ways to improve access to mental health care for members of the Guard and Reserve. Where servicemembers often rely on civilian health insurance and providers, as the Guard and Reserve do, we want to team up to be able to provide care right in their own communities. Suicide among Guard members hit a record high in 2013, and we are committed to bringing that number down to zero.

Third, the bill requires an interagency report to evaluate existing military mental health practices and to provide recommendations for improvement, including peer-to-peer programs I have proposed in the past.

Finally, the bill ensures that seeking help remains a sign of strength. It protects the privacy of the servicemember coming forward, because no one should be punished for seeking help. No one should be kept from their next promotion for seeking help.

I introduced the bipartisan Sexton act with my Republican colleague ROGER WICKER of Mississippi. Since then it has received the endorsement of numerous national organizations, including the National Guard Association of the United States, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. This bill is a step in the right direction in the fight against military suicide.

I was encouraged when the Senate Armed Services Committee passed this legislation as part of the fiscal year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act this past May. This is important progress, but we need to get this legislation signed into law. As the Senate prepares to recess, I call on the Senate to take up the NDAA as soon as we return to Washington. There is no reason why this bipartisan legislation should not be passed, and passed quickly, just as we have for the last 52 years.

Our country, as we all know, is faced with many serious issues, some of which we don't have good answers to yet; but the Sexton act is a good start to address the pressing issue of military suicide. This legislation helps save lives—helps save soldiers' lives. So let's pass the NDAA and with it the Jacob Sexton Act to show our service men and women that we are all in on supporting them the same way they support us.

This legislation is just the beginning. Combating suicide both in our military and elsewhere is an issue that continues to demand Congress's attention. We must continually evaluate what we

are doing, take a second and third look at the resources we are offering, and ask ourselves every day: Can we do better? Is there more we can do before it is too late? The answer more often than not is yes.

That is why we must be vigilant in the effort to let people know they are not alone. There is somewhere they can go, someone to talk to, and someone to help carry the load. We need to continue the conversation about what we can do to help our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters, our husbands and wives, who may feel like they are struggling with seemingly insurmountable challenges all by themselves. These challenges can be overcome.

Suicide Prevention Month is a reminder of that fact. There are many resources available to those who struggle with suicidal thoughts. For our servicemembers, trained mental health specialists are available 24 hours a day through the military and Veterans Crisis Line. All you have to do is call 1–800–273–8255, and press 1. You will get immediate, confidential assistance 24 hours a day. For additional help, militarymentalhealth.org offers a free, 100-percent anonymous mental health assessment. This is a valuable tool for servicemembers unsure of where they stand.

I hope all of our servicemembers struggling with mental health concerns and with challenges know that we are here for them and that we are working nonstop to ensure they receive the care and support they deserve. Let's continue to spread that message throughout the rest of Suicide Prevention Month, and every month thereafter.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. PORTMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2839 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

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

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

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, it is my pleasure today to come to the floor of the Senate to honor some very special constituents from all of our States who are here for 3 days, and they are very special because they actually have wings. We call them angels, and I think the Presiding Officer has met her angels who are here this week. They are Members who have been honored or constituents of ours who have been honored by Members of the Senate and Members of the House for the extraordinary work these individual citizens and sometimes entities and organizations have done on behalf of orphans here in the United States and around the world. There are happily over 124 angels here with us, 124 Members of Congress—70 Members of the House and 54 Members of the Senate—who took the time to identify someone in their district or State who has really stepped up for orphans through either the domestic adoption and foster care system or our international adoption world.

I am proud of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. I am one of the founders of the organization. About 16 years ago a group of about 20 of us came together to begin really focused work on educating ourselves first and then our colleagues across the aisle and in both Houses of Congress on the barriers that were keeping children from families, the barriers that were causing children to be left and abandoned, never to be reunited with their birth families or ever placed with new families who could adopt them. We struggled to learn and educate ourselves about why families break up and disintegrate and what is the proper approach after that happens to try to pull that family back together and if not, how we can place children in homes where they can be raised and nurtured and cared for.

You heard me say this many times: Governments do some things very well—some things not so well—but raising children is not one of them. Parents, responsible adults, raise children. It is the way we are wired. It is the way we are created. It is the only real way that ever works well. I believe our job at the Federal, State, and local level, both here in the United States and around the world, is for the government to get out of the way and let this happen or start leading and helping with the kinds of policies that help children reunite with birth families and if that is not possible, to move quickly—because time is of the essence in a child's development—to make sure that child and sibling groups are placed in a loving, supportive family and not in an institution—not necessarily with people who are paid to be parents, not necessarily in group homes, but in real families. Sometimes governments, nonprofits, and charitable individuals want to help with stipends to support that effort. We perfectly understand that. It is perfectly legal. But we really love children to be in homes where they feel they are being loved out of a gift of love, and that is our goal.

There is so much gridlock and arguing going on. This is one issue about which there is no gridlock and no argument. Republicans and Democrats have come together. JIM INHOFE and I are proud to serve as the leaders in the Senate with many Members who have been very active. The Presiding Officer has been extremely active. I wish to say thank you to the Senator from Wisconsin for her leadership on several pieces of important legislation. I would like to give a special shout-out to the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, who has been remarkable in her leadership; Senator GILLIBRAND, who has been extremely helpful; Senator SHAHEEN; Senator BLUNT; Senator BOOZMAN; and I could go on. There have been 20 or 25 real champions this year in the Senate on issues that affect orphans and children in foster care. Senator GRASSLEY, who leads the foster care caucus, has also been a very reliable advocate on behalf of these children.

To frame the challenge, there are about 500,000 children in the United States who are in foster care. About 100,000 have been deemed to be adoptable. Parental rights have been terminated due to gross neglect, abuse, et cetera. The courts have stepped in and said these children need a new home, new parents. That is a big number, 500,000, but it represents about one-half of 1 percent of all the children in America. From that standpoint, you can say America is doing pretty well with keeping all of our children in families, keeping them loved and supported. When families fail, the community, the government, and churches and places of worship need to step in and help and be supportive.

But we still have many problems. Some children are waiting too long. Some children are born in this country without birth certificates—I just met one in my office today, if you can imagine that—so their legal status has been compromised. There are millions of orphans around the world who don't have any advocacy and don't have the kinds of systems we have in the United States to help with their identification, their rescue, their placement, et cetera, so that is the work we do.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption educates Members of Congress. We hold seminars for ourselves, educational opportunities. We hold an annual gala, and this year the Angels In Adoption gala is happening tonight in Washington. Angels are visiting Senate offices, telling their stories of adoption to our Members. Tonight we will be at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center celebrating with almost 1000 people the work our angels are doing.

I wish to congratulate our three very special national award winners: adoptive parents Bill Klein and Dr. Jennifer Arnold, the stars of the TLC reality show ''The Little Couple.'' They are very famous in America and well-known around the world. People have watched them overcome the great challenges they face. They are very tiny but have great hearts and great minds, and by being on television, they have an extraordinary reach. We are all very familiar with their show. They are married and have proceeded to build a family through adoption. They adopted a little, little child from India and another little child from China and are building their family. They have just

been remarkable models for all adoptive parents, of which I am one. They share the joys and challenges of being adoptive parents of children with very special physical needs.

It has just been remarkable. We will be so touched by their story tonight. They just left my office and they will share their story with us tonight. I just wanted to thank them for their leadership.

Shonda Rhimes is not with us in Washington. She will be receiving an award. She is the executive producer of the hit shows ''Scandal,'' ''Private Practice,'' and ''Grey's Anatomy.'' She has been a tremendous advocate for adoption. She has written about some issues regarding adoption into her shows and has helped to educate the United States of America and the world about the needs of orphans and the great privilege of being adoptive parents.

Finally, our third national award winner is our Paul Singer awardee. Paul Singer is deceased, but he was a great leader in our corporate world and our organization gives an award every year to a corporate executive. This year our winner is Debra Steigerwaldt Waller, CEO of Jockey International. She founded an organization that really helps provide support with postadoption services because many of our adoptive families have adopted children with special needs and some have adopted teenagers or older children. There are all sorts of challenges that come with those adoptions, just as there are with infant adoptions, and those families need someplace to turn. She stepped up as a corporate leader and adoptee herself, and we are thankful for her leadership.

I wish to mention two other angels.

I see my colleague is on the floor ready to speak.

I ask unanimous consent for 5 additional minutes.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I was proud to nominate Pastor Chad Hardbarger and his wife Marsha. They served as foster parents in Louisiana for over 9 years. Amazingly, the couple has cared for 14 children from the foster care system and have adopted 6 of those children out of foster care. They have a 19-year-old, a 14-year-old, an 11-year-old, a 9-year-old, an 8-year-old, and a 7-year-old. They are in the process of adopting a special infant named Amber. All of them are here in Washington and have had a great tour of the city today.

Monique, Chris, Bryce, Jordan, Bailey, Gavyn, and Amber are a wonderful family that was brought together and into the loving home of Pastor Chad and his wife Marcia. They are now working with their local church in Shreveport—in the northwest Louisiana area—to help advocate and get other churches and other families involved in fostering and adopting.

I was so pleased to present the award to the senior pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. He has established his own ministry, Fashioned for a Home, and he does so many great things to help our children.

These children don't have any fancy lobbyists or PR firms fighting for them. The pastors at home, their wives, and advocates are the ones who are doing a beautiful job. Congratulations to Chad Harbinger and his wife Marsha. I was so moved when I met Senator WICKER's angel at the pinning ceremony, and he was such an interesting angel that I wanted to put his story in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Senator WICKER nominated Mendell L. Thompson, who has been president of America's Christian Credit Union in Glendora, CA, serving more than 48,000 members and has more than $500 million in managed assets.

He serves as trustee and director of several different organizations. He received his award from Senator WICKER for designing a loan package at the credit union that would provide low-interest loans to families that were adopting, because sometimes the expenses can be overwhelming, particularly if you are adopting internationally but even if you adopt out of foster care. The foster care costs are minimal, but there are other costs when you adopt a child. Sometimes they have to add a room to the house or get a special vehicle if they have adopted a special-needs child. He has made over 1,000 loans to families that have adopted children.

I wanted to give a shout-out to Senator WICKER's angel, Mr. Mendell L. Thompson, and his board of directors at America's Christian Credit Union in California and thank them for believing that every child deserves a forever family and for taking an active role in crafting an affordable solution for America's adoptive parents. He has a passion at heart for the miracle of adoption and continues to promote this in California and around the country.

I thank the members for their participation. It is going to be one of our biggest events.

Before I take my seat, Madam President, I wish to speak on one more topic.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND SAMUEL R. BLAKES

Madam President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rev. Samuel Raymond Blakes, pastor of New Home Family Worship Center in New Orleans, LA on his 19th pastoral anniversary. I was honored to participate in the recent anniversary celebration and worship alongside members of the congregation and friends.

Reverend Blakes is a graduate of St. Augustine High School. He attended Southern University at New Orleans and earned both a bachelors and master's degree in theology from Christian Bible College in Louisiana.

Rev. Blakes has devoted himself to New Home Family Worship Center where he has served as pastor since 1995. Through his leadership, the congregation of New Home has expanded to a membership of over 10,000 worshipers. Reverend Blakes remains committed to making a positive impact on the lives of all people through his weekly televised spiritual broadcasts, live radio show and ongoing community outreach.

Rev. Samuel R. Blakes is the youngest son of the late Prophet Robert C. Blakes, Sr. and Minister Lois R. Blakes, both residents of New Orleans for decades. Prophet Blakes was an outstanding community leader, spreading his ministry across Louisiana and into Texas.

I commend Reverend Blakes and his congregation for remaining vigilant, faithful and steadfast in his service to his community. I join his wife Stacey, daughter Sariah and the entire New Home Family Worship Center congregation in celebrating his 19th pastoral anniversary. I pray that Rev. Samuel R. Blakes will continue to be blessed with many more years as a spiritual leader.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3522

Mr. VITTER. Recently the House of Representatives passed, on a bipartisan basis, H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act by Congressman BILL CASSIDY. This bipartisan act that passed the House would keep the President's core promise throughout the ObamaCare debate when he told every American: If you like the health care coverage you have, you can keep it—period, end of story. I am bringing this up in the Senate because it is vital that the President, and everyone who made that pledge, keep that promise, and the bill that was enacted into law would do that.

Again, the bill is limited, focused, and straightforward. It lets small businesses and workers keep their health care coverage if they like it. It provides more affordable health care options for American workers who don't want or can't afford the other ObamaCare mandated plans.

Again, the President and every Democrat who voted for ObamaCare promised that explicitly again and again and again. When that didn't happen—when millions of Americans were kicked off the plan they had and liked and wanted to keep—Americans rightly felt misled. In fact, that led to the President's promise and commitment ''if you like your plan, you can keep it'' being labeled by nonpartisan sources in 2013 as the ''lie of the year.'' This bill would fix that and make it good. It would not repeal ObamaCare. It would fix that part of ObamaCare. It would make that promise good.

The keep your plan bill would let insurers continue to sell those plans that people want to keep that are less expensive and cover basic but crucial needs. At least 2 million people would likely sign up for these plans.

Last fall nearly 5 million Americans all across the country had their health

plans canceled even though they wanted to keep them—even though the President told them they could keep them. In Louisiana, 93,000 received cancellation notices after getting that clear pledge and promise from the President and other supporters of ObamaCare.

Sadly, that hurt isn't over because the employer mandate for businesses that employ 100 or more workers is still coming. When that mandate kicks in in just a few months, we are going to see the same thing happen all over again with millions upon millions of Americans in Louisiana and in every single State getting pushed off the plan they had, they liked, and they wanted to keep. Small businesses are losing the plans they had, they liked, and they wanted to keep.

The bill passed the House, as I said, on a bipartisan basis, 247 to 167, and over 2 dozen Democrats voted to support this bill by Congressman BILL CASSIDY. Even Democrats on the House side see the importance of the legislation.

I ask all of us to recognize this is a crucial element of ObamaCare that needs to be fixed. It absolutely needs to be fixed. Thirty-nine Democrats in the House had previously voted for a similar bill to let Americans keep their plan in the individual market. Senate Democrats scrambled with the administration last year to find some way to let individuals who faced cancellations on the individual market keep their plan, but those cancellations are happening to a lot of folks. It has not been fixed for all those folks by a long shot, and more of those sorts of cancellations are on the way when the employer mandate finally hits.

I urge all of us to come together to pass this bill in the Senate as it has been passed on a bipartisan basis in the House.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3522, which was received from the House. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Reserving the right to object, just bear with me. As the Senator knows, the President set forth a policy to let States, such as Louisiana, take advantage of this opportunity—through the work of the insurance commissioner—to allow those individuals to stay on their plans.

This bill would allow new plans to be offered that do not comply with the ACA—plans that would include the kind of discriminatory treatments that the ACA seeks to cure, such as higher costs for women than men and treatments that are discriminatory against individuals with preexisting conditions. For that reason, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, reclaiming the floor——

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. I think this is very unfortunate. My distinguished colleague alluded to what I know. Let me tell you what I know. I know 93,000 Louisianians were forced off a plan they had, they liked, and they wanted to keep. I know the President of the United States promised them exactly the opposite. I know my Louisiana colleague in the Senate promised them exactly the opposite, and I know thousands of more cancellations are on their way when the employer mandate is enforced. That is what I know.

I hold hundreds of townhall meetings in Louisiana, and that is what I know from talking to Louisianians, and that is why I know this is the central problem of ObamaCare and it needs to be fixed.

The bill passed the House on a bipartisan basis. I find it very unfortunate that we can't bring it up in the Senate on the same basis and pass it expeditiously.

With that, 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.

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

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

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT AND THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, this month America celebrates the 50th anniversary of both the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I am going to spend a few minutes today—and I believe I am going to be joined at various times by a number of colleagues—to talk about the important role these two storied pieces of legislation have played in creating a legacy of protection and access to America's treasures.

First, people may not remember, perhaps given the way some in Congress talk about wilderness these days, but the Wilderness Act had an extraordinary bipartisan push behind it. It passed 73 to 12 in the Senate and 373 to 1 in the other body. Then congressional champions included leading Democrats and Republicans of that time. To celebrate the success of this landmark piece of legislation today—and it is the middle of Wilderness Week—I introduced a Senate Resolution, along with our colleague on the other side of the aisle, Senator SESSIONS, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act.

Just like the original bill, our bipartisan resolution has numerous cosponsors and the support of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle. Part of the beauty of the Wilderness Act lies in the balance that was forged between immediately designating some places as wilderness in 1964 as part of the enactment, while providing a pathway for future designation.

It is that balance that has helped to make the Wilderness Act one of our country's most democratic pieces of legislation in our rich history. By requiring future legislation, it compelled citizen activists to go out at the grass roots level to involve their friends and neighbors to seek permanent protection for the special places that were important to them.

While passing wilderness designations through Congress has been far from easy, the reward has been extraordinary.

Since the act was signed, Congress has designated more than 110 million acres of Federal lands as wilderness and each acre a gift to our future from our past selves.

Next to me a few of those acres are in a photo of Mirror Lake and Mount Hood, part of the Mount Hood Wilderness within the Mount Hood National Forest in my home State of Oregon.

Mount Hood is an Oregon icon. Ava and William Wyden, our twins, 6 years old—pictures available on my iPhone after this discussion—ski there. They have already recognized, at a very young age, that Mount Hood is an icon.

Wilderness, there and across America, has been called the gold standard of conservation, keeping areas under the strongest level of protection the law provides and ensuring that they remain wild for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. By identifying what places deserve wilderness protection in an open, inclusive fashion, the country ensures full public debate, opportunities to bring people together to build a consensus, sensitivity to rural traditions and local economic needs, with an end product being wilderness areas that all Americans can be proud of.

Creating wilderness is not only important for preservationists, it is also crucial for conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts everywhere, and for all those who make a recreation economy hum—the outfitters, the guides, the lodges, and the mom-and-pop diners. The fact is that the recreation economy supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in rural America and generates billions of dollars of economic activity across our country.

That is also where the Land and Water Conservation Fund comes in because it helps to secure and maintain public access to the country's public lands and wilderness areas for recreation and enjoyment.

Also celebrating its 50th anniversary this month is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This exceptionally important program is responsible for protecting areas in all 50 States and our territories. This includes such special places, iconic places, as the Grand Canyon National Park, many of our storied

Civil War battlefields, and numerous national wildlife refuges.

In my home State of Oregon the fund has helped protect many of our most precious outdoor treasures, such as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Crater Lake National Park, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Oregon Dunes. Equally important, the Land and Water Conservation Fund feeds States critical funds that help create and maintain the local parks, the trails, and the recreational facilities.

Every year the Treasury collects billions of dollars of revenue, from offshore oil drilling and other sources of energy production. Out of that total, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is authorized to receive up to $900 million a year.

It is in my view a balanced approach, it is a simple approach, and it is a constructive approach to managing public lands with some of the money the country makes from extracting resources, taking that money and turning it around, and reinvesting it in the country's unique, open spaces.

There are tremendous economic benefits to the investment the fund makes. Nationwide, 98 percent of our counties contain land protected by the fund, and in these places America's outdoor recreation economy generates $646 billion in consumer spending and supports more than 6 million jobs.

Few States enjoy the outdoors more than Oregonians. It is almost as if the outdoors is a part of our gene pool.

We see ourselves as outdoors people, and outdoor recreation accounts for nearly $13 billion in consumer spending in our State, and it supports 141,000 Oregon jobs.

As I mentioned before, in addition to its Federal role, the Land and Water Conservation Fund helps the States. It provides matching grants so that State and local governments can use those funds to build new parks that are going to help struggling cities or towns develop. Or, they can maintain natural spaces that are critical to the quality of life in those local communities.

But the bottom line is, those investments—Federal, State, and local investments—lead to job creation. We know that recreation opportunities drive tourism, especially in our counties where there is a significant amount of protected lands.

Those who are recreating go to the local restaurants, go to the local shops, and they stay in the hotels. Often they look for outfitters and guides.

Economists note that job growth in rural western counties, where there is a significant amount of federally protected land, is four times faster than in areas where we do not have that measure of Federal protection.

These are just some of the many reasons why failing to give the Land and Water Conservation Fund the resources it needs, in my view, would be nothing short of legislative malpractice.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that 80 percent of Americans approve of the program's mission, it has been consistently underutilized, underappreciated and, yes, underfunded. As a result, jobs, growth, and protection—needed protection for these treasures—are left behind.

I plan to introduce two bills that would help to secure the future of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The first bill would provide a 1-year extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the second bill—that I hope to be able to introduce very shortly—would make it permanent because I believe that dedicated, stable funding will ensure our public lands continue to be preserved and accessible to support those recreationists of the future, the conservationists of the future, and the local economic leaders of the future who will prosper as a result of those investments.

In closing I will simply note that we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund as millions of families across the country return from summer vacations to the parks and wilderness areas that these great laws have helped to preserve and enrich.

Children everywhere are sharing stories in their schools about how they went fishing, hiking, and camping in their Nation's backyards.

If realized to their greatest potential, the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund are sure-fire ways to help guarantee that the next generation of Americans will continue to have access to beautiful recreation areas, captivating historic sites, and pristine wilderness. Strong, robust funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund will help grow economies and create jobs in every State nationwide.

Finally, let me note that until recently I had the honor of chairing the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. As chair, I had the opportunity to work particularly with two colleagues who are on the floor now, the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Mr. UDALL, and the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH. It makes me feel very good that they are here because, as Westerners, they see day in and day out what we are talking about with respect to the importance of this program and this extraordinary contribution it has made to the country.

These two great Western leaders, with respect to natural resources, understand it is not only about the past. It is not just about the wonderful half century that I have taken the time to note. These are two leaders—Senator UDALL of Colorado and Senator HEINRICH of New Mexico—who I think are going to be part of the leadership, the leadership that works to protect these two great programs for years to come.

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be on the floor with them.

I had a chance particularly to see some of the treasures in Colorado recently. I can see why Senator UDALL feels so strongly.

New Mexico is one of the few States I have not visited, so I hope I will be able to wrangle an invitation to join Senator HEINRICH.

But I want to leave the floor knowing that as we make this commitment to do all we can to make the protection part of our extraordinary outdoor spaces part of the legacy we leave for our children and grandchildren, the case for these two programs—and advocating for them—is in very good hands with Senator UDALL and Senator HEINRICH.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I wish to begin by thanking the Senator from Oregon. He has been a true leader in the Senate for many years and I know the Senator from New Mexico joins me in thanking him for his leadership and for his partnership.

I rise—as Senator WYDEN has to celebrate the public lands of his State of Oregon—to celebrate the public lands of Colorado. I make the point right out of the gate that our public lands support thousands of jobs across Colorado and they strengthen our special way of life.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wilderness Act. Both of these incredibly successful laws have been instrumental in protecting our public lands for future generations, growing our outdoor recreation economy, and ensuring access to public lands in Colorado and all across the country.

In sum, what I am saying is these landmark laws have touched every corner of Colorado over the past 50 years.

I am very pleased in that spirit to join Senator WYDEN and Senator SESSIONS in submitting a resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

From the snowcapped peaks of the Eagles Nest Wilderness and the desert arches of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, to James Peak—which I worked hard to establish—the Wilderness Act has protected more than 3.6 million acres in Colorado alone. These places have inspired generations of Coloradans and remind us that we don't inherit the Earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children.

Let me turn to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In 1964, some 50 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson worked with the Congress to establish LWCF—the acronym for the Land and Water Conservation Fund—to fulfill a basic promise to the American people.

That promise is, as we develop our oil and gas resources, we will also conserve other special places throughout our country for the next generations.

As we mark 50 years of the program, we can tangibly see, feel, and breathe its success in the 3 million acres LWCF has helped us to preserve as part of 40,000 local park and recreation development projects across all 50 States, as

well as over 4 million acres of public lands managed by the Federal Government.

In Colorado we have seen firsthand how LWCF dollars have helped protect access to the public lands that help define us as a State.

From my position as chairman of the national parks subcommittee, I have seen how these funds have been particularly useful to our parks.

After all, there is no better example than the creation of Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado. This magnificent place was protected by LWCF appropriations that were obtained with very strong local support. Great Sand Dunes National Park protects one of our Nation's great landmarks and is also a critical source of tourist dollars for the surrounding rural communities, and this economic boost is something we have seen all across our State and our Nation.

It is noteworthy that for every dollar coming out of the LWCF fund, we see four times that much created in economic value—$1 equals $4 in economic value—and this investment through the LWCF program is part of the reason we have seen strong growth in America's outdoor recreation industry. When I say the outdoor recreation industry, that is activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, biking—you name it—and those activities have generated over $13 billion. That supports over 124,000 jobs in Colorado alone.

In another vein, LWCF resources have helped States such as ours become more resilient when it comes to national disasters. Last weekend I was in Lyons, CO, one of the towns hardest hit by Colorado's historic 2013 floods. This photograph is one of numerous examples of what we faced for about 3 days last fall a year ago.

Trout Unlimited has shared a story of how LWCF funds were used to help recover from a similar flood in the neighboring Big Thompson Canyon 30 years ago. Back in 1976 local officials had the foresight to make an LWCF purchase of 80 flooded properties and to replace the damaged homes with new parkland which then provided fishing access to the community and critical floodplain protection. That $1 million investment in 1976 helped families who had lost their homes then and avoided an estimated $16 million in property damages in 2013 that would have happened without those preservation efforts.

The Big Thompson Canyon flooded in a similar fashion last year as it did in 1976, but because of the LWCF moneys and the fact that 80 flooded properties were purchased, there weren't buildings and there wasn't human activity in those areas, and we saw the result. It was a way to rebuild smarter and better in 1976, and we are going to do that going forward from 2013's flood.

As a part of that, I was really excited and pleased to hear that the town of Lyons recently received $350,000 of LWCF funding to repair and rebuild the spectacular St. Vrain River corridor trail. Before that trail was destroyed last fall in the flood, it had been used as a regional connector for anglers, cyclists, kayakers, mountain bikers, and many others. This project will now help restore a vital economic asset for the community, and it will ensure access to the river and the river corridor for many generations to come. That is a success story, pure and simple.

LWCF has helped in many other less obvious ways. As we fight to get our kids—and ourselves—to spend less time in front of the television, outdoor recreation is still the best way to stay physically fit and active and emotionally healthy.

This past July I rafted the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area of the Arkansas River. You can see here what a spectacular and unique place Browns Canyon is—an area I have proposed to preserve permanently as the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness. Along on that rafting trip we had a group of veterans, and several of them are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, as we know it. They told me how they use their time outdoors as a part of their healing—again, a success story.

How do we keep LWCF strong? Even though LWCF has been successful by any measure, while enjoying strong bipartisan support, the program has only been fully funded two times since its enacting law in 1964 promised $900 million in annual funding. That is right—only two times out of the last 50 years. LWCF is a victim of the uncertainty of the annual appropriations cycle, which leaves a huge unmet need in Colorado and across our country. That is why I have been fighting—joined by many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—for full, permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I am very pleased to be working with Senator WYDEN, Senator HEINRICH, and others on a fix that would fulfill the LWCF promise. This is a promise to our kids, our grandkids, and all generations down the line, and we have an obligation to keep it.

The good news is that this potential fix would also reauthorize and fund two other programs that are critical to our rural communities: the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program, which is also known as PILT, and Secure Rural Schools. I will talk briefly about both of those programs.

For decades the PILT Program has provided critical funding to nearly 1,900 rural counties to make up for diminished tax revenues stemming from Federal land ownership within those county boundaries. PILT helps ensure rural communities have access to basic services such as law enforcement, education, and health services.

Let me share an example. Ouray County in southwestern Colorado is still recovering from the recent economic downturn and the corresponding 36 percent drop in property tax collection. The county has already cut staff time significantly by reducing county operations to only 4 days a week. Without PILT, that would drop to just 3 days a week. PILT also ensures that the county can hire a sheriff and that students can get to school.

Unfortunately, permanent funding for this program expired, and PILT now experiences the uncertainty of short-term fixes, creating significant planning challenges for Colorado and rural Americans. I was proud to lead the effort last year to extend PILT funding through the farm bill, which delivered $34.5 million to Colorado communities. But here in the Congress we have to do more. We have to confront this annual uncertainty over the future of the PILT Program. That is why I have championed a separate bill to permanently fund PILT. This is also a bipartisan effort, and it is why I have worked with Senator WYDEN to include such certainty in this comprehensive bill today.

I mentioned the Secure Rural Schools Program, and the same could be said of it. Rural Colorado communities rely on the Secure Rural Schools Program to hire teachers and strengthen our education system. In 2013 alone Colorado communities—where one teacher can make or break a school—received $9.5 million through this vital program. So this important bill for our Secure Rural Schools Program would ensure that the Federal Government keeps its commitment to our rural counties to help offset the costs of public education, roads, and other essential services.

We have a dynamic trio of very important programs: LWCF, PILT, and Secure Rural Schools. They help support Colorado's rural communities and our special way of life.

I will conclude with this theme. We are a nation of risk-takers and explorers, always searching for the next challenge to overcome or the next mountain to climb. Our public lands are a reminder of that heritage, and finding the right balance for how to use our public lands is the next challenge to overcome. As we tackle problems such as growing our economy, disaster response, and taking care of our wounded warriors, let's not forget the important role of our public lands and the opportunities they provide for outdoor recreation, our economy, and our health. This year, let's reflect on what President Kennedy called ''intelligent use of natural resources.'' Let's celebrate 50 years of the Land and Water Conservation Fund with bipartisan action for full and permanent funding for LWCF, PILT, and Secure Rural Schools.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, let me start out by righting a wrong. I hadn't realized Chairman WYDEN, our chairman from Oregon, had not had a chance to visit the great State of New Mexico. I will fix that right now and

make sure he is not only invited, but we might seek to show him some of the incredible places the two programs we are talking about today have helped preserve, protect, and make as assets to our local economy in the State of New Mexico.

As we heard from our colleague Senator UDALL and our colleague Chairman WYDEN of Oregon as well, this month we celebrate two incredible milestones in our country's conservation history. We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Both of these programs have been etched into the history of my home State by New Mexico conservationists with names such as Aldo Leopold, Senator Clinton P. Anderson, and Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall.

When Senator Anderson steered the passage of the Wilderness Act here on the floor of the Senate, he said on August 20, 1964:

> In no area has this Congress more decisively served the future well-being of the Nation than in passing legislation to conserve natural resources and to provide the means by which our people could enjoy them. . . . While we stretch out the highways to carry ever-expanding traffic, while we build whole new communities to house a growing population, and while we consume more acreage for a burgeoning industry, we have set aside part of our land as it was when human eye first saw it—unscarred by man, primeval, a memorial to the Creator who molded it.

Senator Anderson was also unquestionably one of the principal architects of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the 88th Congress, where so much of this work was done, was coined as the ''Conservation Congress.''

LWCF is the primary tool our Nation uses to fund the protection of our natural and cultural heritage, and I have worked diligently with my colleagues—including Senator UDALL, his cousin Senator UDALL of New Mexico, Senator WYDEN of Oregon, and others—to secure full and permanent funding for this program.

But even 40 years before the enactment of the Wilderness Act or LWCF, conservationist Aldo Leopold had the vision and influence to help protect 500,000 acres of mountains, rivers, and mesas in New Mexico—which eventually became the Gila Wilderness—in order to ensure a roadless and backcountry experience free of what Aldo Leopold called ''Ford dust'' for those hearty enough to saddle up or hike into the heart of this wild country. With the passage of the Wilderness Act, it became the National Forest System's very first designated wilderness area. New Mexico is also where the idea of tribally administered wilderness became a reality when Blue Lake was returned to Taos Pueblo.

Former Senator Jeff Bingaman's leadership was absolutely invaluable in conserving important public lands in New Mexico, such as the Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks regions, both of which were designated national monuments within the last 2 years.

But the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not just about the past, as we have heard from my colleagues. The future of public lands conservation will depend on the continued collaborative efforts of our elected officials, our business owners, tribal leaders, sportsmen, conservation organizations, outdoor retailers, and others to work together to protect America's most treasured natural landscapes.

Our efforts should continue our proud bipartisan history. After all, it was Representative John Saylor, a Republican from Pennsylvania, who was the lead sponsor and champion in the House of Representatives for the Wilderness Act. And it was former Republican Senator Pete Domenici of my home State who championed legislation to designate the Sandia Wilderness, a place I look upon every time I go home to Albuquerque, and who said at the time that the area ''forms a beautiful natural backdrop for the city which all the residents can enjoy.''

In New Mexico, hunters and anglers, campers and acequia parciantes, chili farmers and urban dwellers, all have a deep connection to the outdoors and benefit from the recreation, wildlife, and the water that wilderness provides. Many of my own most formative moments, decisions, memories, and turning points have occurred in these public wildlands.

I remember a trip with my wife Julie to the Irish Wilderness in Missouri, a trip that we made as we were leaving our college days behind in the Midwest and heading back west to New Mexico to start our new life together. In 2001, shortly after 9/11, I backpacked through 53 miles of the Gilo Wilderness and decided on that trip to run for a seat on the Albuquerque City Council.

I have many cherished memories from the trips my wife and I have made over the years along the spines of the American Rockies, the Sangre de Cristos, the Tetons, in places with names like the Pecos Wilderness, the South San Juan, Jedediah Smith, and canyons with names like Dark Canyon, Desolation Canyon, Gray, Grand Gulch, the Goosenecks, the San Juan, and of course the Chama River Canyon near my home.

Wilderness is in my blood, and I make no apologies for believing that some places are so very special that we will never improve upon them. These are the places worth fighting for.

I am committed to carry on my State's rich conservation history. Senator TOM UDALL and I have introduced legislation to designate special places such as the Columbine-Hondo in Taos County, the San Antonio River and Ute Mountain in the new Rio Grande del Norte National Monument as new wilderness areas. It is clear that conservation and growing our economy are inextricably linked. Protected wild places contribute to the New Mexico economy in a robust and sustainable outdoor recreation community which generates $6.1 billion in consumer spending every year in the State, gives us 68,000 New Mexico jobs, and $1.7 billion in wages and salaries, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

The new Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico has already yielded economic benefits since its designation. After less than 1 year since it was designated a national monument, the local community saw a 40-percent increase in visitors.

As we look back on the last 50 years since the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund both became law, let us also look to the future. My children love wild places as much as I do. My son Carter will be backpack hunting for elk with me later this fall. My son Michael will join me on BLM land to chase mule deer. They have hiked the Columbine Hondo Wilderness Study Area and fished in Cruces Basin Wilderness.

It is up to all of us to ensure that their children have the same opportunities we had and that we have shared with their generation.

I close with a quote from Aldo Leopold's book, ''A Sand County Almanac'':

> When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to commemorate its 50th anniversary this month.

Fifty years ago, in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, the House and Senate passed and President Johnson signed into law the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. And for 50 years now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect and preserve our Nation's outdoor heritage all around my home State of Washington and across the country for our children and grandchildren.

The LWCF contains a set of unique tools that empower local communities to increase public access to open space, conserve forests, and protect wilderness areas. These funds help secure permanent, public access to lands and waterways for hikers, bikers, campers, hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Senator Henry Jackson, from my home State of Washington, was one of the drafters of the original legislation. During debate of the bill on this very floor, he reminded his colleagues of the importance of open space to Americans, that these public lands are ''the places they go to hunt, fish, camp, picnic, swim, for boating or driving for pleasure, or perhaps simply for relaxation or solitude.'' And that description still rings true today.

There are many examples of the LWCF at work in my home State of Washington. LWCF support flowing through its State and local assistance

grants, Forest Legacy Program, Federal Land Management Agency projects, and Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund have helped protect over 120,000 acres of land and create or enhance hundreds of recreational facilities. These funds have gone to a wide variety of projects, from Federal wilderness to private working farms and forests, from scenic rivers to urban water parks. From the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the crest of the Cascades, from the Columbia River Gorge to the Little Spokane River, the LWCF has made my State a better place for future generations.

But a common thread through all these projects has been the way LWCF funding has brought together local public officials, conservationists, farmers, business leaders, forest owners, and engaged citizens to create and enhance public access to open space and natural areas and help keep sprawl in check, all while allowing for sustained economic growth and development. Funding from the LWCF were key in allowing for many of the individual acquisitions needed to achieve this, and I am proud to have supported many of these projects which have helped make these communities' visions a reality.

It is important to remember that it isn't just rural areas in Washington that have been enhanced with resources from the fund. Dozens of projects in the hearts of our cities have given children access to much needed parks, sports fields, and swimming facilities. Families can now enjoy time together picnicking, biking, and even hiking in forests and other habitats, right outside their doorsteps. And we all benefit from the cleaner air and cleaner water that results from these high quality protected lands. Land and water conservation is good for our health, good for our families, and good for our souls.

But we also know it is good for our economy. In 2012, Americans spent over $640 billion on outdoor recreation, and in Washington alone outdoor pursuits supported 227,000 direct jobs.

Our Nation has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources. That is why it makes perfect sense that when we develop some of those energy resources to fuel our economy, we set aside a portion of the royalties generated from that development to protect those other natural resources. But these conservation dollars are more than just outlays, they are also good investments. Studies have estimated that each dollar invested in land conservation returns between $4 and $10 in economic benefits to the economy, and we will see this return on investment for generation after generation.

Even with all the good that we see as a result of the LWCF, there is so much more that we could be doing. That is because in spite of all the benefits that we receive from LWCF spending, Congress has diverted the bulk of these conservation dollars to unrelated programs. We ought to fix that. Next year, the funding authority for the LWCF will expire. We need to permanently reauthorize this program, and create an independent, dedicated stream of funding for it. Doing so will benefit all Americans, both now and for generations to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 7 minutes, followed by Senator CORNYN for up to 10 minutes, and Senator BLUMENTHAL for up to 15 minutes.

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

ISIL STRATEGY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to talk about the President's strategies on combating the threat of ISIL, or ISIS. I applaud the President's recognition that ISIL is a barbaric terrorist group that beheaded Americans. It murders, kidnaps, and tortures civilian populations. It sells women into slavery. It has the stated purpose of attacking America and its allies. It poses a threat, and the President is right that it calls for appropriate action by the international community.

I support and congratulate the President on the selective military strikes that have been done at the request of the Iraqi Government against ISIL's advances, which have held them back, and being able to regain territory that was held by ISIL, protecting civilian populations. I strongly support the President's commitment that there will be no combat ground troops interjected into this combat, and I think the President has done a good job in engaging the international community to work with us so that this is truly an international effort.

Let me comment for a moment, if I might, about military action and that it needs to be restricted. I oppose authorizing military use of force that is open-ended, that could result in the use of ground troops or where we could be asked to carry through or have our military do what the countries where these terrorist groups are located should be doing with their own military. In Iraq, it should be the Iraqi security forces that take on the ground responsibilities.

Let me remind my colleagues, when we went into Iraq—and it was done without my support. I voted against the authorization to go into Iraq. We were told that was going to be a short campaign, that the might of the military of the United States would make that a very quick operation. As we see years later, it took a long time and we are still in Iraq. It must be done with the help of the international community, particularly the countries that are in the region.

I think we have a strong responsibility as Members of the Senate and Members of Congress to revisit the 2001 authorization that was passed by Congress shortly after the attack on our country on September 11, and the 2002 authorization that was used for Americans going into Iraq. I don't think either one of those resolutions is relevant for additional military action today in either Syria or Iraq.

Let me read into the RECORD the appropriate language that was included in the 2001 authorization:

> The President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attack that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons . . .

It is a real stretch to say that authority applies to actions against ISIL today. Therefore, I think it is incumbent. I think we have a constitutional responsibility to act, and I think we must act and make it very clear that there will be no ground combat troops authorized in any action taken by Congress.

In regard to Iraq, the Iraq resolution was passed at a time when the information supplied to Congress was not accurate. It is certainly not relevant to the fact that now there is an independent Iraqi Government. That authorization also needs to be revisited.

Let me remind you, if this administration can use the authority of 2001 and 2002 for using aircraft and military operations by air, what is to say that the next administration—because we know this is going to take a long time—couldn't use that authorization for introducing ground troops in these countries?

So I think it is important that we revisit these authorizations, eliminate the previous authorizations, and make it relevant to the current need. It has to be limited to strategic air missions requested by the Iraqi Government, targeted at protecting civilian populations.

In regard to Syria, I have serious doubt about authorizing military operations. I think we need to have clarification from the administration as to the clear objectives they are seeking to accomplish in Syria. We have to be very careful about the authorization of the use of our military in a country where we are not invited.

Now let me talk 1 minute about timing. The President has article II powers. I don't deny that. So if something were to happen, he has the right to defend our country and use our military to defend our country. He can do that for a period of 60 days. Sixty days from now we will soon be returning for a lameduck session of Congress, so I don't think there is any immediate rush for us to try to get an authorization bill done. But I think we should be working on an authorization bill so we can take it up when Congress reconvenes, and if something happens in the interim, we are certainly available and we can come back in and be ready to act.

America is always stronger when Congress and the administration work together on these issues, and I would

hope we could come together with the appropriate authorization, making clear we will not allow authorization for combat ground troops and that we are very restricted on the use of our air power.

Let me lastly comment about the continuing resolution we will be voting on tomorrow, as I understand it, that gives title 10 power for the arming and equipping of the Syrian opposition. Clearly in that authorization there is no authorization for use of U.S. military force. It is consistent with the action taken by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on which I serve and the resolution I supported that talked about arming and training the vetted Syrian opposition. We did that over a year ago. It was for a different mission; it was for dealing with Assad. This in a way is comparable to dealing with ISIL but also deals with the capacities against Assad. It is limited, to expire on December 11, and I think it is consistent with our mission to deal with our policies in Syria.

As I said earlier, I voted against the Iraq authorization in 2002. I see that we have to be very careful that we do not allow authorization to exist that could be used for a long and costly involvement of the United States.

It is also clear to me that we cannot win the campaign against ISIL by military action alone. We have to have diplomatic support. We have to deal with cutting off the financial aid. We have to deal with cutting off the political support in Iraq. In Iraq we have a representative government. The seeds have been planted. That is what we need to do. That cuts off the support ISIL will need for long-term survival. The international community needs to stay resolved and the United States needs to stay in leadership.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas is recognized.

SENATE PROCEDURE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it has been more than a decade since I first came to this Chamber of the United States Senate. It has become unrecognizable—what has traditionally been a forum for thoughtful debate, amendments, and discussion based frequently on different perspectives that we come to based on our experience or the parts of the country we represent. Unfortunately this Chamber has devolved into one where not much gets done, and when there are votes, they are frequently show votes with the election clearly in mind.

Look no farther than our September agenda. Amid high unemployment, stagnant wages, widespread frustration over the consequences of ObamaCare, and genuine humanitarian and security crises abroad and here at home, our colleagues who control the agenda in the Chamber decided the most urgent order of business was to amend the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution and gut the First Amendment.

As I said at the time, when I went home during the August recess to talk to my constituents, not one of them said: I want you to go back to Congress and I want you to gut the First Amendment guarantee to freedom of speech. This clearly is not at the top of the American people's agenda.

Despite all the challenges facing our country, the majority leader, who controls the agenda on the Senate floor, continues to prioritize election year votes—show votes—over serious legislation.

Back in March, when our Democratic friends decided to promote their so-called ''fair shot'' agenda, the New York Times noted that the exercise was completely political in nature. The New York Times—hardly hostile to our Democratic friends and their policy agenda—put it:

> Democrats can see that making new laws is really not the point. Rather they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.

Meanwhile, the majority leader has prevented millions and millions of Americans from having a real voice in this Chamber. Since he became the majority leader, he has blocked legislation more than twice as often as the majority leaders Bill Frist, Tom Daschle, Trent Lott, Bob Dole, George Mitchell, and I should add Robert Byrd, combined. But he hasn't just blocked Republican amendments, not just those in the minority; he has blocked amendments from the majority party—his own party.

Since July of last year we have had rollcall votes on only 14 Republican amendments and only 8 Democratic amendments. I have to tell you that if my party was in the majority and we ended up getting less votes than the party in the minority, I would be pretty hot about it, and I would have some explaining to do to my constituents. Indeed, the majority leader has allowed so few amendments that one of his fellow Senate Democrats, the junior Senator from Connecticut, recently told Politico: I got more substance on the floor of the House of Representatives in the minority than I have as a Member of the Senate majority.

Our colleagues in the House have sent over scores and scores of bills relating to job creation, taxes, health care, immigration, and other issues only to have Senator REID declare them dead on arrival. No wonder Congress has a 14-percent approval rating. When people see the dysfunction here—primarily in the Senate, since the House is passing legislation and then it dies here because the majority leader refuses to take it up—it is understandable why they are frustrated, just as we are frustrated.

I know it is not just those of us in the minority. Many Democratic colleagues privately expressed their own frustrations about the Senate becoming so dysfunctional. If the majority leader was serious about solving the problems that confront our country, they would not need to look far beyond positive progrowth ideas to address our Nation's most pressing challenges. They would see that Senate Republicans have joined our House colleagues in offering a bevy of thoughtful proposals.

First and foremost we have long stressed the need to pass a progrowth fiscally responsible budget. The Senate—under Democratic control—has not passed a budget since 2009. That is malpractice. We should leave the next generation with more economic opportunity, not more debt. Somebody is going to have to pay that money back. Maybe the young folks who are sitting in the front row—the young pages and their children will have to pay the money back. Americans and small businesses across the country budget responsibly every month and so should their government.

In addition, we pushed sensible progrowth energy policies that enjoy bipartisan support, such as approving the Keystone XL Pipeline and boosting the U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas. We need energy policies that enhance our energy security, reduce prices, encourage investment, and create jobs at home. We also need a regulatory system that fosters economic growth and prosperity, not one that furthers Washington's overreach. Republicans believe we must continue aggressive oversight of the Obama administration's out-of-control regulatory agenda, which is hitting hard-working Americans and their wages while empowering Federal bureaucrats.

Senate Republicans also believe the President's health care law was absolutely the wrong way to expand affordable, accessible, quality health care to more Americans. We believe families and patients should be free to purchase whatever kind of insurance they prefer without having to worry about the government meddling.

We believe future reform should guarantee that health care decisions will be made by patients and their doctors, not by Washington. We believe those reforms should make quality health insurance and quality care more accessible for more people. Here is the greatest irony of ObamaCare—instead of making health care more affordable, it made it more expensive, thus limiting access to care.

On tax reform, we believe our overriding goal should be to lower tax rates for all taxpayers, broaden the base, and simplify the entire system in order to restore America's global competitiveness. We also favor ending ''too big to fail,'' thereby, ending the implicit government backstop and subsidy currently enjoyed by America's largest banks. There are a number of ways to achieve that goal, but we all agree Dodd-Frank did not solve that problem.

Immigration continues to be among the most pressing issues we face, especially given this year's record surge of unaccompanied children coming from Central America and pouring across our southwest border. We understand

that one of America's top priorities is to make sure our laws are being enforced and our border is secure. We share that priority and we will keep advocating the necessary reforms, along with other reforms, to fix our broken immigration system.

We believe there are a lot of good ideas, and they are not the purview of either political party. In fact, we have been sent by our constituents to work in a bipartisan way to try and solve some of America's most pressing challenges, and we view our intellectual diversity as a sign of strength, but we remain united on the core principles and ideas that define our party.

We have had an experiment in big government over the last 6 years and, you know what, it hasn't worked very well. Unemployment rates remain high, the labor participation rate is at a 30-year low, and people have simply given up. The economy should be bounding back rather than knocking along the bottom. We remain committed to tackling our Nation's biggest challenges of promoting greater prosperity for all Americans, and we do that by growing the economy and creating jobs and letting people work hard, as they always have in America, and pursuing their dreams.

Proposals such as the ones I mentioned, many of which enjoy bipartisan support—they certainly have in the House of Representatives—will never see the light of day here as long as the majority leader continues to operate this Chamber like an incumbent protection program.

The American people sent us to take tough votes and solve problems. Indeed, I don't know anyone who would want to be a Senator if we are not allowed to vote and solve problems. The American people certainly deserve a Senate that operates that way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Connecticut.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, recently the Nation has been shocked and horrified by a video showing Ray Rice, a professional football player, knocking out his then fiancee who is now his wife, Janay Rice, and dragging her like a sack of potatoes out of an elevator as it almost closed on her. The Nation was shocked by the callous indifference and disregard for the issue of domestic violence not only by Ray Rice but by the NFL itself, which has fumbled and failed in its reaction from the very beginning.

Indeed, I wrote to the NFL asking for stronger measures after it suspended Ray Rice for a mere two games. Since then it has received the now infamous and notorious video, and he has been suspended indefinitely.

Ray Rice is only 1 of 85 players since the year 2000 who has been charged or cited for domestic violence, and many more were arrested for sexual assault, drunk driving, and other crimes.

This poster shows how the league could field an entire lineup of players who have been arrested for domestic violence and who remain active in the NFL. There are others who are not shown here. Ray Rice is on the field, though he may be suspended indefinitely.

These incidents, and literally thousands of others, are the ugly, brutal, bloody face of domestic violence in this Nation. Not only is it bigger and broader and more painful and serious than Ray and Janay Rice, it affects our entire society. Its victims are throughout the country, and what they need most desperately are more services to bolster their courage and strength to come forward and break the cycle.

I know domestic violence is an issue in Connecticut because I worked to fight child abuse and neglect and related kinds of domestic violence when I served as attorney general. Not only have I worked in courts but also in schools to speak to young men and women.

I have worked with shelters such as Interval House, the largest shelter in Connecticut, which helped to form an organization called Men Make a Difference, Men Against Domestic Violence, which is composed of men as role models. Coaches, former athletes, successful businesspeople, law enforcement types, and broadcasters provide role models and take a stand and speak out against this scourge.

I know the brutal and terrible toll taken by domestic violence in Connecticut and in this country. The economic consequences run into the billions and the searing pain, savage emotional harm, and physical wounds are incalculable. The tentacles of domestic violence reach into every aspect of American life—homes, workplaces, hospitals, and athletic fields.

In Connecticut, the demand for victim support services has steadily increased over the years, and in Connecticut and around the country the need for services has spiked as a result of the Ray Rice video because more women and men have gained the courage and strength to come forward as a result of the national conversation that video has spurred.

As I have continued my work in Congress as a Member of the Senate, I have been deeply troubled, in fact, outraged on occasion, that we authorized barely a pittance of what is necessary to deal with that problem and support those services that are so vital to providing counseling, support, and advocacy.

Just in the past couple of days, I have learned that 30 percent of calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline go unanswered. Congress bears a majority of the responsibility for this lack of resources.

There are heroes in this fight against domestic violence. Some of the advocates, service providers, and people such as Karen Jarmoc, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Kim Gandy, president and CEO of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and most important, the survivors and victims who have come forward and are telling their stories and speaking truth to the power and brutality they faced and confronted and conquered.

In fact, one of the challenges on this issue has always been the secrecy that surrounds it. The video of Ray Rice assaulting and knocking out his wife is the exception that proves the rule. It is the exception because most instances of domestic violence occur behind closed doors in secrecy and often at night and they go unrecorded because in most instances of domestic violence, women are disbelieved, embarrassed, shamed, and stigmatized when they come forward.

The Ray Rice video is the exception that proves the rule. It is the exception of this brutality being shown, but it is the rule that the response is almost always slow and inadequate. Even after Ray Rice was indicted for third-degree assault, Janay virtually apologized for her role in a stage-managed press conference orchestrated by the team—the Ravens—for whom Ray Rice played.

Only after the second video was circulated did the league even approach real action. The prosecutor in this instance said he would not treat Ray Rice more leniently or harshly simply because of his celebrity, which is understandable.

The routine in most courts in America is failure to treat domestic violence as seriously and severely as the crime it is and provide the punishment it deserves. The Ray Rice case was routine and it was done routinely, but that doesn't make it right. So the courts bear a measure of responsibility, along with the Congress.

The NFL is not alone here, but the NFL has a special position of trust. It is one of the most massively influential organizations in America. It employs players who have a massive impact on the attitudes and feelings of young men and women—in fact, Americans of all ages.

The NFL has a position of public trust because of its prominence and power, but it also has a position of public trust because of the special benefits it is accorded under the law. And it is like the NBA, the MLB, and the NHL, which all receive tremendous assistance in putting their brands and their messages before the American people. So it is our responsibility to call on these leagues to ensure that their messages which they can spread so widely because of the benefits they are accorded under our law—to ensure and require them to keep faith with their public trust and public obligation.

The public assistance these leagues receive take a number of very exceptional forms: tax benefits, public subsidies, and local assistance. But chief among them is the antitrust exemption enjoyed by the four major sports leagues. Although large corporations and similar organizations that have the potential to dominate a particular marketplace are generally prevented

from coordinating their activities under our antitrust laws, Congress permits this kind of coordination by professional sports teams, particularly in the area of pooling their broadcast rights and television contracts—the very means that enable them to spread their message and create that public image.

Teams in smaller media markets are able to remain competitive with their larger counterparts because of those benefits and the fact that the governing national leagues can evenly distribute resources—again, through coordination, agreements, combinations that would violate the law for any other corporation.

This exemption was the product of significant debate and analysis in Congress and around the country when it was granted. It was first established in 1961, and the Judiciary Committee noted even then that it was not intended to be absolute and that it was not to be used for unfair competition and that there was a public trust and obligation.

In 1976 the House of Representatives convened what it called a ''Select Committee on Professional Sports'' which prepared detailed reports on ''the large number of off-the-field problems that affected all four of the professional sports,'' including ''both violence that involves participants in the sports as well as violence involving spectators of the sports.'' We know the problems in these leagues include not only domestic violence but also the failure to address injuries such as concussions, drug abuse, and other problems that have been reported.

If anything, in the more than 50 years since the exemption was first granted, the prominence of the four professional sporting leagues in the American media landscape has only increased. The leagues have a tremendous effect, again, reaching into every aspect of American life, on programming, pricing, advertising, and more.

A lot has changed over the past 50 years, not least of which is our understanding of the harms of domestic violence and the importance of workplace policies that protect women, minorities, and other members of society. Yet the NFL's response to the Ray Rice incident came right out of the 1960s—right out of an episode of ''Mad Men.''

Our laws and our practices and our culture must change. Most leagues, most athletes, most managers, and most teams play by the rules on and off the field. But, unfortunately, these deep-seated problems are not new. This special status can no longer be a blank check. It can no longer be granted permanently. It must be reviewable and the teams and the league held accountable. The era of the blank check for sports teams must end. The special benefits must be dependent on the leagues' fulfilling their positions of trust and special responsibility.

I will be proposing legislation to sunset the leagues' special antitrust treatment, ending the blanket antitrust exemption and making it renewable every 5 years. The exemption should depend on the leagues' acting consistently with their public trust and complying with ethical and legal standards that both protect and oversee players and that keep the teams accountable to their fans. Their fans deserve better.

To ensure that Congress has accurate information, my legislation will establish a commission, like many that have existed in the past, to monitor the leagues' record of corporate citizenship. The commission would include representatives with special knowledge of issues that were proven to be a problem for the leagues, such as the heads of the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Surgeon General, and the commission would be responsible for submitting a report to Congress in advance of the vote to reauthorize and renew the antitrust exemption.

Other groups would have an opportunity to be heard and to submit their views, and there would be hearings, meetings, and other exchanges that would give all an opportunity to be heard on this vital topic. I hope the Congress will have hearings as soon as possible on this issue.

I believe the professional sports leagues, and in particular the NFL, have an obligation to adopt policies that train players on domestic violence—more than lip service, more than check-the-box orientation settings—and, most important, to punish acts of abuse and promote awareness of this terrible crime. They have an obligation to act in accordance with due process and establish rules that treat more stringently and strictly this crime of domestic violence, in accordance with standards that give the players the right and opportunity to be heard.

But maybe more importantly than all else, these leagues should be accountable to help the survivors and victims, to provide funds out of the tens of billions in their profits to support these services that are more necessary than ever. They should support the survivors—most of them women—who come forward and have the incredible courage, bravery, and strength to break with a situation of domestic violence. It is at that point of maximum danger and turmoil in their lives that they most need to reach someone and have someone reach them to provide the counseling and advocacy they need and deserve at that moment of turmoil and pain.

Congress, the courts, all of us, have a responsibility to do more and to do better and to demand of professional sports leagues that they do more and do better.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, at some point today or tomorrow the Senate will hastily consider, and likely pass, a massive, hodgepodge spending bill to fund every last Department and program within our Federal Government—even those programs and those Departments we know don't work, even those programs and those Departments where we know there is a lot of abuse and misuse of sacred Federal funds. The alternative, if we can call it even an alternative at all—and the only alternative—is to deny funding for every last Department and every last program within the Federal Government—even those programs and those Departments we know are absolutely essential.

All or nothing—those are our only options, the only options we are given. We have no other choice made available to us. This is government on autopilot or, alternatively, government without an engine.

The problem is that by funding the Federal Government with a massive patchwork spending bill, we force the American people to choose between two equally bad, two equally unacceptable options: Pay for everything in government or pay for nothing at all; either fund the entire Federal Government tomorrow at exactly the same level we are funding it today or fund nothing within the Federal Government, not even to pay our soldiers, our sailors, our airmen, our marines, our judges, or not even to provide care for our veterans or support for the most vulnerable among us.

This kind of all-or-nothing proposition is dysfunctional, it is antidemocratic, and it prevents Congress from doing its job, which, I remind my colleagues, is to represent the American people and to be faithful stewards of their money—of the taxpayers' money—with which they have entrusted their Congress.

During the month of August, I held a long series of townhall meetings across my State, the great State of Utah. Whether I was in Cache County in the northern end of the State or in Washington County in the opposite direction or somewhere in between, the people of Utah, Democrats and Republicans alike, were clear about what they wanted. They were clear about the fact that they were demanding action. They wanted action in Washington. Their concerns weren't always the same. Some worried most about the public lands. Others were anxious about the economy. Many, of course, were troubled by the growing crisis along our southern border.

They were all looking for answers. They were all looking for solutions from someone. Everywhere I went they asked me: What are you going to do? What are you going to do to get our economy back on track? What are you going to do to deal with many of the problems within our Federal Government that seem to go unaddressed for

far too long? I would tell them: As a matter of law and by operation of our Constitution, Members of Congress have certain tools to address all of these concerns, but none of these powers is greater than the power of the purse. This is the power to allocate money, to fund the government, to fund its operations. It is what enables Congress, and only Congress, to reform dysfunctional government.

Encompassed within the power to give money is the power, necessarily, to withhold money. In this case the power of the purse is the most potent and the most effective instrument Congress can use to hold the executive branch accountable.

So when the administration fails to follow the law, as our current administration has done so freely and so frequently, Congress can demand answers and accountability by using the power of the purse as leverage.

As several of these townhall conversations continued, in the course of those townhall conversations, I began to notice that at this point in my answer, many people began to look hopeful—hoping that perhaps something could actually get done in Washington; hoping that perhaps some of the problems within our Federal Government could be corrected, could be reined in, could be turned around and set on a better course—but then I would have to break the bad news, and here is the bad news.

I would have to tell them all those things their representatives should be able to do and have an obligation to do—such as fixing broken government programs and ensuring the solvency of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and impeding lawless actions by the executive branch—but simply cannot get done because the Democratic leadership in the Senate insists that our Federal Government operate on autopilot.

This is the problem with the continuing resolution. When Congress has only one opportunity to exercise its power of the purse by voting for or against an all-or-nothing spending package and an all-inclusive, all-or-nothing spending bill, Congress has essentially no opportunity to exercise its power of the purse—at least not in a meaningful way, at least not in a way that enables Congress to demand accountability from Government.

In the continuing resolution we will consider tomorrow, there are several provisions that deserve their own consideration and debate, such as reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, extending the Internet Tax Freedom Act, and authorizing military action in Syria. None of these measures—and certainly not something that could put American lives at risk—should be hurried through on an all-or-nothing vote.

This is why the continuing resolution matters for everyone in this country. It is the principal reason our government is so dysfunctional and so unaccountable. A government on autopilot leaves Congress effectively paralyzed—powerless to implement meaningful government reforms and powerless to hold the President and the President's administration accountable for their actions.

This is not how government is supposed to operate. This is not how this government is ever supposed to be allowed to operate. It doesn't have to be this way. There is a better way. Indeed, as you can see on this chart, until just a few years ago, the better way was the only way. The House has done this and it is still doing it today.

Let me explain what this demonstrates right here. Freestanding appropriations bills that were passed by the Congress for fiscal year 2006—we had 11 separate individualized freestanding appropriations bills. To put that in context, that is more freestanding independent appropriations bills than Congress has enacted in all of the fiscal years ever since then—just in one year. That, of course, used to be the norm. It no longer is. In fact, lately, we are not doing any of these things.

It is important to point out that the House of Representatives still routinely passes freestanding appropriations measures. For fiscal year 2015, the upcoming fiscal year, the House of Representatives has passed seven such bills. The Senate has passed zero. Not only has the Senate passed none of its own free-standing appropriations bills, it has refused even to vote on any of the seven appropriations bills passed by the House of Representatives.

The fact is that before the Democratic leadership took control of the Senate, Congress would spend most of its time during the spring and summer of each year discussing, debating, amending, and eventually figuring out how much taxpayer money to spend and on what. Congress would consider separate spending bills, one by one, individually. Each of these bills would allocate a certain amount of money to fund the Departments, the agencies, and the programs within a certain area of government, organized by government functions such as defense, transportation, homeland security or health care.

Each spending bill originated in one of the corresponding subcommittees in the House and in the Senate. This is what we call the appropriations process. It makes sense that it would take up most of our time because as Members of Congress we have a solemn obligation to represent the people and to be faithful stewards of taxpayer money—of the money that many Americans spend many months of their lives each year just to earn so that they can send it to Washington, DC.

The American taxpayer deserves better. The American taxpayer should be able to expect more out of Congress. Instead, they have come to expect so much less.

That is how Congress used to operate, according to its own rules, according to historic precedent, and—more to the point—according to basic principles of common sense. Alas, times have changed. What Congress used to deliberate on for months, we now rush through in a single afternoon without opportunity for amendment, without opportunity for a full debate.

What used to be the subject of open and robust debate is now trivialized and treated as a mere formality, as a mere technical requirement to be dispensed with and discarded as quickly as it arrives.

The American people deserve better. Indeed, as I discovered while visiting with the people from one corner of Utah to the other, the American people demand that we do better. I think we can do better. In fact, I know we can. We have in the past. We will in the future, but we have to get the regular order appropriations process back on track.

We need to dispense, once and for all, with this mindset that says we are going to fund the government with one bill. You are going to have one opportunity to vote on any and all matters relating to the funding of the Federal Government. It is a binary choice. We fund everything at current levels or we fund nothing. We keep it running just the way it is with no opportunity for meaningful reform or we don't fund anything at all and we accept all of the heartache and all of the difficulty that goes along with this. This is wrong. It violates our laws and violates our procedures and it violates common sense.

We as a Congress have asked the American people over and over to expect less. I am here to tell each of my colleagues that it is time for the American people not to expect less. It is time for the American people to expect more. They are expecting more. They are expecting freedom. They are expecting for us to honor them by debating and discussing and voting on how we are going to spend their money.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Montana.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I was born during the baby boom in Butte, MT. It was a boom time for our economy. Millions of kids such as me grew up expecting the boom years to go on forever. Things weren't always easy, especially in a tough blue-collar town like Butte. But it was still easier in those days to believe that the American dream was within your grasp. Put in your time and you can earn a good living. Work hard and you can play hard.

Unfortunately, I am less confident in the American dream for today's young people unless politicians can put their partisanship aside and put the interests of this country ahead of their own. I am hopeful that this Congress can once again behave like statesmen from half a century ago, when the boom times of the 1960s also produced restraint. I grew up in the morning shadow of the continental divide. Butte was

surrounded by some of the best fly fishing in North America and huge areas of land known as primitive areas.

Some of those blue-ribbon streams were separated by the smallest of divides from the most polluted waters in America. Some of those primitive areas shared borders with the most valuable hard rock mines and timber cuts in the country. Those same resources continue to support thousands of jobs in Montana. But the boom times of the 1960s proved how wasteful and damaging unlimited production can be.

Today I applaud the lessons of restraint. This month is the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act. Senators on this same floor in 1964 turned the primitive areas and administrative wilderness areas of Montana and 12 other States into permanent protected areas.

That same year they also passed the visionary Land and Water Conservation Fund. Several of the original wilderness areas are in Montana, including one of the largest, the Bob Marshall Wilderness. In Montana we just call it the Bob. Imagine a Congress with the foresight to create a whole category of restraint. Anyone that says the American dream is gone for good has never visited the Bob.

Last month I had the opportunity to hike with a local group of Montanans up 2,000 feet to Headquarters Pass on the Rocky Mountain Front. On the trail, we met a herd of mountain goats. When we got to the pass, we stood under the windy shoulder of Rocky Mountain peaks and looked into the Bob.

Today I am the proud sponsor of an important made-in-Montana bill that would keep this land the way it is and add to the legacy of 1964. The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, first introduced three years ago, would protect almost 300,000 acres of public land. Today I urge my colleagues to move a public lands package forward this year in order to reward the collective efforts of so many Americans who work so hard on bills like the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act.

The American dream today has a new challenge because of the Wilderness Act. A small portion of our public lands has been set aside and made available forever for all Americans to enjoy in Montana. We call this our outdoor heritage. Despite news stories about the perennial and terrible idea of giving away this heritage, support for public lands in Montana remains deep and wide. The reason goes to the heart of what it means to be American. The American dream isn't just about having a job. It is about where we live and how we live.

In Montana, our public lands to support trout or elk or whatever adventure Montanans seek are part of that dream, whether they are a boilermaker, a teacher or an outfitter.

It doesn't hurt that tourism has become a huge part of our economy in Montana. Today outdoor recreation supports 64,000 jobs in our State and almost $6 billion in revenue each and every year. Like many Montanans, I am frustrated with how long it takes to conduct a timber sale or complete an environmental analysis on potential projects.

We need to get our forests healthy and working again, creating good jobs and making our forests more resilient to wildfires. Even simple projects get tied up in redtape and our rural communities and the land itself suffer for it. But this frustration should not blind us to our incredible heritage of untrampled public land owned by you and me and every American.

Rather than government shutdowns and public land selloffs, I urge this Congress to find the same wisdom to look ahead 50 years from today. We need to support local collaboration and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Bills such as the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, the North Fork Watershed Protection Act, the East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act deserve every Senator's support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. CORKER. It is my understanding the leader is on his way down. I have a unanimous consent request that I would like to offer. I know that he wants to say a word. I will preliminary make some comments. When he gets here, out of respect for his time, I will ask that unanimous consent request.

Let me move on by saying that the President gave a speech a week ago. We have a hearing today in the Foreign Relations Committee. Secretary Kerry and others will assess our strategy in Iraq and Syria related to ISIL.

I just want to say these obviously are very important decisions. One of the pieces of this strategy is that instead of the President coming and asking for an authorization for the use of military force—which, in my opinion, is the sound judgment, to come and ask us for that support so the American people are behind this effort, by virtue of the House and Senate taking that up. They are not going to do that. Instead they are asking for the authority to do a very, very small piece of that, which is to train and equip some members of the moderate, vetted Syrian opposition and to do so in the country of Saudi Arabia.

So they are asking for an authorization to do that overtly. It is something about which many people have questions. It is something that for many years, for some time, I have supported and actually been disappointed that the administration has left hanging the people of Syria whom we encourage now to take on Assad.

So that is a very important vote, a vote that all of us should take as a freestanding vote. But instead what is getting ready to happen is coming over from the House is a continuing resolution bill that funds the government. So instead of voting on the continuing resolution, which is a totally separate matter, and voting on arming the vetted moderate opposition the way the President has requested, as a separate vote so, No. 1, we have the opportunity individually to weigh in on those two measures separately, as the House is doing right now—instead, what is going to happen, as I understand from the majority leader, is we are going to take up that vote in a combined way. I think that is a poor way to run the Senate. It is a poor way for the people of the United States to understand where we are on important issues.

Just to give an example, I do not support the funding levels in the CR. I voted against the Murray-Ryan budget. I couldn't believe that in such a short amount of time we were willing to do away with the budget caps we thought so important to the fiscal well-being of this Nation. So I do not support the funding levels for the continuing resolution and had planned to vote against it.

Now there is a piece in it that is an important foreign policy piece that I think needs further debate, where we are authorizing the arming and training of the moderate opposition through December 11 as a part of this bill. That, to me, is an inappropriate way for us to do business. I think every Member of this body ought to have the opportunity to vote on each of those.

So the request I am going to make when the leader gets here is not to change any of the wordage—I realize time is of the essence. We have two bodies that sometimes do not act in concert in appropriate ways. But my unanimous consent request is to ask that properly these be separated, the language be identically the same.

So what I have done is I have at the desk a bill that lays out the authorization for arming and training the vetted moderate opposition in Saudi Arabia and other places. I have that exact language that is coming over from the House so that the Presiding Officer, myself, and others can weigh in on that issue. Once that issue is dealt with—again, it would take 15 or 20 or 30 minutes for that to occur—we could then move over to the continuing resolution, which, again, has a different set of supporters, generally speaking.

So I do wish this body would debate the issues of great importance to our Nation. I know that in this hearing with Secretary Kerry, on both sides of the aisle there are numerous questions about how this strategy is going to work in Syria and how, with no ground force on the ground and us planning to train people in a very short amount of time, a very small amount of people—we are not going to give them very sophisticated equipment—how that ground game, that ground effort is going to be effective. I wish this body would take that up and debate it. To me, it is an important issue. It is an

issue that I have supported for some time. At the same time, the efficacy of it has changed.

One of the things that is fascinating to me—General Dempsey yesterday: All of a sudden, we are going to train them.

By the way, they have been organized because they want Assad out. They have been fighting against Assad in Syria. But we are going to train them to fight ISIS or ISIL, which has not been the rallying entity for the Free Syrian Army to organize.

So, look, I plan to support publicly, as I am right now, this first phase of arming and training them because I have been pushing for it for so long. I worry about its efficacy. It seems as if the goals of it now are very different. But I am OK authorizing that until December 11 and we can hear more about it. But I do not support the funding levels in the CR. This is not an appropriate way for us to do business.

I am going to ask unanimous consent—I hope the majority leader is going to be here in a minute. I would like to get back to the hearing on Syria that we are having in foreign relations. I understand he may well be on the way.

With that—as a matter of fact, I may pause for a minute. Let me just make a point I made earlier with Secretary Kerry at the hearing. I do not want to debate whether the President has the legal authority to conduct a war, a multiyear war, a war that many people say may take up to a decade in another country against another enemy. I do not want to debate whether he legally can do that. I know he is tying himself to the 2001 authorization, which I assure you no one was contemplating. But I do not want to debate that. I know there are all kinds of article II people—all kinds of people who believe the President can do almost anything he wishes relative to military engagement.

I just want to talk about how lacking in judgment it is for three people—the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State—to attempt to do this over a multiyear period, in a different country, with a different enemy, and not come to us. That lacks in judgment. That lacks in judgment because bad things are going to happen. Mistakes are going to be made. Five hundred thirty-five Monday-morning quarterbacks make no sense. Holding the country together is what is important. So selling that plan, selling the details, having us have the opportunity to tease out and understand how this is going to work is an important part of the process that they are skipping.

I see the majority leader is here. I know he is busy. I thank him for coming to the floor.

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the two leaders prior to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, the CR, that the Senate proceed to the consideration of my bill—the exact same language as coming over from the House—which is at the desk—that is the same language as included in the CR regarding Syria; that there be up to 4 hours of debate followed by a vote on passage of my bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my friend from Tennessee is a fine Senator. He has the interests of the State of Tennessee every step of the way and, of course, our country. So my statement here has nothing to do with the kind of man he is and the kind of Senator he is.

I have just left my office, where I watched the second of three votes in the House. The House has voted on the continuing resolution. It passed by an overwhelming margin over there. The purpose of that is to stop another government shutdown. The continuing resolution includes language on training and equipping the Syrian opposition. That bill will come over here in a matter of an hour or two. The House has chosen how it wishes to address these two matters; that is, the CR and arming and training the Syrian rebels.

As my colleagues know, in order to make a law, you need the Senate to pass something and the House to pass something or vice versa. Then, of course, it is signed by the President. They have to be identical. If we wish to prevent a government shutdown, we have to pass this continuing resolution the House will send us. I have had conversations with the Speaker, and he has been very strong in stating what they are going to do over there.

Senate committees are in the process—one of the committees the Senator from Tennessee is the ranking member of—in the process of holding hearings on whether an authorization to use force is necessary and if so, how it should be crafted. So I look forward to Foreign Relations deciding what legislative action to take on this matter. But in the meantime, we should pass the House-passed continuing resolution which includes the language on training and equipping the Syrian opposition and present the people here an up-or-down vote on what we get from the House of Representatives.

We cannot have another government shutdown. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to thank the leader for coming down and thank him for agreeing to a time when we both can be here.

I do want to say that we could deal with it exactly in the way that I laid out and keep the government from shutting down because we would be passing exactly the same language.

But I understand. I talked privately with the majority leader about this. I understand people do not want to do that over in this body. They do not want to separate the two. I know that the majority leader—that is his right, to object to dealing with these issues in the same language that I laid out. I do appreciate him coming down. I disagree very strongly with this approach.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I believe under the regular order that I will be recognized for up to 30 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized.

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

ISIL THREAT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, with all the things that are going on right now, I am particularly interested in the hearing we had yesterday on ISIS. It was a big deal. I applaud General Dempsey for his honesty in talking about how serious this war is that we are embarking on right now. The fact is that we have a mess, and ISIS has tripled in the last 3 months, up to now well over 30,000 troops, with tanks, heavy artillery.

This is not—I know the President has tried to make people believe this is just another rag-tag terrorist operation like Al Qaeda or the Taliban. It is not. This is war. This is a real serious thing that we are in the middle of.

I do applaud General Dempsey and also Secretary Hagel for their honesty in the committee hearing. It was difficult for them when the President talks about no troops on the ground, no troops on the ground. We know we already have troops on the ground.

I think the American people have had a wake-up call. I believe they understand how serious it is. In fact, there were two polls out last week. One of them was a poll that 70 percent of the American people know how serious this is and that ISIS could affect and would affect and is affecting our homeland. That was a big thing, that 70 percent of the people in America understand that. Just yesterday the Wall Street Journal poll came out, along with ABC, and they said the same thing: 70 percent of the people know this is something that affects our homeland.

When they talk about troops on the ground—I remember asking the question during the hearing yesterday. I said to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Martin Dempsey: If the President said no troops on the ground, what if your airstrikes—if something happens to one of those planes and we have the problem that one of the pilots is bailing out. Are you saying that we do not have troops on the ground to ensure his or her safety?

He said: Absolutely we will.

So the point is that has been a question that people have to understand, that this is war. We have to win it. We can't take another chance.

THE ECONOMY AND OVERREGULATION

But that is not why I am here. I think because of the distraction of ISIS and all of these other things, a lot of people have forgotten the serious problems that are hampering our economy; that is, what this President has done through the overregulation that takes

place. Since he first took office and failed to achieve his signature cap-and-trade legislation, he has been working tirelessly to try to do what he couldn't do through legislation with regulation. The regulations received most of the attention because they are the most expensive.

I first started in 2003, and I remember so much in the Senate. In 2003, at that time Republicans had a majority. I was the chair of the committee that had the jurisdiction. They started off in 2003 with the first cap-and-trade legislation, and we defeated it. We defeated it ever since that time. One reason we defeated it was I was able to find out—and I didn't know this in the beginning—that people said: Global warming is real, there are all these bad things, and we are all going to die.

Yet from the costs we determined—and this came not just from me but from others who were interested, but universities such as MIT came out with a study, the Wharton School of Economics came out with one, and Charles River Associates. They all had the cost of this cap-and-trade somewhere between $300 billion and $400 billion a year.

Every time I hear a large figure, I look at the population in my State of Oklahoma and see what that cost means to a family. In my State of Oklahoma, $300 billion to $400 billion a year would be a permanent tax increase for the average family in Oklahoma—that files a Federal income tax—of $3,000 a year.

When we get to these numbers, we look and we realize this is going to be very expensive and no one wants anything to do with greenhouse regulations when the cost is so high.

I will show later on that it wouldn't accomplish anything, anyway. That is probably why the recent polls, such as the Gallup poll on global warming, have it on the bottom of the national priority list. Their last poll is a poll of 15 things to be most concerned about, and global warming and climate change registered No. 14 out of 15.

The people have understood—it is as if they understand now what is going on with ISIS. They know what the truth is.

The Pew Research Center showed that 53 percent of Americans either don't believe that global warming and climate change are occurring or they say if it is, it is natural causes.

This has been going on. This is what has bothered me. I can remember—and I am going from memory now—but I used to use the example, back when we first started looking at this subject, as to how this is a cyclone that has been going on for recorded history.

In 1895, we were in a cooling period, basically. They were referring to it as the little ice age at that time—I could be wrong. But, anyway, that endured until 1918. Then in 1918, it turned into a warming time and that went all the way up through 1945.

This is what is significant. In 1945, we started another cooling period. It happened that 1945 was the year that was recorded as the year when it had the highest amount of CO_2 emissions, and that precipitated not a warming period but a cooling period. Of course, that went on up to about 1975 when we went to the other side, where we have actually entered into a cooling area. Everybody knows that.

God is still up there. We have always had these seasons. People would like to think somehow it is man who is doing it. They don't want any progress. They don't want people to be able to generate electricity and energy to take care of our needs.

While my friends on the other side of the aisle act as though public debate has been settled on the issue, obviously it is just the opposite of that. It probably explains why it has been difficult for Tom Steyer to raise the full $100 million he promised to help Democrats win elections this fall.

We remember in February that he announced he would put up $50 million of his own money—and then he did—and that he would raise another $50 million. It would be $100 million that he would put in campaigns for incumbents who would agree to try to resurrect the global warming issue—because it has died in the eyes of the American people—and try to stop the pipeline.

He did this, and the trouble is he is not able to raise the other $50 million. The last count was it is only $1.7 million he has been able to raise from outside donors. Nonetheless, of course, he has his own $50 million. Regardless, we know he is spending the money he has, even though he hasn't raised other money.

We can see on this chart a quote where he said—that is a picture of Tom Steyer. He is not a bad guy and all of that, he is just far left, and he has a lot of money. He said:

> It is true that we expect to be heavily involved in the midterm elections. . . . we are looking at a bunch of . . . races. . . . My guess is that we'll end up being involved in eight or more races.

So Tom Steyer's goal is, as I said, to try to resurrect the global warming issue and try to stop the Keystone Pipeline.

I think it is an appropriate time to talk about the hypocrisy on the left over political spending. We spent all of last week debating a constitutional amendment to limit political speech that is currently protected under the First Amendment. Democrats are talking about the Koch brothers, and people are not aware that this type of activity was from a man named Tom Steyer, by his own admission.

Someone asked me the other day—I think we were on the floor. I was the only Republican to come down. It was kind of fun. They were having their all-night session. I made the statement: If there is anyone with insomnia at home who is not asleep yet, this is a good way to do it. I made the comment that this is something we know is going on.

I stated that with all these races that are out there, they are trying to do something in order to elect people to try to go back to what they failed to be able to get. I think it is an appropriate time to get through that hypocrisy.

Recent news reports have surfaced and described the Democracy Alliance. That is an organization that aims to organize the policy objectives and funding streams of the leftwing liberal establishment.

According to an internal memo that was leaked to the press a few weeks ago, the Democracy Alliance for the past 9 years ''has aligned donors, leaders in the progressive movement, [that is liberal] and political infrastructure in order to achieve victories at the ballot box and in policy fights including those for comprehensive health care reform, Supreme Court confirmations . . . ''

This influence is estimated to be between $600 million and $700 million.

The Washington Post recently had this chart. It is kind of hard to read, but in the Post it was obvious because each one of those dots is a liberal political organization. They all joined together and that is called the Democracy Alliance.

Again, this was 161 plus 21—182 organizations are part of this alliance. It details all of their agendas and how they are being coordinated by the political Democratic agenda by the Democracy Alliance. We will recognize most of the names on the list. It includes the Center for American Progress, Media Matters for America, America Votes, and even Organizing for Action which, incidentally, is President Obama's political campaign arm.

In April, this group convened a secret meeting in Chicago to huddle with its deep-pocketed donors to craft a strategy in messaging for this coming year's elections. It was shrouded in secrecy, and the memo prepared for attendees—all the people on this list who were coming in to meet in Chicago—warned them of interacting with political reporters. In fact, it included a pages-long list of reporters who are expected to try to crash the conference, along with the photos, so folks could be on the watch for these people.

The names of the people attending and involved were not going to be disclosed to the public, nor would any details be released about the discussions that were taking place.

Tom Steyer and the Democracy Alliance are acting like a cult, even as the Democratic left pushes for the institution of a new constitutional amendment. We now know that initiative was nothing more than a political sham.

At the end of the day, the liberal left wants an aggressive, secretive, political machine operating on its behalf, and it looks as though they have what they need in the Democracy Alliance.

The key selling point for the Democracy Alliance pitch to its contributors is the inseparable link to the deep connections with the Obama White House administration. The Democracy Alliance firmly believes it is in the driver's

seat when it comes to setting policy for liberals in Washington, and it wants its donors to know it.

There is nothing wrong with this. We have had differences of opinion and philosophy, and that is why we have political parties. This is more extreme than anything I have seen and more organized.

One of the key goals of the Democracy Alliance is to promote ''an environment that keeps our kids safe.'' This explains why the administration continues to push an extremist agenda of environmental mandates that will crush our economy.

This is where Tom Steyer has really succeeded in being part of the Democracy Alliance. He has managed to convince Democrats in the Senate to hold more than one all-night vigil on global warming, and these have come as the United States has been enduring one of its coldest years yet.

Just this month so far, NOAA, of the Commerce Department, has reported 246 record cold temperatures. Wyoming already has right now 20 inches of snow in some places, and it is unseasonably cold in Washington, DC.

One of these colder areas, my city of Tulsa, OK, on Saturday set a record cool high temperature. It only reached 65 degrees. It has never happened before, so it is not cooperating very well with trying to convince people the world is coming to an end because of global warming.

It also explains why the President is continuing to aggressively try to implement greenhouse regulations after failing to accomplish this goal legislatively. These regulations will effectively prevent any coal-fired powerplant from being constructed and force our Nation into relying substantially on expensive renewable resources.

Regulations such as these would take us in the direction of Europe, which in many instances has experienced electricity prices three times as high as they are in the United States. They have been ahead of us in trying to stop fossil fuels and in trying to stop nuclear energy. The rates their people are paying are now three times higher than ours.

If anyone doubts these rules will have a negative impact on our economy, just look at Australia. Australia imposed a carbon tax on their economy a few years ago and it caused horrendous damage. It caused $9 billion in lost economic activity per year and destroyed tens of thousands of jobs. This is in Australia. This just happened. It was so bad that the government in Australia recently voted to repeal the carbon tax. Remember all the talk about the fact: Oh, Australians are leading the way and they are going to have a carbon tax, we should be following them. Now they have repealed that by an overwhelming vote and their economy is now better for it. In fact, it was announced last week that Australia experienced record job growth last month of 121,000 jobs. They said this is because they have repealed this carbon tax they had passed. They credit this success to the repeal of the carbon tax in addition to these greenhouse regulations.

I think it is important for us to recall the many other regulations this Obama administration has already imposed on the American people and discuss all of the new regulations that have not yet come out, but they are working on it. Some of these regulations they are holding off until after the elections so the people would not know the cost of the regulations and how many jobs are going to be lost.

The first we need to remember is Utility MACT. By the way, MACT means maximum achievable controlled technology. In other words, what technology has told us we could do to try to control these releases.

Utility MACT was the first one they successfully passed. In this case, the EPA established a standard that was impossible for utilities to actually meet.

This regulation is inappropriate under the Clean Air Act, and it is having a $100 billion annual impact on the economy and destroying 1.65 million jobs. They have already done it. They were able to pass it along party lines.

The EPA has already finalized similar regulations for industrial boilers and cement kilns. Together, those regulations are having an impact of more than $63 billion on the economy and they have destroyed 800,000 jobs and may result in the shutdown of 18 cement plants around the country. No one has refuted these figures.

In another section of the law, the EPA put a rule together, knowing it would increase the cost of gas. The rule is known as the Tier 3 rule, and it regulates the amount of sulfur that can be in gasoline when it leaves the refinery.

Tier 2 standards were put in place back in the early 2000s. That resulted in a 90-percent decline in the sulfur content of gasoline by 2010. That is already behind us, and it had a positive, measurable impact on the environment.

The need for a Tier 3 standard is not articulated very well. In fact, EPA did not have any unique scientific data to support the key benefits of this rule, and the EPA ignored the fact that it would actually increase greenhouse gas emissions. So they are going to increase greenhouse gas emissions with the rule they are still putting forth and be counterproductive. Talking about the Tier 3 rule, EPA stated that ''this rule will increase the cost of gasoline.''

Furthermore, the EPA recently finalized a rule called the 316(b) water rule. This rule regulates the cooling water systems used by powerplants and other major industrial facilities to prevent their operations from overheating. So they use water. The EPA and the Fish and Wildlife Service were worried about the impact these facilities were having on fish, and so they put out a rule to help. In the rulemaking, EPA again states that ''the final rule will increase electricity costs.''

Worse is the fact that EPA could not even fudge its numbers enough to present a positive cost-benefit ratio. In its final rule, the stated costs are $300 million, which is about 10 times the estimated benefits of the rule, which are only $28.6 million. This violates the President's own Executive Order 13563, which states that agencies must ''propose or adopt a regulation only upon a reasoned determination that its benefits justify its costs.''

That is another problem we have with this administration. They will add rules, they will add laws, and they violate these laws—just like when he turned loose the five terrorists from Gitmo. We had passed, in fact, knowing he was going to try to get rid of people in Gitmo—and he took the five who were the very worst—we had passed a law saying he can't do that until he gives the Senate Armed Services Committee 30 days' notice and gives us a chance to respond and stop him from doing it. He totally ignored it, just as he ignored these regulations.

Worse yet, this rule has no human health benefits. Its only beneficiaries are fish. So EPA is putting out a rule that will increase electricity costs, including for those who live on fixed incomes, all for the sake of saving a few fish.

Another rule EPA has done since President Obama began his administration is the regional haze rule. These regulations were established to improve the visibility of national parks, and States were instructed to develop their own plans—known as State implementation plans—in order to comply. My State of Oklahoma did this, but EPA overturned it because of a technicality associated with its economic analysis. When EPA did this, it instituted a Federal implementation plan, and in this case it cost over $1 billion to execute or nearly 10 times the amount of the State-based plan that had been developed cooperatively with our utility companies. This is the kind of uncooperative relationship we have come to expect when working with the EPA.

Beyond the greenhouse gas regulations, the one receiving the most attention is the waters of the United States rule. Nearly every group from Oklahoma is talking about this rule because it would extend the powers of the Federal Government over millions of new acres of land.

Just last week I was in Guymon, OK; El Reno, OK; and Boise City, OK. Boise City is the farthest west, largest city out in the panhandle. It is kind of sandwiched between Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and Texas. They are all in western Oklahoma. This is an arid part of the country. They are in their third year of their drought right now, but the new rule would declare much of this area as a Federal waterway subject to the onerous Federal regulations. This would impact every industry—farming, ranching, oil and gas,

construction, transportation—everything.

Tom Buchanan happens to be the president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. I asked him a question in a kind of townhall setting that we had not too long ago.

I said: What is the biggest problem we have in agriculture in Oklahoma?

He said: The biggest problem has nothing to do with the farm bill. The biggest problem we are facing right now is the overregulation by the EPA and what they are doing with endangered species, what they are doing with the containment of fuel on farms, what they are doing with the water rules they have. That is the biggest problem.

I was with Terry Detrick, president of the American Farmers and Ranchers, and he agrees that the biggest problem farmers in America are having right now is the overregulation of the EPA.

The EPA has said it will work with industries to make sure it works for them, but we know from experience this won't be possible. It is not going to happen. Their goal is to take over, to control and leave no room for negotiation.

Another devastating regulation being developed by the EPA is the ozone NAAQS standard. NAAQS means national ambient air quality standard. It was last set at the end of the Bush administration at 75 parts per billion. The EPA has been working since President Obama took over the White House to lower this standard.

In 2011 the President cancelled EPA's plans to lower the ozone standard because it was going to hurt his reelection chances. But now that he has secured that reelection, he is ready to start it up again.

The EPA staff and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee—CASAC—recently recommended that the Administrator propose to lower the NAAQS level to between 60 and 70 parts per billion.

This chart shows how much of the Nation would be out of attainment if EPA lowers the standard to 60 parts per billion. In Oklahoma, all 77 counties would be out of attainment. What does that mean? I was mayor of the city of Tulsa once when it was out of attainment. We were not able to increase populations in many of our businesses.

It essentially means the EPA will have to issue a regulatory permit for any business expansion plans that could increase emission levels. It would make business expansion enormously expensive and would dramatically increase the power of the EPA. All told, this rule would put nearly 94 percent of the counties' populations of the United States of America out of attainment zones and would cede our economic superiority to the likes of China and India.

Zooming in to more industry-focused regulations, the EPA has been the main culprit in the President's war on fossil fuels. Hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have opened up dramatic new oil and natural gas resources in this country that no one thought we would ever be able to profitably extract.

By the way, hydraulic fracturing was actually developed in my State of Oklahoma, in Duncan, OK, in 1949. So this is something that is going on. In spite of this, they are trying to use hydraulic fracturing to stop the successful increases we have been able to have in the wells.

Lisa Jackson was the first EPA Administrator under Barack Obama. I remember asking her the question: If we were to do something with hydraulic fracturing, has there ever been a documented case in the United States that hydraulic fracturing is damaging to groundwater?

She said: No, it is not. There has never been—her actual exact words—any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water.

So if we eliminate this, it is not going to save anything because it is not going to create any problems. And this doesn't come from me; it comes from the Administrator of the EPA, appointed by President Obama. Regardless, the EPA is moving full force to regulate hydraulic fracturing. At one point during the administration, there were a total of 13 different agencies working to do this. The Bureau of Land Management is one of them. It is my understanding that their regulations are being finalized, and it could cost producers as much as $100,000 per well. Keep in mind that every time they talk about what it is going to cost industry or business, that is passed on to the public.

The EPA is also working to regulate methane emissions from across the oil and natural gas industry. Whether it is the upstream producers during the drilling and completion process, the midstream pipeline operators, or the downstream retail distributors, EPA is convinced that the industry is willingly allowing their valuable product to seep into the atmosphere without any concern or awareness of where it is.

EPA's methane strategy is part of the President's overall climate change action plan, and the Agency recently published white papers outlining its understanding of methane leaks in the industry, and they were not very impressive.

I recently wrote EPA and the White House to express my concern with these papers. I was shocked that the papers seemed to lack any comprehensive understanding of the industry's operational practices. I was also disappointed that EPA didn't consider many of the regulatory hurdles in place which actually prevent producers from installing the technology and infrastructure that would reduce methane emissions. I am hopeful that EPA will take my recommendations seriously before moving forward.

So we have two problems. Right now we could be totally independent of any other country. All we have to do is do what every other country in the world does; that is, exploit our own resources. This President has made it impossible for us to get into public lands and to get this done.

Then, of course, we have the problem of overregulation. In all, the administration's regulatory agenda is intended to shut down the engine of America's economy. They have already shut down coal. Now they are working on oil and natural gas.

What they have done so far is just a preview. But the liberal environmentalists—Tom Steyer, Bill McKibben, Democracy Alliance—must all be frustrated by what is going on right now. Temperatures are not going up, they are going down. Nobody seems to care. No one has any desire to implement the policies they want. Polling is all showing they have lost this battle. That is exactly why they are willing to spend between $600 million and $700 million on this year's elections—to convince the American people to elect Members who will support the President's regulations, which will shut down the economy.

One more thing, going back to global warming. Earlier I said that back in 2002 when we discussed the costs of it, being between $300 billion and $400 billion, as the largest tax increase in history, a permanent tax increase, I asked the question to Lisa Jackson—again, she was the Administrator of the EPA, appointed by Barack Obama—I said: If we were to pass these cap-and-trade regulations or bills or do it by regulation, would this have the result of lowering CO_2 emissions?

She said: No, because this isn't where the problem is. The problem is in China, it is in India, it is in Mexico, it is in other places.

In fact, one could use the argument that it would actually have the effect of increasing emissions because as we chase away our base, the manufacturing base will go to countries like China and India, where they don't have any restrictions on emissions at all.

I think it is important to remind the people that even though that era is almost gone and people realize that is something that was very popular at one time, now the polls show that people have caught on. But keep in mind that what the President could not do through legislation he is now doing through regulations, and regulations, as we pointed out, are the greatest problem our economy is facing today, and this is something we are going to have to change.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington State.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and the legislation that we are soon going to be seeing on a continuing resolution that was just voted on by the House of

Representatives. While I am happy that there is a CR—a continuing resolution—that keeps our government open, I am very distressed with the fact that the House is sending us a simple 9-month extension of the Export-Import Bank to expire June 30 of next year.

The reason why that is so frustrating to me and many of my colleagues over here is because this is a jobs issue. It is about our economy, and we have heard today at various venues throughout the Capitol how people are actually losing jobs right now because of the uncertainty of the Export-Import Bank. So I know that some of my colleagues in the House of Representatives—Republicans—are proud they have helped to reauthorize the bank for 9 months. Make no mistake about it; this will cost us jobs in the United States of America during that time period.

We had a press conference today. I was proud to be joined by my colleagues Senator KIRK, Senator GRAHAM, Senator MANCHIN, and various leaders in the energy industry—the Nuclear Energy Institute; Combustion Associates, Inc.; Itron, which is a company in the Northwest; Westinghouse; and FirmGreen—to talk about how many energy jobs are dependent upon the Export-Import Bank. You can see from this chart: 46,000 U.S. energy jobs and $7.7 billion in energy exports.

Just last year these transactions helped these energy jobs in the United States of America by putting investments in projects overseas. That is why we want to see a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. While this uncertainty exists in the continuing resolution, all you are going to do is to exclude U.S. companies from closing deals. That is because a credit agency is critical to U.S. companies actually being at the table.

We heard from one firm today, FirmGreen, that they were actually excluded from participating and getting a deal simply because of the uncertainty of the Ex-Im Bank: A credit agency guaranteeing financing the deal was not at the table and we lost out to an Asian competitor. So during these 9 months of uncertainty, that is exactly what is going to happen to more U.S. companies. They are going to lose out on these energy jobs that we are looking for overseas.

I am talking about things that are part of our energy strategy—everything from Sub-Saharan Africa, wind turbines in Central America, and powerplants in Africa to various investments in the nuclear facilities. A short-term 9-month extension doesn't provide a large enough window for companies to build a pipeline, to construct a wind turbine or to develop a nuclear facility. So it will hurt us by slowing down on these energy projects just at a time when we are trying to fund the training of troops to combat ISIS. We are going to be creating uncertainty in places such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iraq on water projects, construction projects, and road projects that might not get done because U.S. companies won't be able to get the financing of a credit agency. So this is a national security issue, and we are already hearing from exporters about this.

Mr. President, I would like to submit for the RECORD a list of 30 different newspapers with editorials supporting the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

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

NEWSPAPERS ENDORSING EX–IM REAUTHORIZATION

1. New York Times
2. USA Today
3. Los Angeles Times
4. Chicago Tribune
5. Boston Globe
6. Miami Herald
7. Houston Chronicle
8. Seattle Times
9. Columbus Dispatch
10. Akron Beacon-Journal
11. Milwaukee Journal-Constitution
12. Wichita Eagle
13. Winfield Daily Courier (KS)
14. The Hartford Courant
15. The Fort Myers News-Press (FL)
16. Crain's Detroit Business
17. Scranton Times-Tribune
18. Lancaster Intelligencer Journal (PA)
19. Rock Hill Herald (SC)
20. Greenville News (SC)
21. Orangeburg Times and Democrat (SC)
22. Beaumont Enterprise (TX)
23. San Antonio Express-News (TX)
24. Roanoke Times
25. The Columbian (WA)
26. Tacoma News Tribune
27. The Spokesman-Review
28. The Olympian
29. The Puget Sound Business Journal
30. Bellingham Herald

Ms. CANTWELL. The Roanoke Times was one of those newspapers. It typifies what companies are saying, that ''to really increase manufacturing jobs, you need to increase exports.''

That is why we feel so strongly about this. The Roanoke Times also said:

> It's a global economy. Policymakers need to put U.S. manufacturers on an even playing field with foreign competitors in emerging markets, not take them out of the game.

That is exactly what happens when we give a short-term reauthorization for 9 months. No deal of this size and magnitude with energy companies gets done in a 9-month period of time. It takes the bank basically 3 months just for the processing. The discussion of being at the table, closing the deal, and competing with your competitors takes much longer, and no one is going to be interested in closing a deal when they don't know whether the bank is going to continue to exist.

That is why other newspapers such as the Times-Picayune has said that one of their companies—basically a CEO of Reliable Industries of New Orleans—said: ''The Export-Import Bank is a major reason his firm has built an export business with 600 customers in 60 countries.''

I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the other side of the Capitol who don't understand business: The notion that you don't get is that the export opportunities for our economy are the biggest chances to grow GDP in America, and you are foreclosing on that for the next 9 months because you are creating uncertainty and unpredictability.

Well, you know what I say to that? You are basically shipping jobs overseas. That is exactly what you are doing. You are participating in shipping jobs overseas because you don't want to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the United States right now in manufacturing has a supply chain of small businesses all throughout the United States that help in the farm economy in building farm equipment, help in the aerospace industry building airplanes and airplane-related products, and in the energy economy, as we focused on today at our press conference. All of these suppliers, when they cannot get financing for their products, are going to look to overseas suppliers who can get support from the credit agencies in their country, whether that is China, whether that is in France or whether its in Germany or other countries. So people who don't support giving predictability on the Export-Import Bank are supporting shipping jobs overseas.

Our economy is struggling too much and our national security interests are at stake to be shipping jobs overseas and not having the investments in these countries such as Iraq and Egypt and other places where we want to build security. I believe in the long-term interest of fighting our challenges with extremism around the globe with economic power. I know people are going to talk about military power and people are going to talk about soft power. I believe in economic power. Having an Export-Import Bank that is doing business like building roads and building water and building energy facilities actually helps to stabilize these areas of the world.

I am glad to see that General Petraeus also agrees. General Petraeus basically said that the Ex-Im Bank ''is integral to our country's security interests.'' Integral—he has watched this on the ground and he knows and understands what the Export-Import Bank is, and he is asking us to give it more certainty and predictability than what a 9-month extension does, because, as I said, business deals cannot get done in that short a period of time. Here is a person who understands these issues both from a military perspective and an economic perspective. I wish more of my colleagues would understand that they are basically just shipping jobs overseas.

Newspapers around the country are continuing to try to help echo this issue. The Charlotte Business Journal said: ''Executives say the Ex-Im Bank is a key to a competitive U.S. nuclear industry.'' They have been trying to focus on this issue.

The Boston Globe said: ''Billions will be lost unless Congress reauthorizes

the Export-Import Bank.'' It also went on to call exactly what this game is that is happening right here and now in Washington, DC. The Boston Globe in their editorial in support of a longer reauthorization said: ''Conservative hardliners rallying to shut down the agency are risking a serious, self-inflicted economic wound.''

That is because we don't have to be at this point. If you want to talk about reforms for the Ex-Im Bank, we have a lot of opportunity to do that, but hardliners don't want to reauthorize the bank.

Having been in business, I am somebody who believes in trend lines. I would ask my colleagues who are going home and thinking they are going to campaign about jobs to ask themselves what kind of message are they sending to the global community about the Export-Import Bank when just a few years ago an agency that should have a 5-year reauthorization was only reauthorized for 2 years—just 2 years. Now you are going to go into the international community and say, wait a minute, we only believe in this bank for 9 months. So the trend line is it used to be 5 years. For basically about 80 years it used to be 5 years, but because the conservative tea party people are having their way—not the majority of the people in the House but the tea party conservatives are having their way—this has gone from a 5-year reauthorization to a 2-year reauthorization to now a 9-month reauthorization. Who knows what they will propose next. We know they don't support the bank. We know they want to get rid of it.

I think the Charlotte Business Journal, again, characterized this issue very well because they know this industry: ''The United States will lose its lead in nuclear technology if it is not involved in the construction boom overseas.''

You are not going to be very involved in the construction boom over the next 9 months because you are not going to be able to get people to close long-term deals when they think the other side of the aisle just wants to kill the Export-Import Bank.

I think the Columbian in my State said it best. They said: ''While complaining about the Ex-Im Bank might make for sound bites that pander to conservatives, in the end it amounts to legislative negligence.''

They are talking in general about those who want to kill the Export-Import Bank, but the very day that the House proposed a 9-month extension, the Republican study group also proposed killing the Export-Import Bank. So make no mistake about it, there are those who are pandering to very conservative views who basically just want to end the Export-Import Bank.

Thank God we have other businesses in this country. The Louisville Courier-Journal said: ''When a small company is attempting to navigate the international marketplace, it can be difficult to manage the risks related to financing and growth and securing payment.''

That is a local company in Louisville, KY, that knows what it takes to compete in an international marketplace. That industry leader also said that the Ex-Im Bank has helped them manage the risk and as a result their export business has grown strong in recent years. That is what is at stake for these small businesses and supply chains to getting this business done.

I think for us right now the challenge is to try to get people to understand that a 9-month extension is not going to solve this problem. It is going to exacerbate the lack of confidence in our ability to get this bank reauthorized for a long period of time.

The Wichita Eagle editorial also added a this great comment: ''Failure of Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank would be a philosophical victory for some—but a badly timed blow to Kansas companies trying to compete in the global marketplace.'' They went on to say to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

So, while I know the House is sending us 9 months, and I know that some people are trying to take comfort that they have dodged this issue instead of taking a really hard vote on it or improving the bank, all they have done is left the marketplace with a great deal of uncertainty.

It will cost us jobs; it will shift jobs overseas, and Congress—here in the Senate we need to act to get a long-term reauthorization for the Ex-Im Bank.

The Wichita paper had it right. Reauthorize this bank—not a short-term Band-Aid, but give the certainty that businesses need to compete in the global economy and help our economy at home by growing jobs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, over the last hour or so I had the good fortune to hear the junior Senator from Washington, Ms. CANTWELL, describe what is happening with the Ex-Im Bank, and it is not good for the country.

The Ex-Im Bank is so very important to the Presiding Officer's State. The State of Connecticut benefits tremendously from the Ex-Im Bank, as do the small manufacturing businesses in the State of Nevada.

As Senator CANTWELL said, it is a shame we are shipping more jobs overseas, and by not extending the Ex-Im Bank long term, that is what we are doing. She is such an advocate for this program which is so important to our country. I underline and underscore everything she said this afternoon. I am so disappointed we are not able to have a long-term extension of the Ex-Im Bank. It is very important, and it is too bad we are not going to do that.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 124

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, which was received from the House and is at the desk, at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 18; that following the reporting of the joint resolution, the majority leader be recognized; that there be up to 4½ hours equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, there be no other motions or points of order in order to the joint resolution other than a Sessions or designee motion to table or a budget point of order and the applicable motion to waive; that Senator SESSIONS or designee be recognized for a motion to table an amendment to the joint resolution; that if the motion to table is agreed to, the majority leader be recognized; that if the motion to table is not agreed to, and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.J. Res. 124; that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired, the pending amendments be withdrawn, the joint resolution be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the joint resolution.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Next year, the Nation will celebrate the 95th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women, at long last, the right to vote. The result of more than four decades of advocacy from such giants of the women's equality movement as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the amendment was merely a first step in advancing women's rights.

Since the ratification of the 19th Amendment, there has been considerable progress in the march for gender equality. The President's Commission on the Status of Women, established by President Kennedy and directed by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, in part led to formation of the National Organization for Women. NOW's core issues include two on which this Congress has been rightly focused: ending violence against women, and promoting economic justice.

The country last week celebrated the 20th anniversary of the enactment of

the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark law shined a light on the scourge of domestic violence and improved the criminal justice system's response to these cases. Last year, Congress again came together to reauthorize and strengthen VAWA to address the evolving needs of domestic and sexual violence victims, and to ensure that those protections are available to all victims, regardless of sexual orientation, ethnicity, race or gender. The VAWA reauthorization law, which I was proud to author, was just one example of how we must continue to build on the historic work of past years in advancing equal rights and opportunities for American women.

And earlier this week, the Senate yet again tried to move forward with legislation to address pay equality. Building on more than 50 years of progress, starting with the Civil Rights Act, which barred employment discrimination based on race and gender, and on the heels of the 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act would take a significant step toward ensuring a balanced and equal environment for women in the workplace. Unfortunately, for the fourth time, partisan objections have prevented the Senate from advancing this legislation to hold employers accountable and to protect employees from retaliation for discussing their salaries with colleagues. Vermont has adopted its own Equal Pay Act, making it illegal for employers to offer anything less than equal pay for equal work. Still, in Vermont, where 22,000 households are headed by women, the yearly gender pay gap is nearly $6,000. More needs to be done, and we can do better.

This year, Vermont will mark two important anniversaries. Thirty years ago, Vermont voters sent the first woman in our history to the State House to serve as Governor. Madeleine Kunin, a trailblazer in Vermont, served for 6 years as Governor, before becoming a Deputy Secretary of Education in the Clinton Administration. As a child, she fled the threat of the Holocaust, leaving Switzerland with her family for the hope and promise of America. She returned to the country that she had been forced to flee when President Clinton appointed her to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland. She continues to lead and inspire as an author, educator, mentor to women in politics, and tireless advocate for women's rights.

Later this year, the Vermont Women's Fund will celebrate 20 years of supporting women, both in the workplace and at home. The Fund helps women overcome economic hardships to live secure and successful lives. The Fund guides young women to opportunities in nontraditional career paths and propels future leaders to reach their goals. As we well know, when women are given an equal opportunity, their achievements are elevated. When women are given equal opportunities, they thrive and often rise to the top. When women are given a fair shot, their contributions at home, in the workplace and in our communities make us all better. The Vermont Women's Fund, with its diverse and representative council, works to establish and preserve that progress for Vermonters.

In the nearly 95 years since the Nation came together to belatedly extend the right to vote to women, we have made considerable strides in advancing gender equality. More than two dozen women lead Fortune 500 companies, an achievement once viewed as unattainable to young women entering the workforce. Women have risen to some of the highest ranks in our government. Women now comprise a majority of students enrolled in college. In Vermont, we are proud of our history in advancing women's rights. Leaders like Madeleine Kunin, and programs like the Vermont Women's Fund, are shining examples of why Vermont is a leader in this social progress for women and our entire society. And we are proud to be a national leader in the advancement of women. Congress, and the country, can learn and benefit from Vermont's trailblazing example.

RECOGNIZING THE CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Christian Appalachian Project, CAP, an organization that is celebrating 50 years of dedicated service to the people of Appalachia.

CAP was started by the Reverend Ralph Beiting in Eastern Kentucky. Reverend Beiting was a Catholic priest assigned to an area of Kentucky that had no Catholic church, and the organization grew out of his ability to help those in need without the organizational structure of an established church. In 1964, he started a summer camp for boys on Herrington Lake in Garrard County, thus launching the Christian Appalachian Project's now 50-year legacy.

Since that summer of 1964, CAP has grown into the Nation's 16th-largest human services charity. Among the services CAP provides are home repair and reconstruction, disaster relief, clothing drives, food relief, and—a sure sign that some things never change—summer camps.

CAP employs 160 people and has around 50 long-term volunteers. This is in addition to the host of volunteers that are drawn to community service projects like Grateful Bread, Grateful Threadz, and WorkFest.

CAP has touched the lives of thousands in Appalachia and is a model for how organizations can serve their communities. I therefore I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring the Christian Appalachian Project.

Kentucky Living published an article in their September 2014 issue profiling the Christian Appalachian Project. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Kentucky Living, Sept. 2014]

BRINGING HELP AND HOPE: HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH THE CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT—NOW CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE—BRING RESIDENTS OF APPALACHIA DIGNITY, SELF-WORTH, AND RENOVATED HOMES.

(By Debra Gibson Isaacs)

It wasn't supposed to snow. After all, it was spring break for the college students who had wound their way into rural eastern Kentucky from across the nation. But the snow was just one of many surprises this week, and like the others, it was easily, joyfully accepted.

The students were in Kentucky for WorkFest, one of an array of programs serving the most basic needs of the region's most vulnerable residents—children and families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities—conducted by the Christian Appalachian Project, or CAP as the nonprofit organization is affectionately known. CAP provides home repair and reconstruction, food, disaster relief, crisis intervention, child development, summer camps, family advocacy, domestic violence shelters, in-home respite, clothing, and programs for the elderly.

With help from hundreds of volunteers, CAP has renovated 362 homes in Floyd, Jackson, Rockcastle, Clay, Owsley, McCreary, Martin, Lawrence, and other counties during WorkFest since the annual event began in 1992. On this day in March, CAP volunteers were in Rockcastle County working on four homes.

One was the home of Vincent, a member of Jackson Energy Cooperative. Vincent had returned to Kentucky from 11 years working for the military to find his home in need of far more work than he could accomplish alone and with little money.

''I am like the Beverly Hillbillies,'' 48-year-old Vincent joked, his green eyes smiling above his mustache, a bandana on his head and two earrings piercing his left ear. ''I packed up everything I owned in my truck and came home. This is home. I always come back home.''

But home had a bathroom floor that had rotted out. The living room floor was also gone. The roof leaked. Windows had to be replaced. Plumbing needed repair. The front porch was close to falling down. The modest home was barely habitable. Still, no one seemed to see the problems; they were focused on the solutions.

Seeing the solution rather than the problem is standard fare for CAP, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary all year from now until August 2015. Started by the Rev. Ralph Beiting, a Catholic priest assigned to a slice of eastern Kentucky without a single Catholic church at the time, CAP grew from Beiting's ingenuity in helping those around him. At first Beiting would travel to northern Kentucky, where friends and church families would donate all kinds of goods and clothes, and he would distribute them to those in need. His outsized personality soon led him into the hearts of the people, and that led him to try to meet the many needs he found.

The first official CAP project came in 1964—a summer camp for boys on Herrington Lake in Garrard County. Beiting went on to develop the concept for finding ways to help people help themselves. He named his ministry the Christian Appalachian Project and declared it would be ''a group that would roll up our sleeves and get the job done.''

That same work ethic and dedication continues today, 50 years later, as the Christian

Appalachian Project goes about improving the lives of those in Appalachia.

''Cut it like this,'' instructs Jay G. Dresser, a CAP volunteer for 15 years, as he takes a power saw from one of the students to demonstrate how to notch a 2x4. A few feet away, students are in the bathroom ripping up rotted flooring while another group works in the bedroom. It is dark and nippy inside the modest home, but no one seems to notice as a happy cacophony of saws, hammers, and laughter fills the house.

''That's better,'' Dresser encourages. ''Push this. Now pull the plate all the way out. Now stand it up and let me reset the blade.''

A few miles away, a similar scene unfolds at the home of Betty, also a Jackson Energy Cooperative member, and the daughter and her fiancé, cousin, and four grandchildren who live with her in a mobile home that has been added to over the years. New windows are already in place and two volunteers are at work on the roof.

''The kids now have a warm bedroom,'' says Betty. A fire in the kitchen earlier had done extensive damage to another part of the house, but she did not have the ability to repair it. ''I just did the best I could,'' she says. ''My sister-in-law fell through the porch and the refrigerator almost landed on her.''

''My son passed with leukemia when he was 32,'' Betty says, her long brown hair now streaked with gray. ''He always told me if he won the lottery he would bulldoze down this house and build me a new home. I wish he was here to see this. They have done miracles.''

Everyday miracles are what CAP has come to be known for as it has grown into the 16th-largest human services charity in the country with 160 employees and as many as 50 long-term volunteers.

CAP's Housing Program, which coordinates WorkFest and YouthFest, a spring-break alternative program for high school students, provides home repair and reconstruction services year-round. Permanent crews, including an experienced, industry-trained crew leader and several long-term volunteers, perform all types of home repairs.

Families requesting help fill out an application, which is reviewed by a caseworker who then schedules a home visit to assess the applicant's needs. The families go through a budgeting process and in monthly installments pay back one-half of the material costs (up to a maximum of 5 percent of their income). They also donate sweat equity. All the labor is donated for the homes that CAP builds or repairs.

Across Appalachia, similar projects are under way. A CAP-operated food pantry called Grateful Bread warded off hunger for 800 families last year, and Grateful Threadz, a store accepting donations of gently used clothing, helped thousands of individuals and families. Prescription assistance helped 709, family advocacy served 4,980, elderly services 267, and domestic violence shelters 2,640. It is the same with numerous other programs. In all, the organization reached more than 50,000 people last year. Each represents a need met, a better life.

''We exist to serve God,'' says CAP President Guy Adams. ''That is a high calling. How we do that is helping people in need in Appalachia.''

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. STEM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I want to talk about an incredible champion of America's railroads. James A. Stem, Jr., has been a tireless advocate for the men and women who keep our Nation's railroads operating for nearly 50 years. He has done just about every job in the industry and will soon be retiring as the national legislative director of the Transportation Division of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers, formerly the United Transportation Union, UTU.

James began his career in 1966 as a trainman for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad in his native Raleigh, NC. He joined the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and worked in numerous capacities including as a trainman, switchman, hostler helper, hostler, fireman, and locomotive engineer. He even holds seniority as a locomotive engineer on a CSX line.

In the 1970s, James became much more involved in rail labor in North Carolina for the United Transportation Union. He was a delegate to five UTU International conventions and was eventually elected as the North Carolina State legislative director in 1984. He would go on to become the UTU alternate national legislative director in 1998, serving alongside a legend, James Brunkenhoefer—also known as ''Brokenrail.'' James was elevated to national legislative director in 2009. In 2011, United Transportation Union and Sheet Metal Workers International Association merged to become the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers. James continued his work with an even larger membership, now more than 216,000 strong.

James has frequently testified before Congress, always advocating for the betterment of working men and women in the railroad industry. He was part of the original 1997 Positive Train Control Working Group sponsored by the Federal Railroad Administration.

James has been a great defender of Amtrak and commuter rail and a strong proponent of high speed rail. When cuts threatened the effectiveness of passenger rail, James fought to block them on Capitol Hill. When railroad workers needed improved health and safety benefits, James was there. He has tirelessly advocated for the working men and women on the railroads, making sure they have good paying jobs, proper health care, and a solid retirement.

James' influence can be felt at almost every level of government, within the industry, and inside rail labor. Two of his former UTU colleagues currently serve as Federal Railroad Administrator and Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board. Both will tell you that without James's leadership and friendship, they would not be where they are today.

It is with great pride that I congratulate James A. Stem, Jr. for his long career in the railroad industry and for the incalculable contributions he made there. I wish James and his wife Bonnie well in their retirement and hope they are able to enjoy extended family time with their children and grandchildren.

H.R. 3043 AND S. 1507

Mr. MORAN. I wish to engage in a colloquy with the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN, and with Senator HEITKAMP, to clarify several questions that have arisen since H.R. 3043 and S. 1507 were introduced.

I say to the chairman, the term general welfare is found in the Preamble to the Constitution, and the power and duty of governments to promote the general welfare is at the core of our service to the people. Indian Tribes, through treaties, agreements, and statutes, reserved their original, inherent right to self-government, and Tribal governments are in the best position to determine the general welfare interests of the Indian people. H.R. 3043 and S. 1507 are intended to respect the right of Indian Tribes to provide for the general welfare of Tribal members.

I ask the chairman, is it your understanding that in interpreting the meaning of the requirement under the bill that Indian Tribal government programs be ''for the promotion of the general welfare,'' it is intended that the IRS will apply this requirement in a manner no less favorable than the safe harbor approach provided for in Revenue Procedure 2014–35, and in no event will the IRS require an individualized determination of financial need where a Tribal program meets all other requirements of new section 139E as added by the bill?

Mr. WYDEN. The Senator is correct. I want to express my full support for the administrative guidance issued by the IRS in Rev. Proc. 2014–35. I would also point out to the Senator that the bill requires under its ''Statutory Construction'' provision of section 2(c), that any ambiguities in new Code section 139E shall be resolved by the IRS in favor of Indian Tribal governments and deference shall be given to Indian Tribal governments for programs administered and authorized by the Tribe to benefit the general welfare of the Tribal community.

Ms. HEITKAMP. As the chairman knows, there have been concerns expressed in Indian Country that the IRS may take the occasion of passage of H.R. 3043 or S. 1507 to retrench, narrow or possibly withdraw the administrative guidance provided in Rev. Proc. 2014–35 after enactment of the bill. As the sponsor of this legislation, I would like to say that would be contrary to the intent of Congress.

Mr. WYDEN. I fully share the Senator's concern and want to assure her as well as Tribal interests that the Congressional intent, as well as mine as chairman of the Finance Committee, is to expand rather than restrict the safe harbor provisions in Rev. Proc. 2014–35. The purpose of this legislation is to further empower Tribal self-determination. Tribes, and not the IRS, are in the best position to determine the needs of their members and provide for the general welfare of their Tribal citizens and communities.

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2014

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to strongly support the Senate's passage of an important tax bill, H.R. 3043, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014. This bill will improve the application of the Federal income tax in Indian Country and in doing so will reflect appropriate respect for the sovereignty of tribal governments.

By way of background, the Federal Tax Code treats most payments that individuals receive, and the value of some services they receive, as taxable income. There is an exclusion, though, for payments and services received under programs conducted by State and local governments. It's called the general welfare exclusion, and it covers things like housing assistance, emergency medical care, and education assistance. These are traditionally treated as nontaxable.

Unfortunately, the IRS has had difficulty applying the general welfare exclusion when it comes to benefits provided by tribal governments to tribal members. In order to determine which benefits were excluded from taxation, the IRS began conducting aggressive audits, leaving the tax treatment of many tribe-provided benefits in doubt. As Delores Pigsley, chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribal Council, put it in a letter to me, ''for several years, the IRS has sought to tax tribal government programs and services.'' This, in turn, has undermined tribal sovereignty and hindered economic and social development.

I am pleased to report that there has been some significant progress. In July, the IRS issued regulations clarifying the application of the exclusion, and the regulations were a good step in the right direction, clearing up some questions and reflecting an improved dialogue between the IRS and tribes. However, a regulation is not a congressional statute; we need to lock these improvements into statutory law, as well as expand on them such as by establishing a Tribal Advisory Committee to help the Treasury Department and the IRS understand about how best to address tax issues affecting Indian Country.

The bill we are considering today would accomplish these goals. It codifies and expands IRS regulations, draws clear lines, and gives greater respect to tribal institutions and programs.

I would like to acknowledge the principal sponsors of the Senate version of the bill, Senators MORAN and HEITKAMP, for their leadership. I also would like to thank Senators STABENOW, THUNE, and other members of the Finance Committee, who have urged the committee to move forward on this issue.

Tribal governments have a long history of providing critical benefits to tribal members, and these programs are fundamental to the sovereignty and cultural integrity of tribes. Tribes, and not the IRS, are in the best position to determine the needs of their members and provide for the general welfare of their tribal citizens and communities. I know this bill has the support of tribes in my home State of Oregon and will benefit tribes and tribal members across the Nation. I urge all Senators to support the bill.

AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the pension community approached me with their concerns that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation was interpreting section 4062(e) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 too broadly. That provision was intended to protect pension plan participants in the event of a cessation of operations at a facility. However, the pension community was able to provide substantial evidence that the corporation's enforcement efforts were out of line with congressional intent to such an extent that section 4062(e) had become a major impediment to businesses' efforts to restructure. After a thorough review of the situation and consultation with employers, employees, retirees, and the Obama administration, it became abundantly clear that enforcement efforts under section 4062(e) were failing to protect either pensions or the corporation.

Consequently, I worked with the ranking member, Senator ALEXANDER, on a new approach that we introduced as S. 2511. That legislation, which passed out of committee on a unanimous vote, will restore the original intent of section 4062(e) by clarifying the types of cessations of operations that trigger downsizing liability. The legislation will give plan sponsors certainty with respect to their obligations, and it will also ensures that participants are protected when workforce reductions signal that the ongoing viability of a plan sponsor is in question.

Overall, S. 2511 represents a significant compromise between the needs of employers, employees, and retirees, and I think it will give everyone a lot more clarity with regard to their obligations under section 4062(e). However, there are a few points about the bill that I would like to clarify.

First, there may be questions as to how the terms ''facility'' and ''location'' should be interpreted. They are not explicitly defined in S. 2511 because we intend for them to be interpreted according to their natural usage. For example, if an employer maintains several buildings that are physically adjacent to each other, that would be a single facility at a single location. However, if the employer maintains a building in one part of a city and another building in another part of the city, those buildings would be separate facilities at separate locations.

Second, S. 2511 is intended to allow employers to make conditional elections. The legislation allows employers that have a substantial cessation under section 4062(e) to elect a new, alternative means of satisfying their liability. The election must be made not later than 30 days after the earlier of the date that the employer notifies the corporation of a substantial cessation of operations or the date that the corporation makes a final administrative determination both that a substantial cessation of operations has occurred and of the amount of the alternative liability. Of course, there may be instances in which it is uncertain as to whether such a cessation has occurred or the amount of the alternative liability, if any, even after a final administrative determination has been made by the corporation. In those cases, the employer would certainly not be required to make a binding election to pay amounts that may later be determined not to be due. Thus, in all cases, an election by the employer would become inapplicable to the extent that a court subsequently rules or the corporation later agrees that a cessation has not occurred or that the alternative liability amount is lower than the amount determined by the corporation.

To the extent that an election becomes inapplicable, any contributions previously made by the employer to satisfy such inapplicable liability amount should be treated as additional funding contributions that are not subject to the provisions of the bill. Consequently, such additional funding contributions could be treated as increasing the employer's prefunding balance. In addition, we fully intend for the corporation and the courts to have the power to stay, in whole or in part, an employer's obligation to make alternative liability payments until the court has determined whether there has been a substantial cessation and/or the alternative liability amount.

In other cases, a substantial cessation may have occurred, but there is no liability of any kind due to the corporation's enforcement policy. We expect that some employers may want to make an election of the alternative liability amount in case the employer's financial condition changes and the corporation asserts a liability under section 4062(e). In such cases, the annual amount due under the alternative liability method would be zero until the corporation makes a final administrative determination that the corporation's enforcement policy no longer applies to such employer. To ensure that a substantial cessation in one year cannot cause liabilities 10 or 20 years later, for example, the 7-year payment period for the alternative liability amount would include years in which the amount due is zero.

In order to ensure that any reporting requirement that may later be determined to apply is satisfied, an employer may notify the corporation of

an event that the employer does not believe constitutes a substantial cessation of operations. If the employer informs the corporation in writing, the notification will not trigger the 30-day period for making an election, and the 30-day period will begin when the employer agrees that the event constitutes a substantial cessation of operations or when the corporation makes a final administrative determination to that effect and similarly determines the amount of the alternative liability.

Third, S. 2511 is intended to prevent employers from being subject to retroactive liability and to other unreasonable payment deadlines. The legislation generally requires the first contribution under the alternative liability method to be paid not later than the earlier of (1) the due date for the minimum required contribution for the year in which the substantial cessation occurred and (2) in the case of the first contribution, the date that is 1 year after the later of (a) the date that the employer notifies the corporation of the substantial cessation or (b) the date that the corporation makes a final administrative determination that a substantial cessation has occurred and of the amount of the alternative liability, with subsequent contributions due on the same date in the following years. The intent is to ensure that in all cases the employer has at least 1 year's advance notice of the need to make the first contribution.

Thus, clause (2) controls where otherwise an employer could have less than a year's advance notice of the liability. That is especially important where there is uncertainty as to whether a substantial cessation has occurred or regarding the alternative liability amount because the corporation's final determination might not even be made until after the due date for contributions for the year of the substantial cessation. Similarly, the substantial cessation could occur in a year when the employer is not subject to section 4062(e) liability pursuant to the corporation's enforcement policy, but in a later year, the employer becomes subject to section 4062(e) liability with respect to that earlier cessation. To prevent retroactive liability and other problems, clause (2) is controlling regarding the timing of the first contribution in all cases where the employer would otherwise have less than a year's advance notice of the liability. Where clause (2) is controlling, the seven annual payments would start with the first one required by clause (2).

In some cases, an employer may have notified the corporation of a substantial cessation and elected the alternative liability method in a specific amount. We intend for the same timing rules to apply in determining the due date of the first payment of such amount. However, the corporation may later challenge the amount of the alternative liability and seek a higher amount. In such cases, the higher amount would become due pursuant to the timing rules so that there may be separate 7-year periods, one for the originally elected amount and one for the higher amount determined by the corporation.

Fourth, if an employer fails to pay the amount due for any year by the due date, the employer will be liable for the balance of all amounts due for subsequent years under the alternative liability method, though the corporation may waive or settle such accelerated liability in its discretion. Of course, any such acceleration should be stayed during the pendency of any administrative or judicial proceeding to determine whether there has been a substantial cessation and/or the amount of the alternative liability amount. In addition, if the corporation or a court finds that the employer had a reasonable basis to contest any material portion of the corporation's determination, then the acceleration provision shall not apply, but the employer would owe past due payments plus interest.

S. 2511 is a commonsense solution to the concerns of the pension community, and I appreciate the work of Senator ALEXANDER, the members of the HELP Committee and the Obama administration in getting this important legislation across the finish line.

BURNS AND BARAN NOMINATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, yesterday I cast votes against the nominations of Stephen Burns and Jeffrey Baran to be Commissioners on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I hope I am wrong in my conclusion. The NRC is an incredibly important body at this time in the history of civilian nuclear generation. While low natural gas prices puts economic strain on our fleet of nuclear generators, the NRC has to carefully evaluate the costs and benefits that its regulations provide. In the past the NRC has had talented scientists and nuclear experts compose the Commission. But for these two vacancies the President has nominated lawyers with legal and policy experience. Neither Stephen Burns nor Jeffrey Baran has the technical experience, I believe, that will enable them to effectively serve on the NRC.

Moreover, Stephen Burns—during his service with the NRC as General Counsel—authored several important legal memoranda that enabled then-NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko to improperly undermine the licensing of Yucca Mountain resulting in severe criticism by a Federal court. He also provided a legal opinion that improperly advised Chairman Jaczko that he, alone, could use emergency powers to conduct the business of the Commission in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster. This was not a close question, in my opinion. Mr. Burns should not have issued such an opinion. While Mr. Burns is familiar with the Commission's procedures, he has no technical nuclear power experience and I am not convinced that he will resist interpreting the law with a political bent. For Mr. Baran—a House Committee staffer who has worked for many years for an opponent of Yucca Mountain—there is not evidence that he can impartially consider highly political Commission decisions.

This critically important Commission must be led by persons who are able to be competent and independent persons of strength. Reluctantly, I have concluded that I must oppose the nominations.

COMMENDING DON EDWARDS

Mrs. BOXER. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th birthday and extraordinary contributions of former Congressman Don Edwards.

Don was born on January 6, 1915, in San Jose, CA, where he attended public schools and graduated from the San Jose High Academy. He then attended Stanford University, where he was a star on the golf team, winning a State medal for match play along with several amateur titles. After graduating in 1936, Don earned his LL.B. at Stanford Law School.

In 1940, Don was hired as a special agent by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When World War II broke out, he was activated from the Navy Reserve and served for 4 years as a naval intelligence officer and gunnery officer in the South Pacific, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

In the 1950s, Don founded the Valley Title Company and built it into one of the Nation's leading title insurance companies. In 1962, he was elected to Congress.

During his 32 years in the House of Representatives, Don Edwards became known as ''the Congressman from the Constitution,'' the leading congressional defender of civil liberties and chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. I was lucky enough to serve with Don for 10 years and see firsthand his steadfast dedication to his home State of California and the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans.

In the 1960s, he helped guide landmark civil rights and voting rights legislation through Congress. In the 1970s, he led the efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. A master consensus-builder, he helped forge large bipartisan majorities to pass the Voting Rights Act extension of 1982, Fair Housing Amendments of 1988, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Civil Rights Act of 1991.

One of Don's proudest achievements was the creation of the Nation's first urban national wildlife refuge on the southern end of San Francisco Bay. Established in 1974, it was renamed the ''Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge'' in 1995.

In 1981, Don married his longtime partner, Edith ''Edie'' Wilkie, director of Congress's Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus, and even after they retired, she remained active in arms control and international peace for the rest of her life.

Today Don lives in beautiful Carmel among a tight circle of friends and family, including his sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They will join him in January to celebrate his 100th birthday. As he reaches this milestone, I send him my best wishes, deep affection, and abiding gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO LETITIA A. LONG

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to Letitia—Tish—A. Long, who will retire on October 3, 2014, as Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, or NGA.

It gives me great pleasure to speak publicly about Director Long, who has not only had an exemplary and distinguished career spanning 36 years in the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense, but who is someone I have gotten to know on a personal level.

As the Director of the NGA, Ms. Long was the first woman to head a major U.S. intelligence agency, and she will therefore always have a place in history as one of the Nation's most important figures in military and national intelligence. She is also a leading figure among women engineers.

I am grateful that in retirement, Tish will continue to advocate and find ways to encourage young women to go into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

After studying electrical engineering as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, and then earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering at Catholic University, Tish began her government service as a civilian electrical engineer at the Office of Naval Intelligence, where she was often the only woman in a room full of male engineers.

In 1994, she was promoted to the ranks of the Senior Executive Service, where she eventually served in a dual role at the Naval Intelligence Staff as director for Requirements, Plans, Policy and Programs; and director of Resource Management.

Looking back at her career, it should come as no surprise that Ms. Long reached great heights within the Intelligence Community. In 1995, she participated in the planning for the creation of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, the predecessor agency of NGA, which she would later lead as Director. From 1998 to 2000, Tish served on the staff of the Director of Central Intelligence as the executive director for Intelligence Community Affairs on the community management staff, the predecessor organization to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Director Long's previous positions included service as Director of the Military Intelligence Staff at DIA and Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence. Tish was instrumental in the creation of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, where she served as the first Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence for Policy, Requirements and Resources. In 2006, she returned to the DIA as its Deputy Director.

Then, in August of 2010, Ms. Long became the fifth Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. As its director, Tish expertly managed the multibillion-dollar NGA budget and a workforce of nearly 10,000 government employees during a challenging period that included two wars, budget sequestration, and a government shutdown.

Under Director Long's skillful leadership, NGA provided extensive support to our Nation's highest priority security concerns, from counterterrorism missions across the globe—including critical support to the raid that killed Usama bin Laden—to monitoring and providing advanced warning on crises in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

I have appreciated Director Long's candor with the Senate Intelligence Committee and her willingness to address the committee's concerns. Ms. Long's leadership on intelligence integration, advanced analytic tradecraft, and technology initiatives significantly improved intelligence production for the Defense Department, the Intelligence Community, and our allied partners. These efforts also provided greater insight into national security issues for policymakers in both the executive branch and Congress.

Let me close by saying that those of us who are fortunate enough to know Tish personally can attest to her dedication to the mission, personal integrity, and unwavering loyalty to our Nation.

As she leaves government service, Tish will have more time to spend with her husband John Skibinski, stepdaughters Jordan, Lindsay, and Katherine, and granddaughter Hanna.

It is with great pride and honor that I personally recognize Director Tish Long as an innovator, leader, and friend.

We wish Tish all the best in the future. I yield the floor.

OBSERVING POW/MIA DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National POW/MIA Recognition Day. As we acknowledge the important role of American servicemembers and veterans, we must keep at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers the safe return of those who have gone missing in action or are prisoners of war. National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is observed the third Friday of September, provides a time to honor prisoners of war, POW, and those who became missing in action, MIA.

As the brave men and women who serve our Nation commit themselves to protecting America and our freedoms, our Nation must be resolute in bringing them home should they go missing or be taken prisoner when serving our Nation in a time of war. Standing by our servicemembers includes utilizing every reasonable means of bringing them home.

POW/MIA families and veterans have remained committed to keeping the pursuit of facts at the forefront in the years since the Vietnam war. This effort and the perseverance of the POW/MIA families have been instrumental in accounting for missing military and civilian personnel from not only the Vietnam war but also World War II, the Korean war and the Cold War. Finding resolution for the families must remain a central focus as America has since engaged in subsequent wars to halt terrorism.

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor those Americans who have thankfully returned home, the families and loved ones who stood by awaiting their return, and we remain committed to finding answers for the families who continue to await the return of their missing and unaccounted-for loved ones. Each day, as we see the reminder of those Americans and their families through the POW/MIA flags that are posted at many places across our Nation, including the Halls of Congress, military sites, war memorials, national cemeteries, and U.S. postal service offices, let us not lose sight of this enduring commitment to accounting for those missing.

I look forward to the day when we can welcome all our servicemembers home. Thank you to the many servicemembers and their families for all they have done and continue to do for our country and to all those who work to ensure their return home.

THE EBOLA CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks at the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing yesterday be printed in the RECORD.

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

EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE AND PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

We must take the dangerous, deadly threat of Ebola as seriously as we take ISIS. Let me say that again: We must take the dangerous, deadly threat of the Ebola epidemic as seriously as we take ISIS. I think I have a reputation as a senator who's not given to overstatement; I don't believe that's an overstatement.

The spread of this disease deserves a more urgent response from our country and other countries around the world than it's now getting. This is one of the most explosive, deadly epidemics in modern time but we know what to do to reduce the spread. It will require a huge and immediate response.

There is no known cure; there's no vaccine. Half of those who get sick die. Each sick person, according to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, could infect up to 20 others, including caregivers, friends and family. Samantha Power, the U.N. Ambassador, said to me earlier this week in a briefing she's trying to get other countries to view this with the same urgency that we do.

This is an instance, she said, when we should be running toward the burning flames with our fireproof suits on. Ebola is killing people in West Africa at alarming rates and picking up speed. It's hard to say exactly what the number of cases is. There is an official number, a little less than 5,000 of Ebola cases in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, but the worry is that one-half of those cases were reported in the last three weeks. You don't have to know very much about mathematics to know that if—whatever the number—if it doubles every three weeks that very soon we have an out-of-control epidemic. And we can see easily what would happen if a single infected traveler reaches another country and begins to infect others in that country.

I said earlier, and we'll learn more today, about what we know how to do. We'll hear from a doctor who has contracted Ebola and who has recovered from it and who is here to talk about it. It's not like the flu. It can only be spread by bodily fluids, often contracted by caring for someone who's sick or through burial practices.

But with global travel, we're only one airplane ride away from a person exposed to Ebola getting on a plane to the United States and then becoming sick once they arrive. And then the mathematics of that infection could begin to develop in this country.

There's human tragedy in Africa, but it affects the rest of the world and it affects the United States. Our state is known as the Volunteer State. And Dr. Brantly is an Ebola patient. He was working for Samaritan's Purse. He's not a Tennessean, but his parents are graduates of Lipscomb University, which is in Nashville. He, like many Americans, go on mission trips around the world to help people who need help.

I will support the administration's request for the $30 million Senator HARKIN talked about, and the $58 million for the biomedical advanced research and development. That's for vaccines and cures and treatments. That should pass this week.

There's a request to address $500 million of reprogramming in the Defense Department. Some have asked, why should our military be involved? Because they have to be involved if we want to deal with the problem. There's no way for the doctors and the nurses and the health care workers to deal with it.

So I'm pleased that on both sides of the aisle, we have leaders who are beginning to recognize the severity of this epidemic. Dr. Frieden and U.N. Ambassador Power are taking the lead. We look forward to learning all we can about the severity of the epidemic and what we must do to control it.

But I'll end where I started. We must take the deadly, dangerous threat of the Ebola epidemic as seriously as we take ISIS.

RESIGNATION AS COMMISSIONER TO THE EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, effective immediately, I hereby resign my position as Commissioner to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DEAN STONE

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, next Tuesday, September 23, is an important day in my hometown of Maryville, TN. It is the 90th birthday of Dean Stone.

It would be hard to imagine Blount County without Dean Stone. For most of his 90 years, he has been our historian-in-chief, our storyteller-in-chief, and our editor-in-chief. His photographs of the Great Smoky Mountains and his eight books about our county's history line the libraries of most of Blount Countians. In fact, taken altogether they constitute a library of their own.

Dean is a longtime journalist and native of Maryville, TN, where he served as editor of the Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times and still serves as opinion editor today. In each Sunday's edition, he writes his ''Bits of Stone'' about the history and happenings around Blount County. Dean earned his degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1949 after serving in World War II, where he originated the idea of raising the American flag over Yugoslavia. After college, he decided to return to Maryville and began his career with the Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times as a Sunday editor.

Dean became managing editor of the newspaper—known now as the Daily Times—later that year and has been employed with the newspaper for the last 66 years. His journalistic skills and energy have helped to make the Daily Times one of the best smaller daily newspapers in our country. Under his direction, the Daily Times has received more than 30 first-place awards from Tennessee journalism associations. In 2013, Dean was inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame.

Dean is known for his contributions to tourism in Maryville and Blount County, including founding the Times Townsend Traveler in the early 1950s, a tourism journal that was one of the first publications of its type in the Nation. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his service to tourism in the area, including recognition as the ''one person in Blount County and Townsend who has contributed the most to tourism during the 20th century'' at the Tennessee Governor's Conference on Tourism. He also served as president of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, on numerous education and school boards, Leadership Blount, the Maryville-Alcoa Jaycees, the Alcoa Kiwanis, and the United Way of Blount County.

Dean is a longtime supporter of our national parks and for many years has served on and chaired the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Commission. He was instrumental in founding Beautiful Blount, which still seeks to preserve the beauty in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. He also started Stonecraft in 1954, a postcard company he founded to share the beauty of the Smokies.

Gregg Jones, current president of Blount County Publishers, said:

> For the past several decades it has been Dean Stone's joy to reveal in word and picture every dimension of his beloved Blount County. As he has done so over the years, it has become apparent that Dean, himself, is one of Blount County's greatest treasures. I am honored to claim Dean as my colleague and friend, and wish him the very best on this special day and every day to come.

Another colleague of Dean's, Carl Esposito, current publisher of the Daily Times, said, ''Dean Stone is not only the elder statesman of the Daily Times, but a virtual repository of Blount County history and knowledge. It is a pleasure and privilege to work alongside him.''

Many Blount Countians have their own stories about Dean's impact on their lives, and I have mine. Other than lawn mowing and paper routes, Dean gave me my first real job. When I was a student at Maryville High School during the 1950s, Dean began a feature in the Daily Times reporting the news in Blount County high schools. He named me the school page editor for Maryville High. As I remember, the pay was one penny for each inch of copy that I wrote. I remember turning in so many inches of copy that after the first edition, Dean limited the number of words each school editor could write.

Ever since, Dean Stone and his family have been close friends of the Alexander family. There is no one from whom I have learned more about my home county than Dean Stone.

So Dean, from one of your many students, admirers, former employees and fellow Blount Countians, Happy 90th Birthday, and thank you for all you have done to celebrate the beautiful place we call home.•

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 40th anniversary of Swords to Plowshares, one of the preeminent organizations providing quality, compassionate care and services to veterans in the San Francisco Bay area.

In 1974, six veterans concerned about the challenges facing soldiers returning home from Vietnam established a program to help ease their transition to civilian life by providing education, job training, and employment assistance. Swords to Plowshares quickly earned a reputation as a trusted resource for veterans, and over the years it has grown to meet the needs of each new generation of veterans.

As veterans came home from Vietnam, Swords to Plowshares created extensive health, social services, legal services, and housing programs to support them. Following the gulf war, Swords began offering programs to address mental health and substance

abuse among veterans. As veterans returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, Swords worked with vets and their families to identify gaps in VA services and established the Institute for Veteran Policy to make recommendations to the military and VA to better address the needs of our newest veterans.

Today, with the help of more than 100 dedicated staff, Swords provides employment and job training, legal services, and housing assistance to more than 2,000 veterans in the San Francisco Bay area each year.

I want to extend my special thanks to Michael Blecker, a U.S. Army veteran who joined Swords in 1976 and has served as its executive director since 1980. I am lucky to have known Michael for more than two decades, and there is no one who has been more dedicated to ensuring that veterans are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Our service men and women and their families who have made tremendous sacrifices in service to America deserve not only our deepest gratitude but also our commitment to help them lead healthy and productive lives. As Swords to Plowshares celebrates its 40th anniversary, I offer my profound thanks for all it does to fulfill our sacred obligation to our Nation's veterans.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 85th birthday and extraordinary contributions of my dear friend, the Reverend Cecil Williams.

For more than half a century, Reverend Williams has served as the founder and minister of Liberation at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, CA. As a minister, community leader, author, lecturer, and champion of the poor and marginalized, Reverend Williams is widely recognized and revered as a national leader in the struggle for civil rights, human rights, and social change.

Cecil Williams was born in San Angelo, TX, and from a very young age, this caring and sensitive boy was fondly known as ''the Rev'' by his close-knit family. Cecil grew up in the segregated South, but his strong, loving mother always told her son, ''You are going to be somebody.''

After graduating from Huston-Tillotson University and the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Cecil Williams became the pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church at a time when its congregation was dwindling. Reverend Williams embarked on his life's work: to make this church the center of a vibrant community that would reach out to all, particularly the poor, oppressed, and marginalized.

Reverend Williams welcomed worshippers of all backgrounds, races, and sexual orientations. In 1964, he helped establish the Council on Religion and Homosexuality an organization dedicated to educating religious communities about gay and lesbian issues and stood up to police who attempted to shut down a dance benefit to raise funds for the new organization. Reverend Williams was also one of the first clergymen to take a stand for same-sex couples by presiding over their weddings four decades before today's struggle to legalize gay marriage.

Under his leadership, Glide Memorial thrived and became a cornerstone of the community. He hosted poets, jazz musicians, and political activists at the church and launched a free meals program that serves 750,000 meals a year, feeding more than 3,500 hungry people daily. Today more than 17,000 people participate in Glide programs, volunteering in its community clinic, childcare, and afterschool programs, housing services, and Daily Free Meals program.

Reverend Williams is married to Janice Mirikitani, Founding President of the Glide Foundation, and together they direct Glide's many innovative social and cultural programs.

In his life and work, Rev. Cecil Williams has embodied Glide Memorial's revolutionary mission: ''to create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization.''

I am proud to join his family, friends, and many admirers in celebrating the 85th birthday and extraordinary contributions of Rev. Cecil Williams.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HOGANSON

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to honor John Hoganson who retired at the end of July after 33 years of dedicated service to the State of North Dakota with the North Dakota Geologic Survey.

John traces his love for discovery and earth science back to his childhood in eastern North Dakota. As a child, John could be found with his father's claw hammer breaking open rocks in an attempt to discover the mysteries that lay inside. As a young adult, his passion and curiosity helped him graduate from North Dakota State University and eventually to earn a doctorate in geology with an emphasis in paleontology from the University of North Dakota.

He began his career in public service as a geologist with the Geologic Survey. The position later transitioned when he was tasked with formulating a fossil resource management plan for the State. John would later go on to serve as our State's first paleontologist, a position he held for 25 years.

John was instrumental in securing passage of two landmark pieces of legislation in the North Dakota State legislature that helped to protect our State's fossil resources and created a state fossil collection. Under John's leadership, North Dakota's fossil collection has grown from a small collection of bones to one that now numbers in the hundreds of thousands. One of the top finds includes a 67-million-year-old Edmontosaurus, a duck-billed dinosaur, with intact fossilized skin, who has been affectionately named Dakota. Dakota is one of only a handful of dinosaurs in existence to have preserved skin. Dakota has been regarded by experts as one of the more important discoveries in recent times because he may be the best-preserved Edmontosaurus found to date. He also created a public dig program which has brought in volunteers from across the country and around the world to assist with digs.

In addition to his work for the State, John has also been a valuable teacher and mentor, spending countless hours engaging students of all ages and the general public around the State in hands-on educational experiences. Without John's passion and commitment, many North Dakotans would have never been aware of our State's rich paleontological history. He has been pivotal in the creation of curriculum for the North Dakota Studies project, and the 24 fossil exhibits in museums and visitors centers across the State.

In evidence to his lifelong commitment to discovery, John will be continuing his work with fossils by completing some research projects and writing papers for scientific journals. I want to thank John for his years of dedication and service as an advocate for paleontology and as a teacher to the people of North Dakota. I wish him the best in his new endeavors and a happy and full retirement.●

CONGRATULATING DAVID SOUSA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate David Sousa on his being elected the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, Nevada Department Commander for 2015. I am proud to honor a Nevadan who has dedicated his life to serving our country and is committed to ensuring that our Nation's heroes receive the care that they deserve.

Commander Sousa has had a long and decorated military career in the United States Army for over 25 years. During his service, he has served missions in Kenya and Somolia and went on to serve in ''Operation Iraqi Freedom'' in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, as a member of the 72nd Military Police Company. He also went on to serve in ''Operation Enduring Freedom'' in Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a member of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Commander Sousa for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I recognize

the important role the Veterans of Foreign Wars plays for combat veterans and military servicemembers from the active, Guard, and Reserve forces. This distinguished national group of veterans has been a constant influence, furthering the voice of all of our Nation's heroes. On July 22, 2014, at the 115th National Convention, David Sousa was elected Nevada Department Commander. Commander Sousa has served and held many roles within the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization for the past 10 years and has previously been named the VFW Outstanding Veteran for 2006. His work for the VFW is exemplary, and I expect great things from him as he assumes his role as Nevada's Department Commander.

Commander Sousa's focus of his work for this year is suicide prevention and awareness for veterans, as well as working towards a safer community for veterans. I commend Commander Sousa on this important goal and look forward to working with him to achieve this. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I am concerned about the needs of Nevada's veterans, especially those suffering one of the most common injuries from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars—post-traumatic stress. I believe Congress has a responsibility to enact policies that will help veterans overcome these difficulties and ensure that the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs have the resources necessary to meet the growing needs of Nevada and our Nation's veteran communities. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

I am both humbled and honored by Commander Sousa's service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Commander Sousa for all of his accomplishments and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S AIR NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the Washoe County School District's Air National Guard for receiving the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award.

Former Secretary of Defense, William Perry, developed the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award under the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve office in 1996. Each year, up to 15 awards are presented to employers in three categories: large business, small business, and the public sector. The award honors employers who have shown exceptional support to their Guard and Reserve employees and have gone above and beyond what is federally mandated to ensure that their military employees are well taken care of. This esteemed award is the highest in a series of Department of Defense employer awards, and I congratulate Washoe County School District's Air National Guard on being selected as one of only 190 employers to receive this award.

Washoe County School District's Air National Guard's extraordinary level of support they provide to their servicemembers is admirable, and I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Washoe County School District's Air National Guard here today. During deployment, the school district takes the time to send emails and care packages to our brave men and women. Its support services also extend to the members' families. Washoe County teachers volunteer their own time to help children and spouses who are in need of assistance by babysitting, housecleaning, and running errands. The school district has also been commended for the support it showed after a fellow Guardsman and teacher, Michael Landsberry, was killed defending students during a shooting at Sparks Middle School last year.

Each and every day, our troops are serving the United States to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. They dedicate their lives to serve this great Nation and constantly make grave sacrifices to ensure the safety of our country. Our servicemembers and their families deserve our gratitude and thanks, and as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am committed to keeping our Nation's promise to care for them. There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but Washoe County School District's Air National Guard has shown an unwavering dedication and commitment to ensuring that our servicemembers and their families are getting the support that they deserve.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Washoe County School District's Air National Guard and know that they serve as an example for the rest of the Silver State.●

RECOGNIZING VETERAN'S VILLAGE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Veteran's Village in Las Vegas, NV, for its commitment and dedication to providing our veterans with transitional and permanent housing. Veteran's Village is the only 24-hour, 7-day-a-week social service facility for veterans in Las Vegas.

The brave men and women who served the United States and fought to protect our freedom have often come home to a struggling economy. A number of veterans are unable to find a job or afford to buy or rent a home. As the demographics of our Armed Forces have changed throughout the years, so too have the needs of homeless veterans. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, this is an issue I have been personally involved with and have introduced legislation to address. Organizations like the Veteran's Village serve to help those in need in an environment of respect and dignity within the Las Vegas community. This organization is a shining example of the kind of initiatives that will help get our veterans back on their feet.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but the Founders and volunteers at the Veteran's Village are working to assist our Nation's veterans by giving them shelter while they try to rebuild their lives. The organization was founded by Dr. Arnold Stalk, who envisioned turning the old Econo Lodge into a facility to house our homeless veterans. With the help of public and private collaborative partnerships, Veteran's Village has created a home environment for our Nation's heroes who need a helping hand. This organization's continued dedication to serving veterans through providing skills training, nutrition, employment training and referrals, continuing education and degree programs, medical services, mental health counseling and much more is commendable, and I am proud to honor this organization here today.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they receive the quality care they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans' service organizations like the Veteran's Village are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Veteran's Village, an organization whose mission is both noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge the Veteran's Village and its work to end homelessness for veterans throughout the United States, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAURIUM MANOR INN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Laurium Manor Inn in Houghton County, MI, which was celebrated on September 14, 2014. I extend my heartiest congratulations to Dave and Julie Sprenger, who purchased a vacant historic mansion 25 years ago with the intention of opening a bed and breakfast. The Sprenger's vision resulted in a small business success building on the rich history of

Michigan's Copper Country to attract today's travelers.

Nestled in the heart of the Keweenaw Peninsula's copper country in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and built for Thomas H. Hoatson, Jr., owner of the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company, this mansion started off as a 13,000-square-foot home for the Hoatson family. It remains the largest mansion in the western portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The extravagance of the structure was by far its best known feature. From the embossed elephant leather on the walls, to the grand staircase which spans three floors, to the hand-painted wall mural, stained glass windows, and giant Corinthian columns, the Hoatson mansion was the epitome of opulence. Mr. Hoatson, Jr., a Houghton County native of Scottish decent, made his fortune in the copper mining and banking industries. He spent $50,000 building the mansion at a time when miners were making 25 cents an hour.

Undaunted by the prospect of restoring this enormous and ornate structure, Dave and Julie Sprenger bought the mansion in September of 1989, opened it as a bed and breakfast, listed it as the Laurium Manor Inn on the National Register of Historic Places, and established it as a heritage site within the Keweenaw National Historical Park. This has been no easy task. In addition to the constant renovations and repairs, the remote location of the village of Laurium, the harsh winters of the Upper Peninsula, and the changeable nature of tourism have all challenged the Sprenger's small business. However, throughout all of this, the Sprengers have persevered and continue to provide quality service to the local community and visitors from around the world.

As a senior member of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, I recognize the important role small businesses play in creating jobs and growing the economy, and this bed and breakfast is no exception. I am delighted to congratulate Dave and Julie Sprenger on the 25th anniversary of their flourishing small business, which contributes to the local economy and enriches historical experiences for tourists and residents alike. I wish them many more decades of success.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEEP SUBMERGENCE VEHICLE ALVIN

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, WHOI, on the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the deep-sea, human-occupied submersible Alvin.

Alvin was commissioned on June 5, 1964, at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Woods Hole, MA. It is owned by the U.S. Navy and operated by WHOI. In one of its first missions, it responded to a national emergency in 1966, locating and helping to recover a hydrogen bomb that had accidentally dropped into the Mediterranean Sea.

In 1974, Alvin brought scientists for the first time to the mid-ocean ridge during Project FAMOUS, the French-American Mid-Ocean Undersea Study, and revealed a seafloor that scientists had not imagined. Project FAMOUS proved that submersibles could effectively explore the deep seafloor and marked the beginning a new era of exploration.

Alvin discovered and explored previously unknown and unexpected communities of deep-sea organisms that thrive in the absence of sunlight, sustained not by photosynthesis but by chemosynthesis. This discovery was one of the most profound of the 20th century, because it completely transformed our conceptions of where and how life can exist on this planet; reconfigured our search today for life on other planetary bodies; and opened entirely new lines of microbiological and biogeochemical research, including those that have led to commercial and pharmaceutical applications.

Over the following decades, Alvin discovered several previously unknown seafloor environments harboring a diversity of chemosynthetic communities, including high-temperature black-smoker chimneys that spew like undersea geysers in the Pacific, 1979; cold-seep habitats sustained by hydrogen sulfide, methane, and other hydrocarbon-rich fluids seeping from the seafloor Guaymas Basin, Gulf of California, 1982, and in the Gulf of Mexico, 1983; and ''Lost City'' environments, where seawater reacts with mantle rock, peridotite, to produce methane and hydrogen in the Atlantic, 2000.

Alvin has also explored another type of seafloor habitat—seamounts, or ancient undersea volcanoes—with their diverse communities of deep-sea corals, fish, and other organisms, in the Gulf of Alaska, the Pacific, and the Atlantic. Scientists aboard Alvin have discovered many hundreds of previously unknown marine species.

Alvin has contributed to other events of historical significance, exploring and bringing back images of the wreck of the Titanic in 1986 and responding to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, by investigating impacts to deep-sea habitats in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

Alvin inspired scientists and engineers to develop new generations of deep-submergence technology; including remotely operated vehicles, ROVs, tethered by fiber-optic cables and free-swimming autonomous underwater vehicles, AUVs. These vehicles are now routinely used for naval activities and national security, oil exploration, maritime, and other industries, environmental and fisheries monitoring, and disaster response, and are now being developed for use under ice in polar regions and to explore other planetary bodies.

Alvin resumed operations in 2014 after a major upgrade, funded by the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, and WHOI, which dramatically enhanced its capabilities. An anticipated second phase of this Alvin upgrade will increase the submersible's diving capacity from 4,500 to 6,500 meters, 14,000 to 21,000 feet, allowing it to reach 98 percent of the seafloor.

Alvin has been a workhorse for U.S. scientists, safely taking nearly 2,600 individual researchers on more than 4,700 dives to the ocean depths and is the only deep-sea human-occupied vehicle in the National Deep Submergence Facility for the U.S. oceanographic community. Alvin has thrilled and inspired generations of schoolchildren around the world with its adventures and discoveries and become an icon for exploration and a symbol of American ingenuity.

The accomplishments and discoveries achieved by this single submersible and the scientists, engineers and ship's crew who built, use, and operate it during its first 50 years demonstrate the importance of continued support for the development of deep-submergence technology and exploration of the largest portion of Earth's surface and its last frontier the ocean.

Alvin is a national scientific treasure and we are proud that it calls Massachusetts and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution home.●

RECOGNIZING SEEKINS PRECISION

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, America depends on the ingenuity of small business owners to propel the country forward in innovation. Seekins Precision demonstrates this originality by continuously improving their products for a unique industry. I rise today to honor Seekins Precision of Lewiston, ID, a small business whose commitment to manufacturing products for those who enjoy exercising their second-amendment rights honors both Idaho and the Nation.

Founded in 2004, Seekins Precision builds innovative products for precision shooters. As the result of an unsuccessful deer hunt, founder Glen Seekins identified a need for hunting equipment able to endure the natural elements of the Idaho mountains products that were durable, yet lightweight. The combination of Mr. Seekins' background in mechanical design and his entrepreneurial spirit sparked the design for Seekins Precision's flagship scope rings. After training himself on a computer numerical control machine to build scope rings, Mr. Seekins and his wife, Katie, set up shop in their garage. In November 2005, their scope rings became so popular in the local shooting community that the business developed into a full-time operation.

Over the past 10 years, Seekins Precision has achieved an outstanding reputation for quality, as well as that of a unique Idaho gem. Since its inception, Seekins Precision has expanded from only making scope rings with just a handful of employees, to developing over ten major upper-end rifle lines and creating more than 25 new jobs in

the local Idaho community. Today, the business has expanded to manufacture a full line of automatic rifle products, including rifles, complete uppers, and other parts and accessories. All of Seekins Precision's products are proudly invented, sourced, and made in the USA in their new 25,000 square foot facility, a $4 million investment back into the community.

At the beginning of this year, Seekins Precision participated in the Shooting Hunting Outdoor Trade, SHOT, Show and Conference in Las Vegas, NV, the largest annual trade show for recreational technology professionals, and the world's premier exposition of combined firearms. Participation in the SHOT Show exposed Seekins Precision to buyers from all 50 States and more than 100 countries, expanding the business' exposure to international markets. Located in the Port of Lewiston since 2010, Idaho's only seaport and the farthest inland port east of the west coast, Seekins Precision relocated to a 25,000 square foot facility in order to accommodate further product demand this past May. The small business received support from Idaho's own Governor, Butch Otter, who attended the grand-opening ribbon-cutting ceremony. Seekins Precision's astonishing success emulates that of the American Dream, reaching beyond the local community and loyal customers.

I congratulate everyone at Seekins Precision on their success, continued growth and exemplary reputation for quality. Seekins Precision represents the best aspects of American craftsmanship and is a credit to both Idaho and the Nation.●

GEAR UP HAWAII

● Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, September 22nd marks the beginning of National Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, GEAR UP, Week and I would like to take a moment to recognize the invaluable work of GEAR UP in Hawaii.

For more than a decade, GEAR UP has provided low-income students all over the country with the support and resources they need to go to college. GEAR UP helps these students, many of which are the first in their family to go to college, to overcome the challenges they face in their communities.

GEAR UP Hawaii serves over 16,000 students each year from low-income and underserved communities throughout the State in grades 7 through 12 and in their first year in college. The program provides a number of services to these students including: supporting academic preparation in high school; providing opportunities for early college options; increasing college access and financial aid information to students and families; and supporting students in their first year in college. GEAR UP Hawaii has gained national recognition for its success in closing the achievement gap and helping low-income students prepare for college.

Through its collaborative partnerships between Hawaii's State Department of Education, K–12 schools, the University of Hawaii, businesses, and community organizations, GEAR UP Hawaii inspires students to see post-secondary education as something they can achieve. It also gives students the tools they need to succeed in college and their careers.

The program's results demonstrate that GEAR UP Hawaii is making significant strides towards increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared for and enroll in college. The first class of Step Up Scholars, a GEAR UP Hawaii program, graduated from high school in June 2013 and earned the college-ready Board of Education Recognition Diploma, BOERD, at nearly twice the rate of the statewide average and three times the rate of non-Step Up Scholars. In addition, across GEAR UP Hawaii schools this past year, there was a 14 percent increase in the number of students participating in dual enrollment programs who graduated high school with six or more college credits. Thanks to these programs, Hawaii's students graduate from high school better prepared for college and for their futures.

A college education is a path to opportunity for our students. GEAR UP Hawaii plays a vital role in fulfilling our responsibility to ensure that every student has access to that path.●

TRIBUTE TO WENDY LEWIS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize LT Wendy Lewis of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps on her upcoming promotion to lieutenant commander.

Lieutenant Lewis is currently serving as a Congressional Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. A ship driver by training, Lieutenant Lewis, has ably lent herself to the committee's work. I would like to thank her for the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and other members of the committee.

This well-deserved promotion recognizes her leadership and dedicaton to serving others.●

ADOPTING CHILDREN FROM NEPAL

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I comment today on an issue of tremendous concern to a number of Pennsylvania families who in recent years adopted children from Nepal.

In August of 2010, the State Department suspended the authorization for American families to adopt children from that nation with the exception of those families, some from Pennsylvania, who were already in the process of adopting Nepali orphans. The State Department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services told these ''pipeline'' families that their cases would be processed to completion, but that they should anticipate significant delays and possibly negative outcomes, since their cases were suspected of being heavily tainted by fraud, corruption, and illegal or unethical practices. In response to U.S. government requests for additional evidence substantiating the legality and morality of these adoptions, these families had to undertake extensive investigations on their own to provide such evidence.

Since these families were already completely bonded with their adoptive children, each of them eagerly undertook its investigation, at great financial and emotional expense. Meanwhile, most of the children were forced to languish for an additional 6 months in orphanages. While due diligence is appropriate for all adoptions, I am deeply troubled that in this case not a single instance of fraud or corruption was ever found. In fact, the State Department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ultimately allowed all these American pipeline families bring their children home to the United States. Despite this ultimately successful outcome, the State Department continues to suspend adoption of desperate Nepali children by American families. I ask that the Department reevaluate its policy with the recent experience of the pipeline families as a major consideration.

With an eye towards the future of the children who were adopted by the pipeline families, I am concerned that the public record on these adoptions from Nepal is still replete with references to fraud and trafficking. We need to set the record straight and to make it clear that each of the Nepali pipeline adoption cases in progress at the time of the suspension was ultimately approved and was devoid of any findings of malfeasance. Every child deserves a family and no child deserves to be needlessly haunted by clouds of doubt about his or her origin. These American families deserve to have a positive public record created showing that their adoptions were completely legal and ethical. I wish to personally begin that record today.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2001—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2014.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 17, 2014.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5134. An act to extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3043. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

H.R. 3593. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the construction of major medical facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4137. An act to prohibit assistance provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families from being accessed through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale.

H.R. 4276. An act to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.

H.R. 4994. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5169. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance accountability within the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5170. An act to improve Federal employee compliance with the Federal and Presidential recordkeeping requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5404. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5405. An act to make technical corrections to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to enhance the ability of small and emerging growth companies to access capital through public and private markets, to reduce regulatory burdens, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5418. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business.

H.R. 5419. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

H.R. 5420. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations.

H.R. 5461. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and for other purposes.

At 6:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 124. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3593. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the construction of major medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4137. An act to prohibit assistance provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families from being accessed through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4276. An act to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5169. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance accountability within the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5170. An act to improve Federal employee compliance with the Federal and Presidential recordkeeping requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5405. An act to make technical corrections to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to enhance the ability of small and emerging growth companies to access capital through public and private markets, to reduce regulatory burdens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5418. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5419. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5420. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5461. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7007. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 52nd Annual

Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7008. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expanding public-private collaboration on infrastructure development and financing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7009. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Final 2014–2015 Spiny Dogfish Specifications'' (RIN0648–BE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7010. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's 2014 Report to Congress on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7011. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Airspace System Capital Investment Plan Fiscal Years 2015–2019''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7012. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Communications, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures for Disclosure of Records Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)'' (RIN2700–AE04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7013. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska: Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota Program'' (RIN0648–BC62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7014. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications'' (RIN0648–XD252) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7015. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2014 Winter II Quota'' (RIN0648–XD392) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7016. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Amendment 3'' (RIN0648–BC77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7017. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations'' (RIN0648–BC90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7018. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations'' (RIN0648–BC90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7019. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; the Highly Migratory Species Fishery; Closure'' (RIN0648–XD238) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7020. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish; Framework Adjustment 8'' (RIN0648–BD56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7021. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Closure for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD441) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7022. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2014 Commercial and Recreational Accountability Measures and Closures for Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack'' (RIN0648–XD422) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7023. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management Plan; Northern Red Hake Quota Harvested'' (RIN0648–XD336) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7024. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment and Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD357) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7025. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery and Possession Limit Adjustment'' (RIN0648–XD418) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7026. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reapportionment of the 2014 Gulf of Alaska Pacific Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Limits for the Trawl Deep-Water and Shallow-Water Fishery Categories'' (RIN0648–XD361) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7027. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD375) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7028. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD379) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7029. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) in the Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–XD369) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7030. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD447) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7031. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD449) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7032. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BE39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7033. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Foreign Policy Report entitled ''Report to the Congress: Sanctions on Exports and Reexports of Commodities That are Used to Support Oil and Gas Operations in Russia''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7034. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Positive Train Control Systems (RRR)'' (RIN2130–AC32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7035. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Make Inoperative Exemptions; Vehicle Modifications To Accommodate People With Disabilities; Ejection Mitigation; Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment'' (RIN2127–AL17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7036. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Registered Importers of Vehicles Not Originally Manufactured To Conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards'' (RIN2127–AL43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7037. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Early Warning Reporting, Foreign Defect Reporting, and Motor Vehicle and Equipment Recall Regulations'' (RIN2127–AK72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7038. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Updates to Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument Regulations'' (RIN0648–BE02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7039. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Regulations and Management Plan'' (RIN0648–BD60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7040. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazmat, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries'' (RIN2137–AE44) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7041. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazmat, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Materials: Failure to Pay Civil Penalties'' (RIN2137–AE97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2141. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2583. A bill to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2799. A bill to extend the authority of satellite carriers to retransmit certain television broadcast station signals, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Christopher A. Hart, of Colorado, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of two years.

*Manson K. Brown, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2019.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHANNS, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2833. A bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2834. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to protect employment and training services for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2835. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for certain storm shelters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2836. A bill to provide for an integrated plan for the space launch activities of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 2837. A bill to count revenues from military and veteran education programs toward the limit on Federal revenues that certain proprietary institutions of higher education are allowed to receive for purposes of section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2838. A bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2839. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2840. A bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2841. A bill to provide for a study by the Institute of Medicine on health disparities, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines on reducing health disparities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2842. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Caregiver Corps program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2843. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are victims of sex-related offenses with access to a special victims' counsel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2844. A bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2845. A bill to establish the Southern Prairie Potholes National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 2846. A bill to express the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of State should use his existing authority to revoke the passports of United States citizens who have provided material support to ISIS and to require the Secretary to submit a quarterly report to Congress on the use of such authority; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2847. A bill to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2848. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2849. A bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare youth for postsecondary education at institutions of higher education, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2850. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to create a program to provide funding for organizations that support startup businesses in formation and early growth stages by providing entrepreneurs with resources and services to produce viable businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KAINE:

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 551. A resolution recognizing September 2014 as ''National Campus Safety Awareness Month'' and supporting the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. Res. 552. A resolution supporting Lights on Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 23, 2014; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 553. A resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Hartford Courant newspaper; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. LEE):

S. Res. 554. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2014 as ''National Principals Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 555. A resolution designating the week of September 15 through September 19, 2014, as ''National Health Information Technology Week'' to recognize the value of health information technology in transforming and improving the health care system for all individuals in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 556. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 12, 2014, as National Wildlife Refuge Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 557. A resolution designating the week beginning October 19, 2014, as ''National Character Counts Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REED, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 558. A resolution designating the week of September 22 through 28, 2014, as ''National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 559. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 19, 2014, as ''National Chemistry Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 560. A resolution designating September 2014 as ''School Bus Safety Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Con. Res. 43. A concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of a ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to amend section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the visa waiver program, and for other purposes.

S. 325

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 325, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel in connection with certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1088, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender

identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to establish a commission for the purpose of coordinating efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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 Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) 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. 1531

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the types of wines taxed as hard cider.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2092

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2092, a bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors 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. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2538

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2538, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2587

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2587, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect and conserve species and the lawful possession of certain ivory in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name 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.

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, supra.

S. 2622

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2622, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2653

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2653, a bill to amend the definition of ''homeless person'' under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2655

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2655, a bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

S. 2687

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2687, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2689, supra.

S. 2693

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2693, a bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2706

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2706, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2758

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to modernize C–130 aircraft using alternative communication, navigation, surveillance, and air traffic management program kits and to ensure that such aircraft meet applicable regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) 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 Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2793, a bill to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson.

S. 2809

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) 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. 2814

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. RES. 353

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution designating September 2014 as ''National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month''.

S. RES. 529

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 529, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and commending its members for their courage and sacrifice in service to the United States.

S. RES. 530

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 530, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as it expands its control over areas in northwestern Iraq.

S. RES. 541

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor 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 New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 543, a resolution designating November 1, 2014, as National Bison Day.

S. RES. 545

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 545, a resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States.

S. RES. 546

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 548

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3420

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3420 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3744

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3744 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2850. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to create a program to provide funding for organizations that support startup businesses in formation and early growth stages by providing entrepreneurs with resources and services to produce viable businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Startup Opportunity Accelerator Act or SOAR Act, which provides funding for accelerator programs and organizations that support small business startups.

The importance of small businesses to the economy and job creation is well documented. In fact, data has shown the innovative, smallest companies represent a significant majority of all new businesses, reaffirming the importance of young, small firms to driving small business and economic growth.

To be sure, we see the impact of these high growth startups daily in the technology we rely on for communication and access to information. Many of the startups developing these innovative technologies have thrived in regions, such as Silicon Valley and Silicon Alley, where there are high concentrations of other entrepreneurs and startups. Specifically, these regions have benefited from the presence of growth accelerators and other organizations that connect startups with the resources necessary for growth. These resources can provide critical opportunities for entrepreneurs to access the

venture capital, mentorship, and industry networks vital to success.

That is why I am introducing the SOAR Act. The SOAR Act would authorize the Small Business Administration's SBA, Growth Accelerator Fund, which offers funding to growth accelerators and other organizations supporting startups through a competitive prize program. The SOAR Act would broaden the reach of these organizations to new communities by specifically encouraging applicants that fill both geographic and demographic gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

After launching in the spring of 2014, the SBA saw tremendous interest in the Fund and received more than 800 applications from organizations across the country. The SBA was able to grant awards to 50 organizations, including a New Jersey-based innovation center that plans to develop a new growth accelerator focused on the food industry.

The SOAR Act will authorize the Growth Accelerator Fund for 5 years and provide a needed funding boost to help meet high demand from small businesses and entrepreneurs in the program.

I am proud to introduce this legislation that provides increased resources to help startups succeed. This relatively small, targeted investment would deliver big returns for communities across the country, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2839. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague from Rhode Island to talk a little bit about a very important piece of legislation we are introducing. It is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2014. I think it is fair to say that Senator WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island and I do not agree on everything in this body that comes up—all the policy issues. But on this one we agree that it is necessary to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to deal with this heroin epidemic that is sweeping across our country.

He has been an unwavering ally in trying to find common ground on this legislation. I appreciate him. Again, I think this is an area where we can find common ground on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to move legislation forward that can help to deal with this growing issue in our States.

I do not think we can afford to wait. Every day, unfortunately, the number of people who die from heroin overdoses grows. Every day more mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters are lost to this horrible scourge. By the time this year is out, I am told that more than 19,000 Ohioans will have overdosed on heroin or other opiates. The deaths from heroin overdoses this year will be the No. 1 cause of death in the State of Ohio, exceeding traffic accidents.

Elected officials around the country, medical professionals, and grass roots volunteers are dealing with this issue. They are fighting back. They are doing everything in their power to try to save lives and to try to stem this epidemic. But they need help. The challenge we all face is serious. To address it we need a comprehensive effort, marshaling the resources of communities, grass roots organizations, local, State, and, yes, the Federal Government. That is where we come in here, in the Congress.

I think only together can we make progress here and prevent new victims from falling into the grips of addiction. Only together can we help those who are already struggling with heroin to rebuild their lives. I think this bipartisan legislation we have introduced today is the important first step in that. It lays out a broad spectrum response to the epidemic of heroin and opiate addiction.

It starts with prevention and education. Why? Because we know that approach can work. Obviously, it is the most effective way to deal with this, to keep you from getting into the addiction in the first place. Nearly 20 years ago I joined with leaders around southwest Ohio to form what is called the Coalition for a Drug Free Greater Cincinnati. I was here in the Congress on the House side. A constituent came to me and said her son had just died from an overdose of smoking marijuana and huffing gasoline. I was ready for her. I had all the statistics as to what we were doing at the Federal level in terms of eradicating crops in places like Colombia, interdicting drugs, prosecuting people, trying to stop the flow of drugs into this country.

She kind of looked at me and said: How is that going to help me and my community? How would that have helped my kid? How does that help me deal with our church, where people are in denial and will not even talk about it, or our school, where the principal said: It is not a problem here.

So we came up with this notion of these community coalitions. There were a few around the country, and they seemed to be working. Ours in greater Cincinnati has worked well. It is still working well. By working together with grass roots organizations across the spectrum—teachers and parents, law enforcement, religious leaders, the media, business—we pulled together a group. That coalition led to this greater effort that we started in the House, and there is legislation that I authored called the Drug-Free Communities Act, which has now provided funding, by the way, and therefore helped to create thousands of other community coalitions. It has provided funding to over 2,000 community coalitions around the country. There are now about 5,000, I think, around the country. Those have worked. But they are not adequate to deal with this heroin epidemic.

But we start there. We start with this notion that there is a way, through a grass roots program, for more focus on prevention and education to be able to help stem this growing problem; that is, stopping addiction before it even starts. That, of course, again, is the most effective way. It saves money, saves lives. We also, though, have to do more to incentivize new innovative treatment programs for those who have become addicted to try to break the cycle and break the addiction.

We do that in this legislation by encouraging diversion programs like drug courts that provide treatment alternatives to incarceration. We do it by funding evidence-based heroin treatment pilot programs. There are some exciting new medications out there that we think are worth a try, including some new medications that actually block the urge, the craving. We are funding evidence-based treatment programs, but at the same time encouraging the use of emergency medications to stop overdoses.

This is something we have seen in all of our States. It expands the availability of Naloxone, which is an overdose inhibitor that the law enforcement agencies and other first responders have access to in order to be able to keep people not from overdosing—which is happening—but from dying from that overdose.

We know that there have been many lives saved, even over the last couple of years through the use of that medication. We offer more resources to promptly identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and, again, providing evidence-based treatment. This revolving door in the criminal justice system of people who are drug users getting into prison, getting out again—and within 2 or 3 years over two-thirds of them are back in the system—we are all paying for that. The communities are paying for it with increased crime. The families are paying for it. The taxpayers are also paying for it—$25,000, $30,000 a year for incarcerating individuals, who, if you can get them into a drug treatment program, in part through these drug courts, in part through other programs that are proven to work, they can then not just get over their addiction and not be committing crimes but become productive citizens and taxpayers themselves.

We have seen this lap around the country. We have to be encouraging that and supporting that at the Federal level. I saw a model of this kind of approach when I visited the CompDrug treatment center recently in Columbus, OH. I met with several nurses and

counselors who are there on the front lines in the battle against addiction. They used medication-assisted treatment, but they also use a lot of counseling to help men and women get on this path to recovery. So it is not just the medication, but it has to be a more comprehensive plan. They do this in both a public health capacity but also in connection with a prisoner reentry program.

So, again, it is people coming out of the criminal justice system who have a history of addiction and to get them into this program so they can get not just the treatment they need to get over their addiction but the job training they also need to be able to get back into the workforce to become productive citizens.

We do not stop here in this legislation. If there is one thing I have learned over the last couple of decades working in this area, it is that the best solutions on this are not going to come from Washington. They are going to be developed at the grass roots, on the ground.

What we can do is support those efforts on the ground and provide States with more flexibility to be able to use these resources that are already coming from Washington, so our legislation does that as well.

Our bill offers States that are proactive at enacting proven policies the ability to benefit from support under State incentive grants. These grants will reward States such as Ohio that are improving access to drug-abuse services for specific at-risk individuals and that are working to reach 100-percent compliance with programs such as the prescription drug monitoring program that tracks prescription drugs.

Some States such as Ohio—where we have a big prescription drug problem—there is also southern Ohio with adjoining States West Virginia and Kentucky that have this issue and without a sufficient monitoring program. Some people are getting prescription drugs filled in Ohio and then going across the river to Kentucky and getting them filled. There is no way to monitor that without an effective program. We want to encourage all States to adopt this kind of a program so we know who is getting prescription drugs, who needs them and who is abusing the process.

We also talk about this issue in the abstract. I have done that today talking about numbers—19,000 overdoses. But what does that mean? It is a shockingly high number. We sometimes forget that every one of those overdoses represents a person, a family member, someone who has hopes and dreams, someone who at some point made a mistake, and now that mistake threatens those dreams and often devastates their family, as I have seen and I am sure you have seen. Sometimes it can even result in that person's death. As we talk about overdoses this year, it will be the No. 1 cause of death in my State of Ohio.

I want to share a couple stories briefly before I close, people I have met in Ohio, people in communities in my State who are struggling with the weight of addiction.

I recently met a guy about my age. His name is Paul. Paul came to a roundtable discussion and has been engaged in this issue because his son died of a heroin overdose. He was 19 years old. He died of an overdose 2 days after getting out of rehab. Sadly, that is not an uncommon story. People go into rehab to turn their lives around and many are successful, but many aren't. For some of them when they get out, the temptation is too great and unfortunately their body no longer has the tolerance for the drug it once did and sometimes they overdose. His son was one of those.

This man has been in a lot of pain, I could tell. He is still in a lot of pain. But where he has channeled his grief and his pain is helping others to overcome addiction and to bring this discussion out of the dark, to talk about it.

It is not a comfortable topic for a lot of people to talk about, but he has been willing to do it, to talk about his family situation and talk about the fact that every family around the kitchen table ought to be talking about this subject. We ought to be talking about it in the classrooms. We ought to be sure that people understand the incredible risk and danger our young people face today.

Earlier this year I met a young woman named Sarah. Sarah has been struggling to overcome her own addiction. She has been successful, and I applaud her. She told me: Addiction starts in treatment, ROB, but it also happens in the community. You have to have a surrounding that supports you and encourages you.

She is fighting her own battle, but she is also doing something interesting at Ohio State University. She has started a student-led recovery program, kind of a support network among students.

Again, often this is in the shadows. She has been the one to step forward and say: Hey, I have an issue. I am a recovering addict, and I want other recovering addicts to come and join me and feel support so they don't do what Paul's son did.

Then there is Bill. Bill is in recovery from a heroin addiction that he told me used to cost him $2,000 a week at its height. It cost him his freedom too. He ended up in prison. When he got out of prison, he was able to take advantage of some of these programs we talked about today, some of these prisoner reentry programs and treatment options. Bill turned his life around. Interestingly, he now works at the very corrections facility where he once served.

As he joked with me, he said: I used to be behind bars. Now I hold the keys to the cells and I am spreading a message.

I imagine he is a very credible spokesperson for that message. He is working with inmates to help build relationships and re-entry programs, not just in the prison behind the walls, but also in his community in Canton, OH.

He encourages employers to give people a second chance, to give them a shot. His quote to me was: Don't give them the keys to the safe on the first day, but give them a shot. It worked for me. It can work for others.

This battle against addiction will not be an easy one, we know that, but we also know it is well worth the fight. We have to take the fight.

When we see the number of overdoses drop, and we see statistics showing that fewer kids are using drugs and more people are breaking free of the addiction that once held them, we will know it paid off. It is not only about dollars and cents. Yes, we can save taxpayer money, we can be sure that more people are productively employed, and that our society is more efficient and communities are safer, but ultimately this is about our young people and what kind of future they are going to have.

It is about our children and our grandchildren. Will they have a better shot at their dream, a better shot at getting through school, getting an education, a better shot at getting a decent job and being able to hold it, and a better shot at being able to take care of their own families and having the dignity and self-respect that comes with that? That is ultimately what this legislation is about.

I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for joining with me to craft this legislation. I also thank Senator LEAHY, who I understand has recently agreed to become an original cosponsor of this bill.

I encourage other Members to take a look at it. It is a good way for us to come together as Republicans and Democrats to focus on an issue that is affecting every single State represented in this body.

Sometimes people are in denial about this subject, but the reality is it affects all of us as Americans.

By Mr. KAINE:

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I am introducing a resolution to provide President Obama with authority in the multinational mission to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, ISIL, which is meant to reinforce the President's strategy, as well as set key limitations that I hope will be included in final authorizing language for broader Congressional consideration.

President Obama laid out a strong case for the need to defeat ISIL, and asked for Congressional support for this effort. Now is the time for Congress to act to support the President and reestablish balance between the Executive and Legislature on whether or not to engage in significant military action.

I was heartened when Foreign Relations Committee Chairman MENENDEZ answered the President's call by saying the committee would soon craft authorizing language for the U.S. military mission. It is my hope that the proposal I am introducing today will help move the process forward on what a specific and narrow authorization for limited military action against ISIL should look like.

This authorization is specific to ISIL and supports President Obama's key pillars: a multinational effort to degrade and destroy ISIL, the use of necessary and appropriate force in a campaign of air strikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria and the provision of military equipment to appropriately vetted forces in Iraq and Syria, including the Iraqi security forces, Kurdish fighters, and other legitimate, appropriately vetted, non-terrorist opposition groups in Syria. It also includes four key limitations: no U.S. ground troops; repeal of the 2002 Iraq Authorization for Use of Military Force; sunset after 1 year; and narrow definition of associated forces. I have also included reporting requirements that require the President to update Congress on progress of the mission.

I believe this authorization is needed for two reasons. First, we need to comply with constitutional war powers provisions—Congress declares war and the President, as Commander-in-Chief, executes the mission. Second, and perhaps more importantly, Congressional buy-in represents a core value of our Nation—that the political leadership is willing to do the hard work to reach consensus in support of our servicemembers. If Congress is not willing to do the hard work to debate and vote on an authorization, we should not be asking our servicemembers to go into harm's way.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS ''NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH'' AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 551

Whereas people on college and university campuses are not immune from the potential acts of crime that the rest of society in the United States faces;

Whereas men and women deserve to learn in a positive and safe environment free from sexual assault;

Whereas experts estimate that 1 in 5 female undergraduate students will experience sexual assault or attempted sexual assault;

Whereas the aggressor in a sexual assault is usually an acquaintance or friend of the victim;

Whereas a majority of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement;

Whereas the majority of stalking victims are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old;

Whereas approximately 3 in 10 women are injured emotionally or psychologically from being stalked;

Whereas the Clery Center for Security on Campus, a nonprofit group dedicated to preventing violence, substance abuse, and other crimes on college and university campuses, has designated September as ''National Campus Safety Awareness Month''; and

Whereas National Campus Safety Awareness Month provides an opportunity for campus communities to become engaged in efforts to improve campus safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages colleges and universities throughout the United States to provide campus safety and other crime awareness and prevention programs to students throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—SUPPORTING LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2014

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 552

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and approximately 15,100,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning programs, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including many that emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math, that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning programs provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days, and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating the school with the larger community;

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning programs held on October 23, 2014, highlights the critical importance of these high-quality programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and

Whereas nearly 2 in 5 afterschool programs report that their budgets are in worse condition today than at the height of the recession in 2008, and more than 3 in 5 afterschool programs report that their level of funding is lower than it was 3 years ago, making it difficult for afterschool programs across the United States to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 23, 2014.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARTFORD COURANT NEWSPAPER

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 553

Whereas the first edition of the Hartford Courant was printed on October 29, 1764;

Whereas the Hartford Courant is the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States;

Whereas the Hartford Courant gave voice to a newfound yearning for freedom as the most circulated newspaper in the colonies during the throes of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas the Hartford Courant demonstrated leadership in actively supporting the presidential efforts of President Abraham Lincoln and his attempts to end slavery during the Civil War; and

Whereas the Hartford Courant is a 5-time finalist and 2-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for journalistic excellence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant and positive impact of the Hartford Courant throughout the history of the United States; and

(2) acknowledges the importance of a vibrant free press to democracy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2014 AS ''NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH''

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 554

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2014 to be ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access

to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2014 as ''National Principals Month''; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 555—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK'' TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSFORMING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 555

Whereas health information technology is recognized as an essential tool for improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing health care costs;

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership estimates that a fully-realized implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information can produce significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas the use of health information technology is essential to providing coordinated care, expanding access to care, and improving the quality and safety of mental and physical health care for all individuals in the United States;

Whereas Congress has a vision for a national technology-enabled health care system that—

(1) provides access to care that is available at anytime and anywhere;

(2) recognizes modern, multimodal health care delivery models;

(3) establishes open standards for connectivity to core patient information between health information technology systems, devices, and emerging technologies; and

(4) leverages technology solutions to analyze and improve treatment trends and highlight cost transparency to help combat fraud, waste, and abuse within Federal health programs;

Whereas portable health information, such as cloud-based computing and storage systems that can process vast amounts of patient information for personalized care, integrated consumer devices, and mobile medical applications, are critical technologies for improving the health of all individuals in the United States, creating high-demand jobs, and stimulating market innovation;

Whereas it is necessary to continue improving the exchange of health information confidently and securely between different providers, systems, and insurers, a task that is foundational to transforming the health care delivery system in the United States;

Whereas aligning the use of electronic health records with other reporting efforts is critical to improving clinical outcomes for patients, controlling costs, and expanding access to care through the use of technology; and

Whereas since 2006, organizations across the United States have united to support National Health Information Technology Week to improve public awareness of implementing health information technology to achieve the benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency in the health care system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 15 through September 19, 2014, as ''National Health Information Technology Week'';

(2) recognizes the value of information technology and management systems in transforming health care for individuals in the United States;

(3) encourages all interested parties to promote the use of information technology and management systems to transform the health care system of the United States; and

(4) calls on all individuals in the United States to be engaged in their mental and physical health by using health information technology.

SENATE RESOLUTION 556—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 12, 2014, AS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 556

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas, in 2014, the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier system of lands and waters to conserve wildlife in the world, and has grown to approximately 150,000,000 acres, 562 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and these protected lands offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including 6 wildlife-dependent uses that the National Wildlife Refuge System manages: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas, in 2014, 335 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 271 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have fishing programs, averaging approximately 2,500,000 hunting visits and nearly 7,000,000 fishing visits each year;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experienced nearly 31,000,000 wildlife observation visits during fiscal year 2013;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every $1 appropriated, national wildlife refuges generate nearly $5 in economic activity;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experiences over 47,000,000 visits each year, which generated more than $2,400,000,000 and more than 35,000 jobs in local economies during fiscal year 2011;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses every kind of ecosystem in the United States, including temperate, tropical, and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, and remote islands, and spans 12 time zones from the Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that foster production, migration, and wintering habitat for waterfowl;

Whereas, since 1934, the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts has generated more than $850,000,000 in funds, which has enabled the purchase or lease of more than 5,600,000 acres of wetland habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the recovery of 386 threatened and endangered species is supported on refuge lands;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are cores of conservation for larger landscapes and resources for other agencies of the Federal Government and State governments, private landowners, and organizations in their efforts to secure the wildlife heritage of the United States;

Whereas more than 38,000 volunteers and approximately 220 national wildlife refuge ''Friends'' organizations contribute more than 1,400,000 hours annually, the equivalent of more than 700 full-time employees, and provide an important link to local communities;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas, because there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas and one refuge located within an hour drive of every metropolitan area in the United States, national wildlife refuges employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to seek stakeholder input on the implementation of ''Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation'', an update to the strategic plan of the Fish and Wildlife Service for the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the week beginning on October 12, 2014, has been designated as ''National Wildlife Refuge Week'' by the Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 12, 2014, as ''National Wildlife Refuge Week'';

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) pronounces that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting

and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

(6) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation and the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, as well as compatible uses;

(7) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755, chapter 128);

(8) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(9) expresses the intent of the Senate—

(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 557—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 19, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK''

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 557

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of ''National Character Counts Week'', during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 19, 2014, as ''National Character Counts Week''; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 558—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH 28, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK''

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 558

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development reports that approximately 36,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy and numeracy necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is important to economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of a child's parents and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in a child's education is a key predictor of a child's success, and the level of parental involvement in a child's education increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in their children's education and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable, and their success in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job to provide for their families, to continue their education, or to participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain a job;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 22 through 28, 2014, as ''National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week'' to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls upon public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 559—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 19, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK''

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 559

Whereas chemistry is the science of basic units of matter and, consequently, plays a role in every aspect of human life;

Whereas chemistry has broad applications, including food science, water quality, energy, sustainability, medicine, and electronics;

Whereas the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges;

Whereas innovations in chemistry continue to spur economic growth and job creation and have applications for a range of industries;

Whereas National Chemistry Week is part of a broader vision to improve human life through chemistry and to advance the chemistry enterprise and the practitioners of such enterprise for the benefit of communities and the environment;

Whereas the purpose of National Chemistry Week is to reach the public with educational messages about chemistry in order to foster greater understanding and appreciation for the applications and benefits of chemistry;

Whereas National Chemistry Week strives to stimulate the interest of young people, including women and underrepresented groups, in enthusiastically studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and in pursuing science-related careers that lead to innovations and major scientific breakthroughs; and

Whereas students who participate in National Chemistry Week deserve recognition and support for their efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 19, 2014, as ''National Chemistry Week'';

(2) supports the goals of and welcomes the participants in the 27th annual National Chemistry Week;

(3) recognizes the need to promote the fields of science (including chemistry), technology, engineering, and mathematics and encourage youth to pursue careers in such fields; and

(4) commends the American Chemical Society and the partners of such society for organizing and convening events and activities surrounding National Chemistry Week each year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 560—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS ''SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH''

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 560

Whereas approximately 480,000 public and private school buses carry 26,000,000 children to and from school every weekday in the United States;

Whereas America's 480,000 public and private school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the Nation;

Whereas during the school year, school buses make more than 55,000,000 passenger trips daily and students ride these school buses 10,000,000,000 times per year as the Nation's fleet travels over 5,600,000,000 miles per school year;

Whereas school buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles and are 13 times safer than other modes of school transportation, and 44 times safer than vehicles driven by teenagers;

Whereas in an average year, about 25 school children are killed in school bus accidents, with one-third of these children struck by their own school buses in loading/unloading zones, one-third struck by motorists who fail to stop for school buses, and one-third killed as they approach or depart a school bus stop;

Whereas The Child Safety Network, celebrating 26 years of national public service, has collaborated with the National PTA and the school bus industry to create public service announcements to reduce distracted driving near school buses, increase ridership, and provide free resources to school districts in order to increase driver safety training, provide free technology for tracking school buses, reduce on-board bullying, and educate students; and

Whereas the adoption of School Bus Safety Month will allow broadcast and digital media and social networking industries to make commitments to disseminate public service announcements designed to save children's lives by making motorists aware of school bus safety issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2014 as ''School Bus Safety Month''.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF A ''NATIONAL LAO-HMONG RECOGNITION DAY''

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas the Lao-Hmong, which means ''free people'', are Laotian members of the Hmong tribe and are noted for their warrior tradition, loyalty, and bravery;

Whereas beginning in 1960, the United States recruited thousands of the Lao-Hmong to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army regulars in Laos;

Whereas the United States relied heavily on the Lao-Hmong Special Guerrilla Units to engage in direct combat with North Vietnamese troops from 1960 to 1975;

Whereas the Lao-Hmong conducted tactical guerrilla actions, flew thousands of deadly combat missions in support of the Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, and fought in conventional and guerrilla combat clashes with extreme casualties;

Whereas the Lao-Hmong, although outnumbered, fought against enemy forces to disrupt the flow of troops and war supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail;

Whereas the Lao-Hmong protected United States personnel, guarded United States Air Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed American pilots;

Whereas more than 35,000 of the Lao-Hmong lost their lives, and many more were seriously injured and disabled;

Whereas thousands of Lao-Hmong suffered grievous injuries and permanent disabilities, and thousands more were captured and sent to concentration camps;

Whereas after the conclusion of the war, many Lao-Hmong soldiers were the victims of acts of retribution and atrocities by the Pathet Lao, causing many of the Lao-Hmong to flee to neighboring Thailand and become refugees; and

Whereas beginning with the City Council of Golden, Colorado, in 1995, various State and local governments have issued proclamations declaring July 22 as ''Lao-Hmong Recognition Day'', and the establishment of a ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day'' would recognize the bravery, sacrifice, and loyalty to the United States exhibited by the Lao-Hmong in Southeast Asia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) expresses support for the designation of ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day''; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe ''National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day'' with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3823. Mr. WHITEHOUSE 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 3824. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3825. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3826. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3827. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3828. Mr. KAINE (for himself and 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 3829. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3830. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3831. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3832. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3833. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3834. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3835. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3836. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3837. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3838. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3839. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3840. 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 3841. 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 3842. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3823. Mr. WHITEHOUSE 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 XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1647. PLAN FOR EDUCATION OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES ON CYBER MATTERS.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in cooperation with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the education of officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces relating to cyber security and cyber activities of the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A framework for provision of basic cyber education for all members of the Armed Forces.

(2) A framework for undergraduate and postgraduate education, joint professional military education, and strategic war gaming for cyber strategic and operational leadership.

(3) Definitions of required positions, including military occupational specialties and rating specialties for each military department, along with the corresponding level of cyber training, education, qualifications, or certifications required for each specialty.

SA 3824. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) 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:

On page 606, line 5, strike ''**SUPPLIES**'' and insert ''**ASSEMBLIES**''.

On page 606, line 12, strike ''supplies critical'' and insert ''critical assemblies, such as rocket engines,''.

On page 607, line 1, strike ''supplies critical'' and insert ''critical assemblies''.

On page 607, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the placement of orders or the exercise of options under a contract that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

On page 607, line 3, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(d)''.

On page 607, lines 5 and 6, strike ''or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation''.

On page 609, line 4, insert ''certified under the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program'' after ''providers''.

On page 612, strike lines 19 through 22, and insert the following:

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees the plan required by paragraph (1) not later than December 31, 2014.

(B) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—The Secretary may submit the plan required by paragraph (1) to the congressional defense committees at a date later than the date specified in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary—

(i) determines that is it not practicable to submit the plan by the date specified in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) submits to the congressional defense committees a report on the determination under clause (i) and the reasons for the determination.

SA 3825. Mr. PAUL 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. IMPROVED ENUMERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN ANY TABULATION OF TOTAL POPULATION BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 141 of title 13, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) Effective beginning with the 2020 decennial census of population, in taking any tabulation of total population by States, the Secretary shall take appropriate measures to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all members of the Armed Forces deployed abroad on the date of taking such tabulation are—

''(1) fully and accurately counted; and

''(2) properly attributed to the State in which their residence at their permanent duty station or homeport is located on such date.''.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to affect the residency status of any member of the Armed Forces under any provision of law other than title 13, United States Code.

SA 3826. Mr. INHOFE 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 V, add the following:

SEC. 535. TROOPS-TO-TEACHERS PROGRAM.

Section 1154 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

''(i) GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO FACILITATE MEMBERS BECOMING TEACHERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2015 through 2018, the Secretary may, using funds available under paragraph (8), make grants to eligible institutions of higher education to be used by such institutions to assist members of the armed forces in becoming elementary school and secondary school teachers in schools described in subsection (b)(2).

''(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible institution of higher education is an institution of higher education that—

''(A) has a main campus physically located not more than 30 miles from a major military installation that serves a very large number of members of the armed forces;

''(B) has an accredited college of education;

''(C) has a strong tradition of working with the armed forces;

''(D) has an undergraduate student body that includes not less than 1,000 students who are members of the armed forces, veterans, and members of the immediate families of members of the armed forces or veterans; and

''(E) has a consistent graduation rate of students in teacher education of 65 percent, as measured from the time a student is formally admitted into the teacher education program.

''(3) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each institution of higher educational awarded a grant under this section shall use grant amounts for purposes as follows:

''(i) To provide each eligible member of the armed forces participating in the Program under this subsection a stipend not in excess of $5,000 each academic year.

''(ii) To provide each eligible member of the armed forces participating in the Program under this subsection other services (often called 'wraparound services') to assist the member in becoming a teacher, including scholarships, internship support, mentoring, child-care services, transportation expenses, undergraduate research opportunities, professional development, proprietary instructional supplies, expenses directly related to ease the burden of student teaching, academic tutoring, individualized counseling services, and in the case of members transferring from community colleges, bridge programs to assist in that transition.

''(B) CONSTRUCTION WITH STIPEND LIMITATION.—Any stipend provided under this paragraph shall not be treated as a stipend subject to the limitation in subsection (e)(3)(C).

''(4) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for purposes of this subsection, an eligible member of the armed forces is any member of the armed forces who—

''(i) before commencing participation in the Program under this subsection—

''(I) has served satisfactorily on active duty in the armed forces for four or more years;

''(II) has successfully completed all the education foundation courses required by the institution of higher education concerned for pursuit of a degree as an elementary school or secondary school teacher; and

''(III) possesses the academic or other qualifications required by the institution of higher education concerned for pursuit of a degree as an elementary school or secondary school teacher; and

''(ii) agrees to obtain any security clearance required for an elementary school or secondary school teacher in the State in which the member intends to obtain employment as a teacher after receipt of an education degree through support pursuant to the Program under this subsection.

''(B) SELECTION.—The Secretary may delegate to an institution of higher education awarded a grant under this subsection the authority to select eligible members for participation in the Program under this subsection at such institution of higher education.

''(C) CONTINUATION AFTER SEPARATION FROM MILITARY.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), an eligible member participating in the Program under this subsection may continue to participate in the Program under this subsection after the retirement, separation, or release of the member from the armed forces if the member's last period of service in the armed forces is characterized as honorable by the Secretary concerned.

''(D) LIMITATION.—A veteran eligible for benefits under chapter 33 of title 38 may not participate in the Program under this subsection.

''(5) REPORTS BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Each institution of higher education awarded a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary each year a report summarizing the participation of eligible members of the armed forces in the Program under this subsection through such institution of higher education from the commencement of the participation of members in the Program until three years after the receipt by members of education degrees through support pursuant to the Program. Each report shall summarize the following:

''(A) The amounts provided eligible members under paragraph (3).

''(B) The progress of eligible members after receipt of education degrees in obtaining and discharging employment as elementary school or secondary school teachers.

''(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31, 2018, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of activities under the Program under this subsection in meeting the objectives set forth in subsection (b). The Secretary may submit to such committees such other reports on activities under the Program under this subsection as the Secretary considers appropriate to keep such committees informed of such activities.

''(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (10 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

''(B) The term 'veteran' has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38.

''(8) FUNDS.—Of the amount available for the Program in each of fiscal years 2015 through 2018, up to amount equal to 25 percent of such amount may be used for grants under this subsection.''.

SA 3827. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her 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 B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU IN THE SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10506(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''upon the recommendation of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau'' after ''by the Secretary of the Army''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''upon the recommendation of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau'' after ''by the Secretary of the Air Force''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to assignments to the National Guard Bureau under section 10506 of title 10, United States Code, that occur after that date.

SA 3828. Mr. KAINE (for himself and 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:

Strike section 123 and insert the following:

SEC. 123. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FUNDS FOR REFUELING OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND CONSTRUCTION OF AMPHIBIOUS SHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, upon a determination described in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to transfer funds available in Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy or any other Navy procurement account for either or both of the following purposes:

(1) Up to $800,000,000 to conduct a refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. George Washington (CVN–73).

(2) Up to $800,000,000 for the ship construction of a San Antonio class amphibious ship.

(b) DETERMINATION.—A determination described in this subsection is a determination by the Secretary of the Navy that—

(1) unobligated balances are available in the program or programs from which funds will be transferred pursuant to subsection (a) due to slower than expected program execution; and

(2) the transfer of funds will fill a high priority military need and is in the best interest of the Department of the Navy.

(c) CONTINGENT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to enter into a contract for the procurement of one San Antonio class amphibious ship beginning in fiscal year 2015, and to use incremental funding for the procurement of that ship, if additional funds are made available for such purpose in fiscal year 2015 and the Secretary determines that such procurement will fill a high priority military need and is in the best interests of the Department of the Navy.

(d) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer made from one account to another under the authority of this section shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for the account to which the amount is transferred by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(e) CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority under this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided in this Act.

SA 3829. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1247. INF TREATY INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION.

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

(1) The United States has determined that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the ''INF Treaty'') not to possess, produce, or flight-test ground-launched missiles with range capabilities of 500 to 5,500 kilometers, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles.

(2) The United States Government has raised INF compliance concerns with the Russian Federation on repeated occasions in an effort to resolve United States concerns. The United States Government continues to attempt to address these very serious matters with the Government of the Russian Federation.

(3) On April 2, 2014, General Philip Breedlove, Commander of the United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, stated, ''A weapon capability that violates the INF Treaty, that is introduced into the greater European land mass is absolutely a tool that will have to be dealt with . . . It cannot go unanswered.''

(4) The July 31, 2014, annual Department of State Report on Arms Control Compliance stated, ''The United States has determined that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty not to possess, produce, or flight-test a ground-launched cruise missiles with range capabilities of 500 km to 5,500 km, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles.''

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

(1) the responsibility for violating the terms and the spirit of the INF Treaty lies solely with Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin;

(2) the President should hold the Government of the Russian Federation accountable for these breaches of its obligations under the INF Treaty and obtain the complete and verifiable elimination of any military capabilities acquired as a result of flight testing ground launched missiles with ranges prohibited by the INF Treaty; and

(3) bringing the Russian Federation back into compliance with the INF Treaty will require a new verification and inspection regime that includes vigorous onsite inspections and interviews.

(c) REPORT ON INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION REGIME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, in classified and unclassified form, that includes a new INF inspection and verification regime that will ensure compliance of the Russian Federation with the INF Treaty.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, include the following elements:

(A) A complete list of facilities that will require onsite inspections to ensure INF-

noncompliant missiles and launchers are destroyed and that additional INF-noncompliant systems are not being developed tested, manufactured, or deployed.

(B) A list of individuals who could be interviewed to determine the extent of INF violations.

(C) A mechanism for sharing this and other relevant information with countries whose borders are within 5,500 kilometers of the Russian Federation.

(D) A cost estimate of the inspection regime.

(d) REPORT ON LEGAL ANALYSIS FOR COMPLIANCE JUDGMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the legal analysis underpinning any compliance judgment for any ground launched missile system where the assessed deployed range is between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

(e) NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEPLOYMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall promptly notify the appropriate congressional committees in writing of any deployment by the Russian Federation of ground launched missile systems with assessed deployed ranges between 500 and 5500 kilometers. The notification shall include the system, deployment site, numbers, and other relevant information.

(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 3830. Mr. MCCAIN 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:

After section 1067, insert the following:

SEC. 1067A. REPEAL OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—Section 113 is amended by striking subsection (m).

(2) REPORT ON PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS.—Section 129 is amended by striking subsection (f).

(3) ANNUAL REPORT ON COMBATANT COMMAND ACTIVITIES.—Section 153 is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(4) OVERSIGHT OF PROCUREMENT, TEST, AND OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—Section 223a is amended by striking subsection (d).

(5) ANNUAL REPORT ON COMBATING TERRORISM.—

(A) REPEAL.—Chapter 9 is amended by striking section 229.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 9 is amended by striking the item relating to section 229.

(6) REPORT ON MILITARY FAMILY READINESS.—Section 1781b is amended by striking subsection (d).

(7) NOTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT SCHEDULED FOR RETIREMENT OR DISPOSAL.—Section 2244a(c) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(8) REPORT ON PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH ENTITIES THAT COMPLY WITH THE SECONDARY ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL.—Section 2410i(c) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(9) ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITION.—

(A) REPEAL.—Chapter 146 is amended by striking section 2462.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 146 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2462.

(10) STRATEGIC SOURCING PLAN OF ACTION AND REPORT ON SAVINGS, CONSOLIDATION, RESTRUCTURING, OR REENGINEERING.—

(A) REPEAL.—Chapter 146 is further amended by striking section 2475.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 146 is further amended by striking the item relating to section 2475.

(11) REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE GUIDANCE.—

(A) REPEAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 148 is amended by striking section 2504.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 148 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2504.

(12) NOTIFICATION OF AWARD OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS TO ENTITIES CONTROLLED BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—Section 2536(b) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(1) The Secretary concerned'' and inserting ''The Secretary concerned'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(13) REPORT ON RELOCATION OF MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.—Section 2827 is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(14) ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HOUSING FUNDS.—Section 2884 is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subsections (b);

(ii) in paragraph (1), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(iii) by striking ''REPORTS.—'' and all that follows through ''(1) The Secretary'' and inserting ''REPORTS.—The Secretary''; and

(iv) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(C) in subsection (b), as redesignated by subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) by inserting ''ELEMENTS.—'' before ''For each proposed contract'';

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)''; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), respectively; and

(D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by subparagraph (B)(iv)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as paragraph (2);

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(iii) by striking ''(A) In the case'' and inserting ''CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE PARTIES.—(1) In the case'';

(iv) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)''; and

(v) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

(15) NOTIFICATION OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CONDUCTED USING PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF ELECTRICITY FROM ALTERNATE ENERGY AND COGENERATION PRODUCTION FACILITIES.—Section 2916 is amended by striking subsection (c).

(b) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACTS.—

(1) REPORT ON PRICE TREND ANALYSIS FOR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE UNDER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011.—Section 892 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383; 10 U.S. C. 2306a note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(2) DISPLAY OF ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR SOVEREIGNTY ALERT MISSION UNDER DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.—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.

(3) REPORT ON GRANTS OF EXCEPTION TO COSTS OR PRICING DATA CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND WAIVERS OF COST ACCOUNTING STANDARDS IMDER BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003.—Section 817 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 10 U.S. C. 2306a note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d);

(B) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

(C) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''this section:'' and all that follows through ''(1) The term'' and inserting ''this section, the term'';

(ii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and moving such paragraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left.

(4) REPORT ON ENHANCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY UNDER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000.—Section 1409 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65; 22 U.S. C. 2778 note) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than'' and inserting ''Not later than''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(5) REPORT ON EXPERIMENTAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL UNDER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999.—Section 1101 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261; 5 U.S. C. 3104 note) is amended by striking subsection (g).

(c) REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT UNDER ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME ACT OF 1991.—Section 1511 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S. C. 411) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h).

(d) AUDITS OF UNDEFINITIZED CONTRACTS UNDER DEFENSE ACQUISITION IMPROVEMENT

ACT OF 1986.—Section 908(b) of the Defense Acquisition Improvement Act of 1986 (as enacted pursuant to section 101(c) of Public Law 99–500 (100 Stat. 1783–140) and identically enacted pursuant to section 101(c) of Public Law 99–591 (100 Stat. 3341–140) and Public Law 99–661 (100 Stat. 3919; 10 U.S. C. 2326 note)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''shall—'' and all that follows through ''(1) periodically conduct an audit'' and inserting ''shall periodically conduct an audit'';

(2) by striking ''departments; and'' and inserting ''departments.''; and

(3) by striking paragraph (2).

(e) REPORTS UNDER OTHER ACTS.—

(1) COMMERCIALIZATION PILOT PROGRAM UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—Section 9(y)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S. C. 638(y)(6)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C).

(2) REPORT ON MERITORIOUS SECURITY WAIVERS UNDER INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.—Section 3002(c) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S. C. 3343c(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

SA 3831. Mr. INHOFE 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 III, add the following:

SEC. 354. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO PROVISION OF INSTALLATION-SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGH INTERGOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS.

(a) TRANSFER OF SECTION 2336 TO CHAPTER 159.—

(1) TRANSFER AND REDESIGNATION.—Section 2336 of title 10, United States Code, is transferred to chapter 159 of such title, inserted after section 2678, and redesignated as section 2679.

(2) REVISED SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section, as so transferred and redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 2679. Installation-support services: intergovernmental support agreements''.

(b) CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS.—Such section, as so transferred and redesignated, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''The Secretary concerned'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary concerned''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an'' and inserting ''An'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B) respectively; and

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

''(4) The term 'intergovernmental support agreement' means a legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the Secretary concerned and a State or local government that contains such terms and conditions as the Secretary concerned considers appropriate for the purposes of this section and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 137 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2336.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 159 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2678 the following new item:

''2679. Installation-support services: intergovernmental support agreements.''.

SA 3832. Mr. CRUZ 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:

Strike section 1034 and insert the following:

SEC. 1034. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO TRANSFER OR RELEASE INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no funds may be obligated or expended to transfer or release any covered detainee at Guantanamo to the custody or control of such individual's country of origin, any other foreign country, or any other foreign entity—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), until the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 90 days after the date of submittal to Congress of the report required by subsection (d); or

(B) the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) in the case of a transfer or release to the custody or control of the Republic of Yemen or any entity within Yemen, until January 1, 2016.

(b) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds to transfer any covered detainee at Guantanamo to effectuate an order affecting the disposition of such individual that is issued by a court or competent tribunal of the United States having lawful jurisdiction.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Defense shall promptly notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the issuance of any order described in paragraph (1).

(3) DELAY IN DISCHARGE.—An order described in paragraph (1) may not be carried out until the date that is 5 days after the date on which the appropriate committees of Congress are notified of the order pursuant to paragraph (2).

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An officer or employee of the United States shall be liable in his or her individual capacity for a civil penalty of $10,000 for each covered detainee at Guantanamo transferred or released in violation of subsection (a) pursuant to an action or order of the officer or employee of the United States.

(2) NO REPRESENTATION BY UNITED STATES.—Notwithstanding section 50.15 or 50.16 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other provision of law, the United States Government may not provide representation to, or retain or reimburse private counsel for the representation of, an officer or employee in an action under paragraph (1).

(3) QUI TAM ACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person may bring a civil action for a violation of subsection (a) for the person and for the United States Government, seeking a civil penalty under paragraph (1). The action shall be brought in the name of the Government. The action may be dismissed only if the court and the Attorney General give written consent to the dismissal and their reasons for consenting.

(B) COMPLAINT.—A copy of the complaint and written disclosure of substantially all material evidence and information the person possesses shall be served on the Government pursuant to rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Government may elect to intervene and proceed with the action within 30 days after it receives both the complaint and the material evidence and information.

(C) DETERMINATION BY GOVERNMENT.—Before the expiration of the 30-day period under subparagraph (B), the Government shall—

(i) proceed with the action, in which case the action shall be conducted by the Government; or

(ii) notify the court that it declines to take over the action, in which case the person bringing the action shall have the right to conduct the action.

(D) INDIVIDUAL CONDUCTING ACTION.—If the Government elects not to proceed with the action, and upon request and at the Government's expense, the Government shall be served with copies of all pleadings filed in the action and shall be supplied with copies of all deposition transcripts.

(E) AWARD TO QUI TAM PLAINTIFF.—A person bringing an action under subparagraph (A) shall receive 50 percent of the amount of the civil penalty imposed on the officer or employee of the United States and the court shall award the person reasonable expenses which the court finds to have been necessarily incurred, plus reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, to be paid by the defendant.

(F) EXPEDITED APPEAL OF DISMISSAL.—It shall be the duty of the courts of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of any appeal by a person bringing a civil action under subparagraph (A) of the dismissal of the civil action with the consent of the Attorney General.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the following:

(A) A detailed description of the previous assessments by Joint Task Force Guantanamo regarding the risk that the 5 detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, to Qatar on May 31, 2014, would reengage in terrorist activity after transfer.

(B) A detailed description of any changes between the assessments described in subparagraph (A) and the assessments as of May 31, 2014, of the risk that the detainees described in that subparagraph would reengage in terrorist activity after transfer as described in that subparagraph, including the reasons for such changes.

(C) A detailed description of the prior instances, if any, in which Qatar did not fully honor its commitments to monitor, detain, or control the travel of individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

(D) A detailed assessment of the likelihood that the 5 detainees described in subparagraph (A) will return to Afghanistan or reengage in terrorism.

(E) A detailed assessment of whether the transfer of the 5 detainees as described in subparagraph (A) will increase the likelihood that the Taliban and terrorist groups around the world will try to capture United States individuals or personnel in order to obtain concessions from the United States.

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

(e) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OR RELEASE OF DETAINEES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF THE PRESIDENT.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—No detainee described in paragraph (2) may be transferred or released from United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a foreign country without the express written authorization of the President.

(2) COVERED DETAINEES.—A detainee described in this paragraph is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(A) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(B) is or was held on or after January 20, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense; and

(C) is held as of the date of the enactment of this Act at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify, limit, or supersede the requirements under section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (10 U.S.C. 801 note) relating to the transfer or release of an individual detained at Guantanamo (as defined in subsection (e)(2) of such section).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

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

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

(2) The term ''covered detainee at Guantanamo'' means each individual who—

(A) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) is or was held on January 20, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

(3) The term ''officer or employee of the United States''—

(A) includes—

(i) the President;

(ii) the head and any officer or employee of any Executive agency or military department (as those terms are defined in chapter 1 of title 5, United States Code); and

(iii) any other officer or employee of the United States; and

(B) does not include—

(i) a member of the Armed Forces; or

(ii) an officer or employee of an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)).

SA 3833. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) 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 C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2015''.

SA 3834. Mr. COBURN 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUALS AND CONTRACTORS WITH SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—An individual or contractor with a seriously delinquent tax debt may not be appointed to, or continue serving in, a position within or funded by the Department of Defense.

(b) SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''seriously delinquent tax debt'' means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code, except that such term does not include—

(1) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

(2) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.

SA 3835. Mr. COBURN 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

Not later March 1 each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress, and publish on the Internet website of the Department of Defense available to the public, the following:

(1) The total dollar amount of all balances carried forward by the Department of Defense at the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

(2) The total dollar amount of all unobligated balances carried forward by the Department of Defense at the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

(3) The total dollar amount of any balances (both obligated and unobligated) that have been carried forward by the Department of Defense for five years or more as of the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

SA 3836. Mr. COBURN 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND OVERLAPPING AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the heads of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government—

(1) use available administrative authority to eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in Government Accountability Office reports on duplication and overlap in Government programs;

(2) identify and submit to Congress a report setting the legislative action required to further eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in the reports referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) determine the total cost savings that—

(A) will accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (1) as a result of the actions taken under that paragraph; and

(B) could accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (2) as a result of the actions proposed to be taken under that paragraph using the legislative authority set forth under that paragraph.

SA 3837. Mr. COBURN 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 B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. ENHANCED WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES.

(a) PROHIBITION ON PREVENTION OF WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURES.—

(1) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—Section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing'' and inserting ''may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for, disclosing''.

(2) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—Section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking ''may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing'' and inserting ''may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for, disclosing''.

(b) CONTRACT CLAUSE REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be amended to require that any contract entered into after such date by an executive agency, and any subcontract at any tier, include the following clause: ''The contractor shall not enter into any agreement with an employee performing work under this contract that would prohibit that employee from disclosing information as described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code or section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, to officials described in such sections.''.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—The term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

SA 3838. Mr. COBURN 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LIMITATION ON GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON CONFERENCES.

(a) CONFERENCE LIMITATIONS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CONFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No agency may expend more than $500,000 to support a single conference, unless the head of the agency and the Chief Financial Officer of the agency submits to Congress before the conference a written certification that the conference is in the national interest, which shall include—

(i) an estimate of the total cost of the conference;

(ii) the dates of the conference;

(iii) an estimate of the number of full-time equivalent employees attending the conference;

(iv) any costs associated with planning for the conference; and

(v) an explanation of how the conference advances the mission of the agency.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude an agency from receiving financial support or other assistance from a foundation or other non-Federal source to pay or defray the costs of a conference.

(2) LIMITATION ON CONFERENCE POLICIES.—An agency may not establish or implement a policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a location for travel, an event, a meeting, or a conference because the location is perceived to be a resort or vacation destination.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency'' has the meaning given that term under section 5701(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the term ''conference'' means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or event that involves attendee travel.

SA 3839. Mr. COBURN 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. DATABASE ON PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, AND OUTCOME MEASURES REGARDING HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and make available to the public a comprehensive database containing all applicable patient safety, quality of care, and outcome measures for health care provided by the Department of Defense that are tracked by the Secretary.

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the database required by paragraph (1) not less frequently than once every six months.

(3) UNAVAILABLE MEASURES.—For any measure that the Secretary would otherwise publish in the database required by paragraph (1) but has not done so because such measure is not available, the Secretary shall publish notice in the database of the reason for such unavailability and a timeline for making such measure available in the database.

(4) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the database required by paragraph (1) is accessible to the public through the primary Internet website of the Department and through each primary Internet website of a Department medical center.

(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTERS AND DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to facilitate and enhance sharing between the medical centers of the Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency on information on patient safety, quality of care, and outcomes for health care provided by such medical centers, including information obtained through the measures developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) HOSPITAL COMPARE WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

(1) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the provision by the Secretary of Defense of such information as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may require to report and make publicly available patient quality and outcome information concerning Department of Defense medical centers through the Hospital Compare Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services or any successor Internet website.

(2) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The information provided by the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures of timely and effective health care.

(B) Measures of readmissions, complications of death, including with respect to 30-day mortality rates and 30-day readmission rates, surgical complication measures, and health care related infection measures.

(C) Survey data of patient experiences, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems or any similar successor survey developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(D) Any other measures required of or reported with respect to hospitals participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(3) UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION.—For any applicable metric collected by the Department of Defense or required to be provided under paragraph (2) and withheld from or unavailable in the Hospital Compare Internet website or successor Internet website, the Secretary of Defense shall publish a notice on such Internet website stating the reason why such metric was withheld from public disclosure and a timeline for making such metric available, if applicable.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SAFETY AND QUALITY METRICS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the safety and quality metrics made publicly available by the Secretary of Defense under this section to assess the degree to which the Secretary is complying with the provisions of this section.

SA 3840. 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 subtitle B of title II, add the following:

SEC. 215. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PLANS FOR SOFTWARE FOR F–35 AIRCRAFT.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that software in weapon systems of the United States has become more complex and a larger portion of the acquisition and sustainment costs of such systems.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should—

(1) submit to the congressional defense committees executable timelines and sustainment plans for each section of the report submitted to the congressional defense committees under section 218(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (127 Stat. 707; Public Law 113–66);

(2) submit to the congressional defense committees executable timelines and sustainment plans for the source of repair or sustainment decisions for the totality of the software for the F–35 aircraft program that was recommended in such report; and

(3) establish the baseline for software sustainment for the F–35 aircraft program at the earlier of the date—

(A) of the first initial operating capability (IOC) of such program;

(B) on which the F–35 aircraft is fielded or tasked; or

(C) when combatant commanders start integrating the F–35 aircraft into training, operations, or planning.

SA 3841. 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 XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2842. REDESIGNATION OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AS PFC HAROLD EUGENE "GENE" SELLERS–UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Armed Forces Reserve Center located at 6109 C W Post Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas, is hereby renamed the ''PFC Harold Eugene 'Gene' Sellers–United States Armed Forces Reserve Center''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the United States Armed Forces Reserve Center located at 6109 C W Post Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas, in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the PFC Harold Eugene ''Gene'' Sellers–United States Armed Forces Reserve Center.

SA 3842. Mr. NELSON 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 XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, FORMER LYNN HAVEN FUEL DEPOT, LYNN HAVEN, FLORIDA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey to the City of Lynn Haven, Florida (in this section referred to as the ''City''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 144 acres at the former Lynn Haven Fuel Depot in Bay County, Florida.

(2) EXCLUDED PROPERTY.—The real property to be conveyed under paragraph (1) shall not include the portion of the former Lynn Haven Fuel Depot authorized to be conveyed by the Secretary to Florida State University by section 2843 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 553).

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a)(1), the City shall pay to the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of the real property to be conveyed, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) TREATMENT OF CASH PAYMENTS RECEIVED.—Cash payment received by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) shall be deposited in the special account in the Treasury established for the Secretary under subsection (e) of section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, and shall be available to the Secretary for the same uses and subject to the same limitations as provided in that section.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under subsection (a)(1) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. TESTER. 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 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 10:15 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Reforming America's Outdated Energy Tax Code.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''United States Strategy to Defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.''

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. TESTER. 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 17, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Judicial Nominations.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 17, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Why Net Neutrality Matters: Protecting Consumers and Competition Through Meaningful Open Internet Rules.''

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, in room S–216 of the Capitol Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 17, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Who Is The Economy Working For? The Impact of Rising Inequality on the American Economy.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the privileges of the floor be granted to Chikulupi Kasaka.

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that K.C. Courtland, who has been a military fellow in our office, be granted the privileges of the floor for today's session of the Senate.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Scott Robertson, a fellow with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session, and that Brent Becker and Ben Strube, interns with the committee also be granted floor privileges for today's session.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Maj. David James Wilson, a U.S. Air Force officer who is currently serving as a defense legislative fellow in my office, for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1009 through and including 1026 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Gustave F. Perna

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kathleen M. Creighton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Todd J. Squire

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Brian B. Brown
Rear Adm. (lh) Sean R. Filipowski
Rear Adm. (lh) Brett C. Heimbigner

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Steven L. Kwast

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Scott G. Perry

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Joseph J. Heck

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Mark S. Inch

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Philip S. Davidson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Tod D. Wolters

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Veralinn Jamieson

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John W. Nicholson, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Paul M. Benenati

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael A. Calhoun

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Raul E. Escribano
Colonel Timothy J. McAteer
Colonel Jeffrey L. Milhorn

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1950 AIR FORCE nomination of Lisa L. Adams, which as received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1951 AIR FORCE nomination of Richard D. Mink, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1953 AIR FORCE nominations (11) beginning DAVID L. ALLISON, and ending KWANI D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

PN1604 ARMY nominations (417) beginning STEPHEN R. ABRAMS, and ending G010257, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1605 ARMY nominations (420) beginning ISAIAH C. ABBOTT, and ending D012187, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1606 ARMY nominations (862) beginning JASON K. ABBOTT, and ending D012084, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1954 ARMY nomination of Claudia D. Henderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1955 ARMY nominations (265) beginning JESSE ABREU, and ending D011533, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1956 ARMY nomination of Sun S. Macupa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1957 ARMY nominations (450) beginning BRIAN S. ADAMS, and ending G010266, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1958 ARMY nominations (280) beginning CLARK C.K. ADAMS, II, and ending G010269, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN2009 ARMY nominations (3) beginning HERBERT J. BROCK, IV, and ending GREGORY S. PHIPPS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2010 ARMY nominations (125) beginning SYED AHMED, and ending AMY ZINGALIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2011 ARMY nominations (26) beginning BRADLEY AEBI, and ending KEVYN WETZEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appear in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

PN1959 NAVY nomination of Edward J. Eder which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1960 NAVY nomination of William A. Burns, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1961 NAVY nomination of Kevin L. Bell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1962 NAVY nomination of Clayton M. Pendergrass, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1963 NAVY nominations (2) beginning CASEY D. FERGUSON, and ending ANTHONY K. TOBIAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1964 NAVY nominations (71) beginning CRYSTAL R. AANDAHL, and ending LINA M. YECPOT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1965 NAVY nominations (73) beginning CYNTHIA N. ABELLA, and ending YU ZHENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1966 NAVY nominations (34) beginning CHRISTOPHER A. ADAMS, and ending MARLIN WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1967 NAVY nominations (35) beginning JESSE D. ADAMS, and ending NICHOLAS B. STAMPFLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1968 NAVY nominations (30) beginning JON A. ANGLE, and ending KHALID J. WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1969 NAVY nominations (67) beginning TODD A. ANDERSON, and ending SHEVONNE K. WELLS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1970 NAVY nominations (73) beginning AUSTIN G. ALDRIDGE, and ending NATHAN T. WOODWARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN1971 NAVY nominations (182) beginning ALWIN L. ALBERT, and ending JACK M. ZUCKERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN2012 NAVY nomination of Gregory E. Oxford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2013 NAVY nomination of Benjamin I. Abney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2014 NAVY nomination of Joel N. Peterson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

PN2015 NAVY nominations (8) beginning GREGORY C. CATHCART, and ending MICHAEL D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on H.J. Res. 124, the Senate consider Executive Calendar Nos. 893, 524, 959, 702, 1002, 997, 708, 996, and PN 1917; that there be 2 minutes for 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; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

DHS OIG MANDATES REVISION ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 567, S. 2651.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2651) to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General.

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:

S. 2651

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE CARGO INSPECTION TARGETING SYSTEM.—

(1) REPEAL.—Subsections (g) and (h) of section 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 46 U.S.C. 70101 note) are repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 118 Stat. 1085), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''and (j)'' and inserting ''and (h)''; and

(B) by redesignating subsections (i), (j), and (k) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively.

(b) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF COAST GUARD PERFORMANCE.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 888(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(f)) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by redesignating subsections (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively.

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF GRANTS TO STATES AND HIGH-RISK URBAN AREAS.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 2022(a)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 612(a)(3)) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2022(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 612(a)), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(B) in paragraph (4), as redesignated—

(i) by striking ''paragraphs (2) and (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

Mr. REID. I 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2651), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SUNSCREEN INNOVATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 568, S. 2141.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2141) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, and for other purposes.

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:

S. 2141

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Sunscreen Innovation Act''.

SEC. 2. REGULATION OF NONPRESCRIPTION SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subchapter I—Nonprescription Sunscreen and Other Active Ingredients

"SEC. 586. DEFINITIONS.

''In this subchapter—

''(1) the term 'Advisory Committee' means the Nonprescription Drug Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration or any successor to such Committee;

''(2) the term 'final sunscreen order' means an order published by the Secretary in the Federal Register containing information stating that a

nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients—

''(A) is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order; or

''(B) is not GRASE and is misbranded;

''(3) the term 'GRASE' means generally recognized, among experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs, as safe and effective for use under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling of a drug as described in section 201(p);

''(4) the term 'GRASE determination' means, with respect to a nonprescription active ingredient or a combination of nonprescription active ingredients, a determination of whether such ingredient or combination of ingredients is GRASE;

''(5) the term 'nonprescription' means not subject to section 503(b)(1);

''(6) the term 'pending request' means each request with respect to a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient submitted under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act) for consideration for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system—

''(A) that was determined to be eligible for such review by publication of a notice of eligibility in the Federal Register prior to the date of enactment of such Act; and

''(B) for which safety and effectiveness data have been submitted to the Secretary prior to such date of enactment;

''(7) the term 'proposed sunscreen order' means an order containing a tentative determination published by the Secretary in the Federal Register containing information proposing that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients—

''(A) is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order;

''(B) is not GRASE and is misbranded; or

''(C) is not GRASE and is misbranded because the data are insufficient to classify such ingredient or combination of ingredients as GRASE and not misbranded and additional information is necessary to allow the Secretary to determine otherwise;

''(8) the term 'sponsor' means the person that submitted—

''(A) a request under section 586A;

''(B) a pending request; or

''(C) any other application subject to this subchapter;

''(9) the term 'sunscreen' means a drug containing one or more sunscreen active ingredients; and

''(10) the term 'sunscreen active ingredient' means an active ingredient that is intended for application to the skin of humans for purposes of absorbing, reflecting, or scattering ultraviolet radiation.

"SEC. 586A. SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS.

''Any person may submit a request to the Secretary for a determination of whether a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or a combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, for use under specified conditions, to be prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling thereof (including dosage form, dosage strength, and route of administration) is GRASE and should be included in part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen.

"SEC. 586B. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS; DATA SUBMISSION; FILING.

''(a) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the date of receipt of a request under section 586A, the Secretary shall—

''(A) determine, in accordance with paragraph (2), whether the request is eligible for further review under subsection (b) and section 586C;

''(B) notify the sponsor of the determination of the Secretary; and

''(C) make such determination publicly available in accordance with paragraph (3) and subsection (b)(1).

''(2) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for review under subsection (b) and section 586C, a request shall be for a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, for use under specified conditions, to be prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling thereof, that—

''(i) is not included in part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen; and

''(ii) has been used to a material extent and for a material time under such conditions, as described in section 201(p)(2).

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIME AND EXTENT.—A sponsor shall include in a request under section 586A the information required under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) to meet the standard described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

''(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

''(A) REDACTIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—If a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is determined under paragraph (1)(A) to be eligible for further review, the Secretary shall make the request publicly available, with redactions for information that is treated as confidential under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or section 301(j) of this Act.

''(B) IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY SPONSOR.—At the time that a request is made under section 586A, the sponsor of such request shall identify any information that such sponsor considers to be confidential information described in subparagraph (A).

''(C) CONFIDENTIALITY DURING ELIGIBILITY REVIEW.—The information contained in a request under section 586A shall remain confidential during the Secretary's consideration under this section of whether the request is eligible for further review consistent with section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

''(b) DATA SUBMISSION AND FILING OF REQUESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a request under section 586A that is determined to be eligible under subsection (a) for further review under this section and section 586C, the Secretary shall, in notifying the public under subsection (a)(1)(C) of such eligibility determination, post the eligibility determination on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration, invite the sponsor of such request and any other interested party to submit comments, and provide a period of not less than 45 calendar days for comments in support of or otherwise relating to a GRASE determination, including published and unpublished data and other information related to the safety and efficacy of such request.

''(2) FILING DETERMINATION.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the submission of data and other information described in paragraph (1) by the sponsor, the Secretary shall determine whether the data and other information submitted by the sponsor under this section are sufficiently complete, including being formatted in a manner that enables the Secretary to determine the completeness of such data and information, to enable the Secretary to conduct a substantive review under section 586C with respect to such request. Not later than 60 calendar days after the submission of data and other information described in paragraph (1) by the sponsor, if the Secretary determines—

''(A) that such data and other information are sufficiently complete, the Secretary shall—

''(i) issue a written notification to the sponsor of the determination to file such request, and make such notification publicly available; and

''(ii) file such request made under section 586A; or

''(B) that such data and other information are not sufficiently complete, the Secretary shall issue a written notification to the sponsor of the determination to refuse to file the request, which shall include the reasons for the refusal, including why such data and other information are not sufficiently complete, and make such notification publicly available.

''(3) REFUSAL TO FILE A REQUEST.—

''(A) REQUEST FOR MEETINGS; SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL DATA OR OTHER INFORMATION.—If the Secretary refuses to file a request made under section 586A, the sponsor may—

''(i) within 30 calendar days of receipt of written notification of such refusal, request, in writing, a meeting with the Secretary regarding the filing determination; and

''(ii) submit additional data or other information.

''(B) MEETINGS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If a sponsor seeks a meeting under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall convene the meeting within 30 calendar days of the request for such meeting.

''(ii) ACTIONS AFTER MEETING.—Following any meeting held under clause (i)—

''(I) the Secretary may file the request within 60 calendar days;

''(II) the sponsor may submit additional data or other information; or

''(III) if the sponsor elects, within 120 calendar days, to have the Secretary file the request (with or without amendments to correct any purported deficiencies to the request)—

''(aa) the Secretary shall file the request over protest, not later than 30 calendar days after the sponsor makes such election;

''(bb) at the time of filing, the Secretary shall provide written notification of such filing to the sponsor; and

''(cc) the Secretary shall make such notification publicly available.

''(iii) REQUESTS FILED OVER PROTEST.—The Secretary shall not require the sponsor to resubmit a copy of the request for purposes of filing a request filed over protest, as described in clause (ii)(III).

''(C) SUBMISSIONS OF ADDITIONAL DATA OR OTHER INFORMATION.—Within 60 calendar days of any submission of additional data or other information under subparagraph (A)(ii) or (B)(ii)(II), the Secretary shall reconsider the previous determination made under paragraph (2) with respect to the applicable request and make a new determination in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

''(A) REDACTIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—After the period of confidentiality described in subsection (a)(3)(C), the Secretary shall make data and other information submitted in connection with a request under section 586A publicly available, with redactions for information that is treated as confidential under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or section 301(j) of this Act.

''(B) IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY SPONSOR.—A person submitting information under this section shall identify at the time of such submission the portions of such information that the person considers to be confidential information described in subparagraph (A).

"SEC. 586C. GRASE DETERMINATION.

''(a) REVIEW OF NEW REQUEST.—

''(1) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a request under section 586A, not later than 300 calendar days after the date on which such request is filed under subsection (b)(2)(A) or (b)(3)(B)(ii)(III) of section 586B, the Secretary—

''(A) may convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee to review such request; and

''(B) shall complete the review of such request and issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

''(2) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—If the Secretary does not issue a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (1)(B) within such 300-day period, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner. If such sponsor so notifies the Office of the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under this paragraph, issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

''(3) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—A proposed sunscreen order issued under paragraph (1)(B) or (2) with respect to a request shall provide for a period of 45 calendar days for public comment.

''(4) MEETING.—A sponsor may request, in writing, a meeting with respect to a proposed sunscreen order issued under this subsection and described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 586(7), not later than 30 calendar days after the Secretary issues such order. The Secretary shall convene a meeting with such sponsor not later than 45 calendar days after such request for a meeting.

''(5) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—With respect to a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)—

''(A) the Secretary shall issue a final sunscreen order—

''(i) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 586(7), not later than 90 calendar days after the end of the public comment period under paragraph (3); or

''(ii) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (C) of section 586(7), not later than 210 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits the additional information requested pursuant to such proposed sunscreen order; or

''(B) if the Secretary does not issue such final sunscreen order within such 90- or 210-calendar-day period, as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner.

''(6) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to a proposed sunscreen order subject to paragraph (5)(B) not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under such paragraph.

''(b) REVIEW OF PENDING REQUESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The review of a pending request shall be carried out by the Secretary in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF SECTIONS 586A AND 586B.—Sections 586A and 586B shall not apply with respect to any pending request.

''(3) FEEDBACK LETTERS AS PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 586(7), a letter issued pursuant to section 330.14(g) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations before the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, with respect to a pending request, shall be deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order and displayed on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration. Notification of the availability of such letter shall be published in the Federal Register not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of such Act.

''(4) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a pending request for which the Secretary has not issued a letter pursuant to section 330.14(g) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations before the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall complete review of such request and, not later than 90 calendar days after the date of enactment of such Act, issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

''(5) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—If the Secretary does not issue a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (4), or the Secretary does not publish a notification of the availability of a letter under paragraph (3), as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall, not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under this paragraph, issue a proposed order with respect to such request.

''(6) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—A proposed sunscreen order issued under paragraph (4) or (5), or a notification of the availability of a letter under paragraph (3), with respect to a pending request shall provide for a period of 45 calendar days for public comment.

''(7) MEETING.—A sponsor may request, in writing, a meeting with respect to a proposed sunscreen order issued under this subsection, including a letter deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), not later than 30 calendar days after the Secretary issues such order or the date upon which such feedback letter is deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order, as applicable. The Secretary shall convene a meeting with such sponsor not later than 45 calendar days after the date of such request for a meeting.

''(8) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—In the case of a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), (4), or (5), an Advisory Committee meeting may be convened for the purpose of reviewing and providing recommendations regarding the pending request.

''(9) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), (4), or (5)—

''(A) the Secretary shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to the request—

''(i) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 586(7), not later than 90 calendar days after the end of the public comment period under paragraph (6); or

''(ii) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (C) of section 586(7)—

''(I) if the Advisory Committee is not convened under paragraph (8), not later than 210 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits the additional information requested pursuant to such proposed sunscreen order, which shall include a rationale for not convening such Advisory Committee; or

''(II) if the Advisory Committee is convened under paragraph (8), not later than 270 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits such additional information; or

''(B) if the Secretary does not issue such final sunscreen order within such 90-, 210-, or 270-calendar-day period, as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner about such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner.

''(10) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to a proposed sunscreen order subject to paragraph (9)(B) not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under such paragraph.

''(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall not be required to—

''(1) convene the Advisory Committee—

''(A) more than once with respect to any request under section 586A or any pending request; or

''(B) more than twice in any calendar year with respect to the review under this section; or

''(2) submit more than a total of 3 requests under section 586A or pending requests to the Advisory Committee per meeting.

''(d) NO DELEGATION.—Any responsibility vested in the Commissioner by subsection (a)(2), (a)(6), (b)(5), or (b)(10) shall not be delegated.

''(e) EFFECT OF FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS DETERMINED TO BE GRASE.—Upon issuance of a final sunscreen order determining that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded, a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients shall be permitted to be introduced or delivered into interstate commerce for use under the conditions described in such final sunscreen order, in accordance with all requirements applicable to drugs not subject to section 503(b)(1), for so long as such final sunscreen order remains in effect.

''(B) SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS DETERMINED NOT TO BE GRASE.—Upon issuance of a final sunscreen order determining that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is not GRASE and is misbranded, a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients shall not be introduced or delivered into interstate commerce, for use under the conditions described in such final sunscreen order, unless an application is approved pursuant to section 505 with respect to a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients, or unless conditions are later established under which such ingredient or combination of ingredients is later determined to be GRASE and not misbranded under the over-the-counter drug monograph system.

''(2) AMENDMENTS TO FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDERS.—

''(A) AMENDMENTS AT INITIATIVE OF SECRETARY.—In the event that information relevant to a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients becomes available to the Secretary after issuance of a final sunscreen order, the Secretary may amend such final sunscreen order by issuing a new proposed sunscreen order under subsection (a)(1) and following the procedures set forth in this section.

''(B) PETITION TO AMEND FINAL ORDER.—Any interested person may petition the Secretary to amend a final sunscreen order under section 10.30, title 21 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations). If the Secretary grants any petition under such section, the Secretary shall initiate the process for amending a final sunscreen order by issuing a new proposed sunscreen order under subsection (a)(1) and following the procedures set forth in this section.

''(C) APPLICABILITY OF FINAL ORDERS.—Once the Secretary issues a new proposed sunscreen order to amend a final sunscreen order under subparagraph (A) or (B), such final sunscreen order shall remain in effect and paragraph (3) shall not apply to such final sunscreen order until the Secretary has issued a new final sunscreen order or has determined not to amend the final sunscreen order.

''(3) INCLUSION OF INGREDIENTS THAT ARE SUBJECTS OF FINAL ORDERS IN THE SUNSCREEN MONOGRAPH.—

''(A) AMENDING REGULATIONS.—

''(i) REQUIREMENT.—At any time that the Secretary proposes to amend part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen, including pursuant to section 586E, except as provided in clause (iv), the Secretary shall include in such part 352 (or any successor regulations) any nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that is the subject of an effective final sunscreen order of the type described in section 586(2)(A) and issued since the time that the Secretary last amended such regulations. Such regulation shall set forth conditions of use under which each such ingredient or combination of ingredients is GRASE and not misbranded. If these conditions differ from, or are in addition to, those previously set forth in the applicable final sunscreen order, the Secretary shall provide notice and opportunity for comment on such conditions in the

rulemaking, and the applicable final sunscreen order shall continue in effect until the effective date of a final regulation, as set forth in clause (iii).

''(ii) INCLUSION OF ORDERS.—In proposing to amend the regulations as described in clause (i), the Secretary shall include in the proposed regulations a list of final sunscreen orders that shall cease to be effective on the effective date of a resulting final regulation. Such list shall include all final sunscreen orders of the type described in section 586(2)(A) that are in effect on the date that such regulations are proposed, with the exception that such list shall not include any final sunscreen orders that, on the date that the regulations are proposed, the Secretary is in the process of amending under paragraph (2).

''(iii) ORDERS NO LONGER EFFECTIVE.—Any final sunscreen order included by the Secretary in a list described in clause (ii) and in a list included in resulting final regulations shall cease to be effective on the date that such final regulations including such order in such list become effective.

''(iv) INGREDIENTS NOT GRASE.—If, notwithstanding a final sunscreen order stating that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order, while amending the regulations as described in clause (i), the Secretary concludes that such ingredient or combination of ingredients is no longer GRASE for use in nonprescription sunscreen, the Secretary shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, either initiate the process for amending the final sunscreen order set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection or include in a proposed regulation an explanation and information supporting the determination of the Secretary that such ingredient or combination of ingredients is no longer GRASE for use in nonprescription sunscreen.

''(B) PROCEDURE FOR UPDATING REGULATIONS.—After the Secretary amends and finalizes the regulations under part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations under section 586E and such regulations become effective, the Secretary may use direct final rulemaking to include in such regulations any nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that are the subject of effective final sunscreen orders.

"SEC. 586D. GUIDANCE; OTHER PROVISIONS.

''(a) GUIDANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) DRAFT GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall issue draft guidance on the implementation of, and compliance with, the requirements with respect to sunscreen under this subchapter, including guidance on—

''(i) the format and content of information submitted by a sponsor in support of a request under section 586A or a pending request;

''(ii) the data required to meet the safety and efficacy standard for determining whether a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded;

''(iii) the process by which a request under section 586A or a pending request is withdrawn; and

''(iv) the process by which the Secretary will carry out section 586C(c), including with respect to how the Secretary will address the total number of requests received under section 586A and pending requests.

''(B) FINAL GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall finalize the guidance described in subparagraph (A) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.

''(C) INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code shall not apply to collections of information made for purposes of guidance under this subsection.

''(2) SUBMISSIONS PENDING ISSUANCE OF FINAL GUIDANCE.—Irrespective of whether final guidance under paragraph (1) has been issued—

''(A) persons may, beginning on the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, make submissions under this subchapter; and

''(B) the Secretary shall review and act upon such submissions in accordance with this subchapter.

''(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) CURRENTLY MARKETED SUNSCREENS.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the marketing of sunscreens that are marketed in interstate commerce on or before the date of enactment of this subchapter, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter.

''(2) ENSURING SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to alter the authority of the Secretary with respect to prohibiting the marketing of a sunscreen that is not safe and effective or is misbranded, or with respect to imposing restrictions on the marketing of a sunscreen to ensure safety and effectiveness, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, including section 586C(e).

''(3) OTHER DRUGS.—Except as otherwise provided in section 586F, nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary under this Act or the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) with respect to a drug other than a nonprescription sunscreen.

''(4) EFFECT ON DRUGS OTHERWISE APPROVED.—Nothing in this subchapter shall affect the marketing of a drug approved under section 505 of this Act or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act.

''(c) TIMELINES.—The timelines for the processes and procedures under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (6) of section 586C(a) shall not apply to any requests submitted to the Secretary under section 586A after the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.

"SEC. 586E. SUNSCREEN MONOGRAPH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall amend and finalize regulations under part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations concerning nonprescription sunscreen that are effective not later than 5 years after such date of enactment. The Secretary shall publish such regulations not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of such regulations.

''(b) REPORTS.—If the regulations promulgated under subsection (a) do not include provisions related to the effectiveness of various sun protection factor levels, and do not address all dosage forms known to the Secretary to be used in sunscreens marketed in the United States without a new drug approval under section 505, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the rationale for such provisions not being included in such regulations, and a plan and timeline to compile any information necessary to address such provisions through final regulations.''.

(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of a sponsor (as defined in section 586(8) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)) to request that the Secretary of Health and Human Services convene an advisory committee; or

(2) limit the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to meet with a sponsor (as defined in section 586(8) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 3. NON-SUNSCREEN TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.

Subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by section 2, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 586F. NON-SUNSCREEN TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.

''(a) PENDING TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REQUEST FOR FRAMEWORK FOR REVIEW.—If, prior to the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, an application was submitted pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations for a GRASE determination for a drug other than a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and such drug was found to be eligible to be considered for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, the sponsor of such application may request that the Secretary provide a framework under paragraph (2) for the review of such application.

''(B) REQUEST REQUIREMENTS.—A request for a framework for review of an application made under subparagraph (A) shall be made within 180 calendar days of the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act and shall include the preference of such sponsor as to whether such application is reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with—

''(i) the processes and procedures set forth for pending requests under section 586C(b), except that specific timelines shall be determined in accordance with other applicable requirements under this section;

''(ii) the processes and procedures set forth under part 330 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(iii) an initial filing determination under the processes and procedures described in section 586B(b) and the processes and procedures set forth for pending requests under section 586C(b), except that specific timelines shall be determined in accordance with other applicable requirements under this section; or

''(iv) an initial filing determination under the processes and procedures described in section 586B(b) and the processes and procedures set forth under part 330 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

''(C) NO REQUEST.—If a sponsor described in subparagraph (A) does not make such request within 180 calendar days of the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, such application shall be reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with the timelines of the applicable regulations when such regulations are finalized under subsection (b).

''(2) FRAMEWORK.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, a framework to each sponsor that submitted a request under paragraph (1). Such framework shall set forth the various timelines, in calendar days, with respect to the processes and procedures for review under clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) and—

''(A) such timelines shall account for the considerations under paragraph (5); and

''(B) the timelines for the various processes and procedures shall not be shorter than the timelines set forth for pending requests under sections 586B(b) and 586C(b), as applicable.

''(3) GOVERNING PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW.—

''(A) ELECTION.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the Secretary provides a framework to a sponsor under paragraph (2), such sponsor may provide an election to the Secretary regarding the processes and procedures for review under clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (1)(B). If such sponsor makes such election, the Secretary shall review the application that is the subject of such election pursuant to the processes and procedures elected by such sponsor and the applicable timelines in calendar days set forth under such framework, which the

Secretary shall confirm in writing to the sponsor not later than the date upon which the Secretary provides a report under paragraph (4). If such sponsor does not make such election, such application shall be reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with the timelines of the applicable regulations when such regulations are finalized under subsection (b).

''(B) DIFFERENT PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES.—At any time during review of an application, the Secretary may review such application under different processes and procedures under clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) than the processes and procedures the sponsor elected in accordance with subparagraph (A), so long as the Secretary proposes, in writing, the change and the sponsor agrees, in writing, to such change.

''(C) INCLUSION OF INGREDIENTS IN MONOGRAPHS.—If the sponsor elects to use the processes and procedures for review in accordance with clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary may incorporate any resulting final order into a regulation addressing the conditions under which other drugs in the same therapeutic category are GRASE and not misbranded, including through direct final rulemaking, and the final order so incorporated shall cease to be effective on the effective date of the final regulation that addresses such drug.

''(4) LETTER REGARDING PENDING APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, in writing, regarding all pending applications subject to paragraph (1). In such letter, the Secretary shall provide a report on the review of such applications, including the timelines, in calendar days, for the review and GRASE determination for each application. Such timelines shall account for the considerations under paragraph (5).

''(5) TIMELINES.—The timelines in calendar days established by the Secretary pursuant to this subsection—

''(A) may vary based on the content, complexity, and format of the application submitted to the Secretary; and

''(B) shall—

''(i) reflect the public health priorities of the Food and Drug Administration, including the potential public health benefits posed by the inclusion of additional drugs in the over-the-counter drug monograph system;

''(ii) take into consideration the resources available to the Secretary for carrying out such priorities and the processes and procedures described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2); and

''(iii) be reasonable, taking into consideration the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii).

''(b) NEW TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall issue proposed regulations establishing timelines for the review of applications for GRASE determinations for drugs other than nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients or combinations of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that are submitted to the Secretary after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and that are found to be eligible to be considered for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), or that are subject to this subsection pursuant to paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a), as applicable, providing—

''(A) timely and efficient completion of evaluations of applications under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) for drugs other than sunscreens; and

''(B) timely and efficient completion of the review of the safety and effectiveness submissions pursuant to such applications, including establishing—

''(i) reasonable timelines, in calendar days, for the applicable proposed and final regulations for applications of various content, complexity, and format, and timelines for internal procedures related to such processes; and

''(ii) measurable metrics for tracking the extent to which the timelines set forth in the regulations are met.

''(2) TIMELINES.—The timelines in calendar days established in the regulations under paragraph (1)—

''(A) may vary based on the content, complexity, and format of the application submitted to the Secretary; and

''(B) shall—

''(i) reflect the public health priorities of the Food and Drug Administration, including the potential public health benefits posed by the inclusion of additional drugs in the over-the-counter drug monograph system;

''(ii) take into consideration the resources available to the Secretary for carrying out such priorities and the processes and procedures described in paragraph (1); and

''(iii) be reasonable, taking into consideration the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii).

''(3) PROCEDURE.—In promulgating regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking that includes a copy of the proposed regulation, provide a period of not less than 60 calendar days for comments on the proposed regulation, and publish the final regulation not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of the regulation.

''(4) RESTRICTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations implementing this section only as described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

''(5) FINAL REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall finalize the regulations under this section not later than 27 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.''.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) INITIAL GAO REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report reviewing the overall progress of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in carrying out subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by section 2 and amended by section 3 and subsection (c)), including findings on and recommendations with respect to—

(1) the progress made in completing the review of requests under subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including pending requests, and the feasibility of the timelines associated with such subchapter;

(2) the role of the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in issuing determinations with respect to requests reviewed under such subchapter, including the number of requests transferred to the Office of the Commissioner under section 586C of such Act;

(3) the extent to which advisory committees were convened by the Secretary regarding requests under subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including pending requests; and

(4) the types of metrics that have been, or should be, established for the review of time and extent applications.

(b) SUBSEQUENT GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5½ years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report reviewing the overall progress of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in carrying out subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by section 2 and amended by section 3 and subsection (c)) and the regulation of over-the-counter drug products, including findings on and recommendations with respect to—

(1) updates on the matters reported on by the Comptroller General under subsection (a);

(2) significant factors impacting the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to fulfill the mission of the agency with regard to the regulation of over-the-counter drug products, including finalizing outstanding monographs and responding to emerging and novel safety issues;

(3) the performance of the Secretary in carrying out section 586E of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

(4) the types of metrics that have been, or should be, established for the review and regulation of over-the-counter drug products; and

(5) timeliness, efficiency, and accountability in reviewing time and extent applications and safety and effectiveness reviews for over-the-counter drug products.

(c) FDA REPORT.—Subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 586G. REPORT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, and on the dates that are 2 and 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall issue a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives describing actions taken under this subchapter.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The reports under this subsection shall include—

''(A) a review of the progress made in issuing GRASE determinations for pending requests, including the number of pending requests—

''(i) reviewed and the decision times for each request, measured from the date of the original request for an eligibility determination submitted by the sponsor;

''(ii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded;

''(iii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is not GRASE and is misbranded and the reasons for such determinations; and

''(iv) for which a determination has not been made, and an explanation for the delay, a description of the current status of each such request, and the length of time each such request has been pending, measured from the date of original request for an eligibility determination by the sponsor;

''(B) a review of the progress made in issuing GRASE determinations for requests not included in the reporting under subparagraph (A), including the number of such requests—

''(i) reviewed and the decision times for each request;

''(ii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient, combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, or other ingredient is GRASE and is not misbranded;

''(iii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient, combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, or other ingredient is not GRASE and is misbranded and the reasons for such determinations; and

''(iv) for which a determination has not been made, and an explanation for the delay, a description of the current status of each such request, and the length of time each such request

has been pending, measured from the date of original request for an eligibility determination by the sponsor;

''(C) an annual accounting (including information from years prior to the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act where such information is available) of the total number of requests submitted, pending, or completed under this subchapter, including whether such requests were the subject of an advisory committee convened by the Secretary;

''(D) a description of the staffing and resources relating to the costs associated with the review and decisionmaking pertaining to requests under this subchapter;

''(E) a review of the progress made in meeting the deadlines with respect to processing requests under this subchapter; and

''(F) to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate, recommendations for process improvements in the handling of requests under this subchapter, including the advisory committee review process.

''(b) METHOD.—The Secretary shall publish the reports under subsection (a) in the manner the Secretary determines to be the most effective for efficiently disseminating the report, including publication of the report on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration.''.

Mr. REID. I 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2141), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO PUBLIC LAW 110–229

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4751.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4751) to make technical corrections to Public Law 110–229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4751) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4809.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4809) to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4809) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 545 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 545) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 545) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 15, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL BISON DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 543 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 543) designating November 1, 2014, as National Bison Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 543) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 11, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. 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. 552; S. Res. 553; S. Res. 554; S. Res. 555; S. Res. 556; S. Res. 557; S. Res. 558; S. Res. 559; and S. Res. 560.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.'')

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 113–6

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate, signed September 17, 2014, by the President of the United States: Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Chile (Treaty Document No. 113–6).

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile (the ''Treaty''), signed at Washington on June 5, 2013. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty would replace the outdated extradition treaty between the

United States and Chile, signed at Santiago on April 17, 1900 (the ''1900 Treaty''). The Treaty follows generally the form and content of other extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States. It would replace an outmoded list of extraditable offenses with a modern ''dual criminality'' approach, which would enable extradition for such offenses as money laundering and other newer offenses not appearing on the list from the 1900 Treaty. The Treaty also contains a modernized ''political offense'' clause and provides that extradition shall not be refused based on the nationality of the person sought. Finally, the Treaty incorporates a series of procedural improvements to streamline and speed the extradition process.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to its ratification.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 17, 2014.*

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, 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 the prayer and pledge, the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair; that when the Senate reconvenes, following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 1 p.m., 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, and with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; and finally, at 1 p.m., the Senate proceed to consideration of H.J. Res. 124, the continuing resolution, as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 10 a.m. tomorrow, His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, will address a joint meeting of Congress from the Hall of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Capitol. Senators should begin to gather in the Senate Chamber at 9:30 a.m. to depart at 9:40 a.m. for the procession to the Hall of the House.

Senators should expect a series of rollcall votes at approximately 5:30 p.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:55 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DEREK P. RYDHOLM

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LARRY D. WYCHE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. LAWRENCE F. THOMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

PATRICK M. MCGRATH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PEGGY E. D. MCGILL
ANDY J. PRICE
ELENA M. SCARBROUGH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DELROY A. BROWN
JOSEPH L. COPAS
DAVID W. DOUGLAS
PAUL G. HAINES
STEVEN C. KLASSON
JEROLD T. KOUCHI
RICHARD G. SCHMID

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN R. COLEMAN
MARC H. DAHMAN
JOSEPH A. DANGELO
TOMMY C. LEEPER
ROBERT C. MANCINI
SPENCER T. PRICE
DANIEL D. PRIMM, JR.
ROBERT E. RIDOUT
TRACY L. RINGO
DAVID A. STEVENSON
RICK L. STRICKROOT
ROBERT W. THOMPSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

VANCE J. ARGO
JOHN E. EHRHART
ALAN J. FEHR
MICHAEL O. HULSEY
ALOMA A. JESS
KEVIN J. KRUSE
JOANNE W. MORRITT
ANTHONY S. RANDALL
STEVEN R. SANSON
PATRICIA A. STEINOCHER
TYRA J. SWANSON
GREGORY W. TEISAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SCOTT A. ARCAND
STEPHANIE B. BATTEN
WILLIAM M. HARDY
SCOTT J. HOPKINS
GEORGE J. JICHA
JAMES J. KERBY
WILLIAM D. WEAVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAWN M. FLYNN
SANDRA J. HETZEL
PAUL V. RAHM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SCOTT B. BYERS
KIM J. HILLIARD
JOSEPH V. IGNAZZITTO II
LOREN W. KLEMP
JANIE M. MARTIN
KHANH T. PHAM
MICHELE M. SPENCER
CHARLENE A. WEINGARTEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DONNA K. AYERS
STEPHANIE A. BALL
RICHARD B. BARRENTINE
GLORIA J. BEARCE
NANCY M. BECKER
MARY L. BORCHARDT
STEVEN D. DONNAN
MARGARET M. FRITTITTA
PATRICIA A. GOODYEAR
JAMES A. GRAY
RANDALL G. HOEPPNER
ESTHER D. KING
LINDA J. LEPPELL
JACQUELINE D. MARTIN
MARTIN J. MCNALLY
EULALIA J. MONTERO
HELEN A. MORETTI
CATHERINE A. NADAL
LINDA A. REID
MICHELLE A. RICETROTTER
MICHAEL RIVERAQUILES
LYNETTE D. SHORT
ROSE M. SONTOYO
CAROL S. TAYLOR
FELIZA UNGERCAVINS
PATTI J. URBANEC
JANICE A. VANALSTINE
LESLEY A. WATTS
ROY WILMS
MARY E. WOODARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

FELIX J. E. ANDUJAR
EVAN D. BENDER
KEVIN M. BRADY
JOSE M. CHAVEZCACHO
TIMOTHY G. COOK
PETER D. CROSS
PETER G. DEVEAUX
MARTIN A. DOCHERTY
PETER T. EGAN
STANLEY M. FEERO
JAMES M. FITTS
MICHELLE P. FOOTE
GERRY F. FUNK
YVES A. GAUVIN
GREGORY A. HAMON
BRADLEY B. HAWKINS
SHEILA M. HODGSON
ROBERTO HUERTAS
JODEL G. JAMPAYAS
RICHARD L. S. JENNELLE
JOHN A. JOHNSON
DARA A. JOSIAHHOWZE
RONALD E. KRAMER
RAYMOND S. LANCE
MATTHEW J. LINDGREN
JAMES M. MALONE III
SUSAN K. MANTELL
MICHAEL C. MORRIS
SUSAN F. MULERO
JONATHAN P. OLINE
FRANK M. PARKER
PAUL S. PORTER, JR.
NICHOLAS D. POULOS
FREDERICK G. ROBBE III
JAIME R. RONCANCIO
JAMES E. SCHMIDT
KARY J. SCHROYER
SEAN M. SILER
SAHBRENNAH W. SMITH
RICKY A. THOMAS
JERRY L. TOLBERT
THOMAS D. WELLS
TERENCE R. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRYAN D. BROWN
MARY F. CHESNUT
RICHARD T. CHOJNACKI

WILLIE D. DADE
FELICIA D. DELOATCH
TIMOTHY A. DOHERTY
WILLIAM R. ELLIOTT
MICHAEL L. GOLDSBOROUGH
GREGORY B. HOLLAND
DANIEL B. HUBBARD
RALPH R. JUDKINS
GEORGE E. KATSOS
SUKCHAN KIM
VERONICA A. KOUASSI
BRYAN J. LAYTON
JEFFREY B. MCCARTER
NANCY L. MILLER
GUY W. MILLNER, JR.
JOHNNY D. NIEDZWIEDZKI
AMY K. NINNEMAN
LYNNELL D. PEACE
RAVEN E. D. REITSTETTER
JACK E. ROGERS
JANET SANZZIADIE
JERROLD J. SCHARNINGHAUSEN
JAMES G. SHIRLEY
THOMAS J. STOKES
RICHARD C. TOYE
NICHOLAS D. YOUNG
CRAIG A. YUNKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANTHONY J. LABADIA
TANYA F. MOORE
NANCY PEKAR
WILLIAM D. THOMPSON III
JOSEPH F. TOMMASINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MARTA E. ACHA
JACOB A. JOHNSON
DOYLE W. REAVES
RICORD W. TORGERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ZENAIDA M. COFIE
STEVEN J. KEIR
MARCIA L. LEWIS
VU V. MAI
JOHN J. OTTEN
MONICA J. STAFFORD
TODD L. STEWART

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 17, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ERIC T. SCHULTZ, OF VIRGINIA, 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 ZAMBIA.

THOMAS FREDERICK DAUGHTON, OF ARIZONA, 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 NAMIBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEBRA S. WADA, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BRADFORD RAYMOND HUTHER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

LAURA S. WERTHEIMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN R. BASS, OF NEW YORK, 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 TURKEY.

DAVID PRESSMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DAVID PRESSMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GUSTAVE F. PERNA

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KATHLEEN M. CREIGHTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. TODD J. SQUIRE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRIAN B. BROWN
REAR ADM. (LH) SEAN R. FILIPOWSKI
REAR ADM. (LH) BRETT C. HEIMBIGNER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEVEN L. KWAST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TERRENCE J. O'SHAUGHNESSY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. SCOTT G. PERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOSEPH J. HECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARK S. INCH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. PHILIP S. DAVIDSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DIXON R. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. TOD D. WOLTERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. VERALINN JAMIESON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN W. NICHOLSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PAUL M. BENENATI

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL A. CALHOUN

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BRET D. DAUGHERTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL RAUL E. ESCRIBANO
COLONEL TIMOTHY J. MCATEER
COLONEL JEFFREY L. MILHORN

IN THE AIR FORCE

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.

IN THE ARMY

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.

IN THE NAVY

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.