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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray. Eternal Steward, we praise You for being with us this day, for You have embraced our Nation as a prize possession, providing us with protection when we need it most.

Sustain our lawmakers as they seek to do Your will. Empower them to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly this day and always. May they look to You for guidance, claiming Your promise to direct their steps. In challenging times, give them the wisdom to lift their eyes to You to receive Your grace and mercy.

Most Holy God, thank You for your love and faithfulness.

We pray in Your great Name. 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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to four rollcall votes in relation to the child care and development block grant bill and the Abrams, Cohen, and Ross nominations.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in that great play ''Fiddler on the Roof,'' Tevye says, among other things, and I quote: Good news will stay, and bad news will refuse to leave.

In Washington we all too often focus on the bad news that lingers instead of highlighting the many good things that are being accomplished. ObamaCare is a perfect example. The Affordable Care Act is working. Americans who have enrolled in health plans through the Affordable Care Act are happy with their coverage.

There was a very good article in newspapers all over the country today, including in the Washington Post, which I saw. In this article there is a citation of a recent Gallup survey of Americans who have coverage through ObamaCare, and the findings are very positive—and that is a gross understatement. Seventy-four percent of ObamaCare enrollees rate their coverage as good or excellent. Seventy-five percent say they are satisfied with the cost of their plans. I will repeat that. Seventy-four percent of ObamaCare enrollees rate their coverage as good or excellent, and 75 percent say they are satisfied with the cost of their plans. That is good news to me.

The Affordable Care Act is working for the American people. It is providing quality, affordable health care to families all across our country.

The Senate has a lot of work to do before the 113th Congress comes to a close. There are a few important priorities in this work period. We have to pass an extension of tax credits for American families and businesses. We have to pass the Defense authorization bill, and the President pro tempore of the Senate is concerned about extending the FISA legislation, the American freedom act. It is so important that we do these things, but also we have to fund our government. That has to be done very soon because early next month the funding expires. We have many nominations that have not been completed. Almost 200 have been held up by my Republican colleagues. John Kerry, the Secretary of State, called me and said he himself had almost 100—well, that is exaggerating a little. He had 60-some; I don't remember the exact number.

We must keep our government funded. I have been having productive bipartisan conversations with Speaker BOEHNER, the Republican leader, and Appropriations chair Senator MIKULSKI. It is clear to me that Republican leaders want to work together to keep the government funded. We have heard there are going to be no government shutdowns from the leaders, but Members of their caucuses are really saying some very scary things.

So the question is whether the Republican leaders will be able to stand up to the radical forces within their own party. It is more than just one or two people; it is a large number of Members of the Republican caucus in the Senate and, of course, the Republican caucus in the House. Can these Republican leaders stand up to these people who are intent on holding our government hostage? There has been a lot of talk the past 3 or 4 days: So we have a government shutdown; so what?

It has become increasingly clear these last few days that a number of Republicans are looking for an example to use to get their ideas—that are somewhat bizarre in the minds of most people—they are using a number of different things as an excuse: Executive action; the President is not doing enough on making sure the Iranians are held down tightly; and on and on with everything they have as an excuse to derail bipartisan legislation to fund the government.

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

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Sadly, though, we have seen this before. The government has been shut down. The government's debt has been defaulted upon. So how is it possible that there is even talk of not funding our government again by anybody? But that is what they are doing.

Just 2 weeks ago the American people sent us a very strong message: Work together. In the press conferences that followed this month's midterm elections, Republicans were saying all the right things about compromise and bipartisanship. Yet, instead of looking for common ground and working to compromise, some of these Republicans are more interested in threats and ultimatums. Why? Because these radical Republicans object to President Obama using his constitutionally established authority to do what President Ronald Reagan and both George Bushes have done—fix as much of the system as he can to protect families suffering under the broken immigration system. Going back to Dwight D. Eisenhower, every President since then has used Executive authority to fix America's immigration system—every President, Republicans and Democrats. For the Republicans to take issue with President Obama for doing the same thing is hypocritical. Why didn't they complain when the two Bush Presidents did things administratively? Why?

I hope Republicans in Congress will object to this brinkmanship. A scorched-earth policy is no way to go. Instead, responsible leaders in the Republican Party need to work with us to complete the business of funding our government regardless of when the President acts to keep families together.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the distinguished majority leader yield for an observation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Will the majority leader yield to the Senator from Vermont for a question?

Mr. REID. I yield to the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as long as I have served in the Senate—and I have served the longest in this body—I have never seen a time when noncontroversial nominations were being held up, whether we have had a Republican or Democratic President. I would note for the majority leader that we have on the calendar 18 nominees for Federal judgeships that passed unanimously. Every Republican and every Democrat in the Judiciary Committee voted for them. Many of them were recommended by Republican Senators and four of them for judicial emergencies. The oldest one has been pending since June, having gone through the committee unanimously. This is not being responsible to the American people.

The distinguished majority leader talked about the use of Executive orders. Concerns have been expressed by the other side about Executive orders on immigration. I would remind everybody that this body by a 2-to-1 margin—Republicans and Democrats joined together last year to pass a comprehensive immigration bill which covered everything from the people on the borders to those who were already in this country. The Republican leadership in the House has refused to take it up. They complain about the President 1½ years later—during all this time that has passed between the Republican and Democratic votes here, they have refused to take it up. Yet they complain that the President is going to do something.

I say bring it up and vote yes or vote no. Stop this ''we will vote maybe.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. To the President pro tempore of the Senate, if the Speaker of the House of Representatives, JOHN BOEHNER, brought up the bill that passed here in the Senate, it would pass overwhelmingly in the House. Virtually every Democrat would vote for it, and I suggest that probably half of the Republicans would vote for it. He won't allow a vote. What is this about? It is beyond my ability to comprehend how they are willing to do everything they can to stop this President from doing what Presidents have done since Dwight Eisenhower.

I would also say this: We have gotten some judges done. That is because we changed the rules to do the outlandish thing of having a majority of the Senate determine whether someone should be confirmed.

If we look at the Constitution of the United States, the people who drafted that Constitution were very smart. We know a number of them were geniuses. And they were very precise in what they wanted to have supermajority votes on. On judges they didn't want supermajority votes but a simple majority of this body, and that is what we did in changing the rules.

But I say to my friend, in spite of that, we have been able to get a lot of judges done, we are going to wind up—by the time the Judiciary Committee continues to do the good work they do, we will probably have over 20 judges who need to be approved this Congress. Postcloture, under the rules we have, there is only 1 hour of time that can be used, so we can get through the judges very quickly. For sub-Cabinet officers it takes 8 hours, and we are normally willing to yield back our time, so 4 hours on every one of those.

We have scores—we are approaching, counting judges and all of the nominations, well over 150 who have been held up, people who have been waiting and waiting. These are jobs that are needed in our country; these are not new positions we have created.

So I would hope we can get past the bitterness that has been created in this body and get the nominations done. There is no reason a judge-to-be should have to wait for all this time, as the Senator from Vermont has indicated, just to get a vote. Whatever he is doing now has been put on hold, and this is throughout the whole government.

So I would hope we can get a lot of these done. If not, we are going to have to spend a lot of time here because we cannot leave this Congress with all these things undone. I hope we can work together, as I have indicated.

REMEMBERING HOWARD GREENE, JR.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to say one thing while my friend is on the floor.

When I came to the Senate, my friend from Vermont had already been here a dozen years. I remember—and I know he does—a man who had been the secretary for the majority and the secretary for the minority who controlled the staff of the Republicans. The Senator remembers Howard Greene—a guy who did not smoke a cigar, he just chewed on it all the time; he chewed on his cigar. That is when the rules were not nearly as strict as they are now about smoking.

Howard Greene was so nice to me as a new Senator. He had a lot of authority. For over three decades he was a recognizable person here on the Senate floor. In fact, specifically, for 28 years he held many positions, including as a doorkeeper, as a cloakroom assistant. He was, as I just indicated, both secretary for the minority and secretary for the majority.

Howard finished his distinguished career as the Sergeant at Arms. He retired in 1996.

I offer my condolences to Howard Greene's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Although it is of little consolation, I hope they know how grateful we are for Howard's many years of sacrifice to this body. He will be greatly missed, and he was very kind and thoughtful to me as a new Senator.

I say to my friend, you do remember Howard Greene?

Mr. LEAHY. I do.

Mr. REID. I thank the Presiding Officer.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD O. GREENE, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this afternoon I wish to say a word about Howard Greene, whose passing we mourn today.

Howard was a leading figure here in the Senate for many years. I know Members of both parties remember his time here with fondness, even though he retired from the Senate nearly two decades ago. And I think that says a lot about Howard.

He began his service here modestly enough as a doorkeeper right outside this Chamber. The year was 1968. Howard was 26, a student at the University of Maryland. He originally intended to become a history teacher, but over time his ambitions changed, from wanting to teach about history to wanting to help shape it—and what a lucky break for the Senate.

His considerable talents were soon put to work in the Republican cloakroom. It was a big promotion, even if Howard had to first explain to his mother that working in the cloakroom didn't mean he would be hanging up people's coats.

Howard quickly gained the confidence of Senators as he rose rapidly through the ranks. His deep institutional knowledge, strong work ethic, honesty, and sense of humor were appreciated by those who worked with him, and his talents were essential for the many who relied upon him.

After the Reagan landslide of 1980, Howard put his institutional knowledge to work as secretary of the new Republican majority. After so many years out of power, it was a challenging task, but he was up to it.

All told, Howard would serve the institution he loved for more than 28 years, working under Republican leaders such as Howard Baker and Bob Dole, until stepping down from his final position of Sergeant at Arms in 1996.

Senators from both parties had a lot of nice things to say about him back then. The late Senator from Alaska, Ted Stevens, said it could seem like Howard had a crystal ball when it came to counting votes and predicting outcomes, and he praised him for his ''careful analysis, knowledge of the issues, understanding of the Members, and . . . hard work'' that often made his forecasts correct.

Senator David Pryor from Arkansas, a Democrat, noted that Howard ''respected and served and answered to not only the Senators on . . . [the Republican] side of the aisle,'' but to the Members on his side as well.

It is clear that this man from Lewes, DE, had uncommon talent and ability. We are grateful he chose to share it with us for so many years. We honor him for it today, and we send our sincerest condolences to his family in this difficult time.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 579, submitted earlier today; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 579) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

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

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

CCDBG PROGRAM

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I come to the floor today because in just a little over 2 hours we are going to take up the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. Let me explain what that is.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Program was created in 1990 to provide a voucher to meet the childcare needs of families at risk of having to make the decision that one or both parents couldn't work because childcare had such a tremendous expense with it. We wanted those parents to be able to participate in the productive part of our economy and society.

I can honestly say this is one of the most successful programs Congress has ever produced. The program, as is the case with every bill, is required to be reauthorized after a certain period of time. It was started in 1995—I might add the year I got here—and it was reauthorized in 1996. This was the last time this bill was ever reauthorized.

Now, let me point out that authorization and funding are two different things. These vouchers have existed in the system but Congress has not reauthorized the program; therefore, we haven't changed the program since 1996. I ask my colleagues to stop for a moment and think about how society has changed since 1996. The world has changed since 1996. Things we took for granted in 1996 we need proof of today. Things we didn't worry about in 1996 we worry about today. Let me suggest that childcare is no different. There is still a need for some type of vouchers for families who are on the bubble, and I dare say that childcare has gotten incredibly expensive since 1996.

I rise today to congratulate this body because this afternoon, in just under 2 hours, we are going to pass the first reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant program since 1996. I will be really very honest; it wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for my partner in this endeavor, BARBARA MIKULSKI. Senator MIKULSKI has been tenacious. She has stood by my side, and she has told me when she didn't think we should move forward, because as easy and as common sense as it sounds, it has been really difficult to get to this point. This has been a 3-year process. So for those who criticize Congress, let me assure those people, we have touched every base we can touch.

Several years ago, while we served as chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Children and Families, Senator MIKULSKI and I promised at that time to address the shortcomings in the CCDBG Program so that children could attend childcare and their families could expect a healthy setting that fostered their development.

Now, for years, we have heard stories about abuse and neglect in many childcare settings—stories that continue to break my heart and, I think, break the heart of every American. We saw numerous inspector general reports that documented unsafe conditions where children were neglected and Federal tax dollars were misused.

Let me stop here and say this. Everything we do in this bill only applies to a childcare facility that accepts CCDBG money. They can be private institutions. They can be faith-based institutions. Their construction can be a combination of all of the above. If they accept one penny of CCDBG money, they are now required to meet the quality standards and safety standards we set in this bill. Now, in North Carolina, that covers practically every childcare facility. But in every State they don't go to the lengths we do in North Carolina nor that we go to in this piece of legislation. I hope my colleagues will go back to the States they hail from, and they will suggest that things such as background checks for workers at a childcare facility is common sense. To say to a parent who is dropping off a young child, whether the Federal Government subsidized with a voucher or not—that parent should feel 100-percent confident that the worker there is not a convicted felon, that they are not a drug addict, that they have passed the minimal background check that most of us would think is common sense.

I might also take the opportunity to stop and say to the Presiding Officer, who represents Virginia, you might think—gosh, this is a financial burden on all childcare centers. No, this is a $15 investment in the safety of every child who is housed in their facility.

For a program that in many States represents almost all the funding used for childcare subsidies, Senator MIKULSKI and I knew it was an obligation to act to reauthorize this law so appropriate boundaries were put in place. To continue to ignore these realities would have allowed Federal dollars to keep funding abuse, waste—taxpayers, parents, and children deserved our action.

Since then, between the two of us and our staffs, we have held four HELP Committee hearings. We have 236 hours of negotiations. We have dozens of meetings with 44 advocacy organizations supporting this legislation. The Senate had 18 amendments considered and voted on in this institution, the Senate, back in March when the legislation passed this body of Congress 96 to 2. That was March.

We are here today because the House changed the bill a little bit with our blessings, and this afternoon we are going to take up passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014.

My hope is this is going to be a unanimous vote by the Senate.

Bringing the HELP Committee together, as the Presiding Officer knows, is very difficult because of the diverse ideology of the makeup of members on the HELP Committee.

It is no small feat we have gotten to this point, and we hold together the support of people who look at the world a little bit differently than I do and may geographically come from a different area than I do.

I wish to publicly say thank you to Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, Ranking Member ENZI before that, because if it wasn't for the leadership on the full committee, Senator MIKULSKI and I would not have had the opportunity to mark it up in committee, to pass it on the Senate floor, to work with the House, and now to have a bill back.

As I conclude, let me just say for the 1.7 million children served nationally by CCDBG and the 80,000 served in my State of North Carolina, safe and quality childcare will now be a priority, ensuring working parents trying to better their lives and those of their children will feel safe using their Federal vouchers.

In short, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this legislation. We waited way too long since 1996 to make the commonsense changes that provide safety and quality in the childcare that we, the taxpayers, provide to those families on the bubble.

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. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Only a few years ago a prominent Democrat firmly and unequivocally rejected the idea that the President of the United States could singlehandedly enact an amnesty for millions of immigrants who entered the country without legal authorization. In 2011, for example, this same person reminded us that ''there are laws on the books that Congress has passed'' and that therefore it should not be permissible for the President to ''suspend deportations through executive order.'' Then in 2013 this same individual noted that granting a unilateral amnesty for adults who came to the United States illegally was ''not an option'' because it would amount to ''ignoring the law.'' A few months later this same individual was speaking at an immigration event and was interrupted by a heckler who urged him to stop the deportations by Executive fiat. In response, he said:

> If in fact I could solve all of these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we are also a nation of laws. That is part of our tradition.

Of course, you might have guessed who that person was. It was President Barack Obama on numerous different occasions in the past few years saying he did not have the authority to issue a unilateral Executive order granting, in effect, a right to waive the law with regard to illegal immigration. I have to say that our President has a preternatural ability to say one thing and then do another—the opposite.

Now the President is threatening to authorize exactly the type of action he previously said he did not have the authority to order, and he is threatening to do so even after his go-it-alone approach on immigration and so many other issues was so roundly repudiated in this most recent election on November 4. In other words, he is showing contempt for the Constitution, for the voters, and basically anyone who disagrees with him. It is the classic ''my way or the highway'' approach.

According to press reports, he will act as early as this week and he will unilaterally grant work permits. Under what authority—I have no idea how he can legislate authority to grant work permits for people who illegally entered the country, but he said, apparently, he is going to try. These are the kinds of maneuvers we would expect to see from tin-pot dictators and banana republics, not from the Commander in Chief and the Chief Executive of the world's greatest democracy.

Apparently the President now thinks that he and, I assume by precedent, any future President can simply ignore the laws that he finds inconvenient, that ''if Congress hasn't passed the law, that is a good enough excuse for me to go it alone and do it my way,'' go around it, go against the will of Congress and the American people. This is a dangerous precedent, I hope the President recognizes. If after the next election a President of the other party—my party—is elected, won't this be viewed as a precedent which has been established by this President which could be used on everything from taxes, to regulation, to ObamaCare—you name it. But that is not how our Constitution is written. That is not what the separation of powers doctrine—which is an essential element of our Constitution—provides. Even the Washington Post—not known as being a bastion of conservative thought—has said that failing to get his way in Congress does not ''grant the president license to tear up the Constitution.''

Unfortunately, the President has shown that he has very little patience with constitutional safeguards, especially when they hamper his agenda or complicate his political needs. After all, this is the same President who has unilaterally rewritten ObamaCare by granting extensions, waivers, and the like and who has unilaterally gutted welfare reform and who has made blatantly unconstitutional appointments to the Federal bureaucracy and to the Federal judiciary, only to be corrected by the courts.

For that matter, the President has already made a number of unilateral changes in U.S. immigration policy with disastrous results. We have seen literally thousands of convicted criminals released from U.S. custody, including those with violent records. And, of course, it wasn't that long ago that we saw what had been called a genuine humanitarian crisis unfold along the southern border in my State as tens of thousands of Central American children made a treacherous journey in order to cross illegally into the United States and take advantage of a loophole in a 2008 law that we tried to correct but couldn't even get a vote on it in the Senate.

At the height of the crisis in early June, the New York Times told the story of a 13-year-old Honduran boy who was detained in Mexico while trying to reach the U.S. border, and his story was pretty typical of what we heard from many people. The Department of Homeland Security conducted interviews with many of the immigrants who came across at that time. ''Like so many others across Central America,'' the Times reported, this boy ''said his mother believed that the Obama administration had quietly changed its policy regarding unaccompanied minors and that if he made it across, he would have a better shot at staying.''

In other words, the impression that we are not going to enforce our law is a magnet.

I have no idea how this unilateral action by the President will be interpreted—granting legal status presumably to millions of people by the swipe of his pen. Will that be viewed as a green light for people who want to come to the United States from all around the world, saying: Well, if I can just get to the United States, President Obama will let me stay too.

About 1 week later the Washington Post confirmed that the influx of unaccompanied Central American children is ''being driven in large part by the perception they will be allowed to stay under the Obama administration's immigration policies.''

I mention these stories because they highlight the all-to-predictable consequences of failing to enforce U.S. immigration law.

So much of law enforcement is the deterrent value—in other words, stopping people from breaking the law in the first instance, not just catching them after they actually break it. And sending the message ''Get here if you can, and you might too be one of the ones who win the lucky immigration lottery and get to stay in the United States'' is a huge magnet for illegal immigration and it undermines—indeed, it guts the deterrent value of enforcing the law. And for what? The President reportedly, unless he rethinks this misguided strategy, will provide some form of temporary relief that will not even be able to be implemented before he leaves office in 2 years, with uncertainty for these immigrants and their families as to what is going to happen beyond.

How he is drawing the line is beyond me. I read that apparently the reports that have been dribbled out in the press—and, of course, this town is famous for intentional leaks to sort of issue trial balloons to see how people are going to react. Well, if the trial balloons are correct, if the stories are correct, the President's order will cover roughly 40 percent of the people here in violation of our immigration laws—40 percent. So why did he decide to stop at 40 percent and not do 60 percent or 80 percent or 100 percent? What about the people who have been waiting patiently in line, complying with our immigration laws? To have these other millions of people jump ahead of them and be given some form of legal status is not fair to them, and it certainly doesn't encourage people's compliance with the rules or the law.

Then we have to look at who benefits the most. And I am not talking about the immigrants; I am talking about the criminal organizations. This is part of how they operate and their business model. Such criminal organizations will be the biggest beneficiaries of the President's Executive order, which would make it even harder for our friends in Mexico to reduce violence and uphold the rule of law. It would be like a pipeline of additional money and resources into the cartels. And the cartels don't care whether they traffic in children, whether they traffic in drugs or weapons. That is how they make money. That is why they exist. That is what they do. And this ill-advised action by the President would do nothing but ensure that a pipeline of money will continue to flow into these criminal organizations.

Time magazine reported:

Cartels control most of Mexico's smuggling networks through which victims are moved, while they also take money from pimps and brothels operating in their territories.

Yet, again, President Obama just doesn't seem to care.

He also doesn't seem to care that his Executive action would harm our opportunity to reform our broken legal immigration system. Republicans and Democrats alike have ideas for how to reform our immigration system, and many of them have bipartisan support. We do know that a comprehensive bill—we have tried to pass one of those for 10 years, and it hasn't worked, so it makes sense to me to try to break it down into smaller pieces and try to build consensus for those, get them across the floor of the House and the Senate and on the President's desk—even on a controversial subject such as immigration. Yet the President has now appeared to decide to trample the normal legislative process and to do immigration policy by fiat.

What about the 60 percent who won't be covered by his Executive order? They don't get any relief under his Executive order. They are going to need to look to Congress to know what the rules are.

So in the President's desperate attempt to placate some very vocal activist groups and to make up for years of hollow promises, he has decided to flout the rule of law and end up making real immigration reform that much harder to pass.

I saw a Congressman from South Carolina, TREY GOWDY, who said: During the first 2 years the President had 60 Democrats in the Senate and controlled the House of Representatives. If immigration reform was such a priority for the President, why didn't he do that?

Well, don't just take my word for it that this will make our job much more difficult.

The junior Senator from Maine, an Independent but a Member of the Democratic caucus, said of the President's Executive amnesty: I think it will create a backlash in the country that could actually set the cause back and inflame our politics in a way that I don't think will be conducive to solving the problem.

I mentioned a moment ago that the results of this anticipated action are all too predictable. So I would ask the President: Why in the world would you want to encourage children to make one of the most dangerous journeys from Central America through Mexico and be subject to the tender mercies of these cartels, which care nothing about them? Why on Earth would you want to establish yet another big incentive for people to enter our country illegally? And why on Earth would you want to help contribute to yet another humanitarian crisis on the Texas-Mexico border?

I would urge the President, in the strongest of terms, to respect the rule of law and the democratic process and to give the new Congress that will convene in January a chance to do our job. I don't underestimate the difficulty of dealing with our broken immigration system, but I don't think we have a choice. We do not have a choice. We must. And it will not be something I will like 100 percent; it won't be something any Senator or Congressman will like 100 percent. But that shouldn't cause us to shrink from our duty.

If the President is actually interested in having his last 2 years in office be more productive than simply a lame-duck session, he needs to work with the Congress rather than go around Congress. I urge him to put the Constitution ahead of his campaign promises and to consider the likely human cost in Mexico and elsewhere of such a lawless policy change.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, a parliamentary inquiry: What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to speak on a legislative matter on which we will be voting later on this evening. I yield myself 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

CCDBG REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, in a few minutes we will be voting on the child care and development block grant reauthorization bill. I am here to urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

This bill is authored by myself, working shoulder to shoulder with Senator RICHARD BURR of North Carolina, under our chair and ranking member, Senators HARKIN and ALEXANDER.

On this bill we showed that we can actually work together to get things done. We worked across the aisle and across the dome with our counterparts in the House. Today we have an opportunity to pass a bill that will actually help American families with one of the biggest challenges they face—affordable childcare.

Everywhere I go in Maryland I hear young mothers and not-so-young mothers and grandmothers and actually dads saying that we need childcare that is affordable, accessible, reliable, and safe. This Child Care and Development Block Grant Act will meet those compelling human needs. It focuses on families of modest means—parents who want to work or get ready for work by going to school but can't afford childcare.

I wish to take a second to talk about the process and where we stand. This is

a bipartisan bill. It is the result of more than 2 years of work, three hearings on the HELP Committee, hundreds of meetings of stakeholders. The House unanimously passed the bill, and last week the Senate voted 96 to 1 on a cloture vote. It is time now to take the bill over the finish line and vote tonight.

This bill began in 1990, when we created the childcare program as part of our first step towards welfare reform. Eligible families received vouchers to pay for childcare of their choice, whether it is a large daycare center, a small in-home daycare center or faith-based.

This program is important because childcare for parents is significantly expensive. Childcare is the highest household expense faced by dual-income families. The average childcare for two children is about $15,000 a year. In some places that is tuition at a prep school—$15,000 to $20,000 a year. It is expensive whether you are a two-parent household or a single-parent household. For middle-class families it is really tough, and for those earning the minimum wage it is out of reach, and the costs keep increasing.

Last year, the cost of childcare actually grew eight times faster than the average family income. It is not that childcare alone increased, but of course we believe family income has been stagnant for 8 years. So we have to do something about raising the income as well as raising childcare standards and the ability to provide childcare.

Childcare is important because it helps people. In my own State this bill will give parents the kind of childcare vouchers needed, helping 1.5 million children be able to have childcare. In my own home State of Maryland this bill will help as many as 19,000 families get childcare. This is really a pretty big deal. In Maryland, childcare costs about $13,000 a year.

I held roundtables across the State. I sat in classrooms, at conference tables, and meetings listening in Baltimore County and Allegany County. I heard from parents struggling to pay childcare in this age of scrimp and save. I have heard from teachers worried about children not being prepared for a lifetime of learning. I heard from the American Academy of Pediatrics that is concerned about children staying healthy. I heard from the good folks at the Maryland Family Network, who are worried about quality, safety, and the certification of childcare.

I believe that many of the best ideas and recommendations come from the people, so I brought those ideas to Washington and sat down across the table with my colleague Senator RICHARD BURR to really talk about these issues and how we could hammer out a bill that was affordable to the taxpayer and yet reliable for parents.

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to our kids. What I heard over and over again were concerns about availability, about quality, and also affordability. My bill—the Mikulski, Burr, Harkin, Alexander or whatever order we can put it in—makes childcare better. It makes it safer, it makes it more reliable, and it also focuses on helping children to be school-ready, to be learning-ready.

It requires, first of all, in terms of safety, comprehensive background checks. Only 13 States require comprehensive background checks for childcare providers. We require more background checks for mall security guards than we do for our own children. This is unacceptable. Parents deserve peace of mind knowing that their children are safe from anyone who could possibly have a criminal record. Under our bill, 50 States will be required to do this.

It also strengthens health and safety standards. Listening to both concerned parents and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we will have health and safety standards. Childcare providers will be trained in first aid and CPR, in the prevention of sudden infant death syndrome, and also how to respond to food allergies. This is big. Our children come and some of those little guys and girls really have some significant health challenges.

It also requires inspection of facilities. Currently, many States do not require inspection of all childcare facilities. The Washington Post recently found that 43 children have died since 2004 in unregulated childcare centers in Virginia. We have now corrected that where facilities will actually be inspected to make sure they are safe. It also will make sure that inspectors will be looking for anything that presents a danger to a child—an unsecured swimming pool, unsafe sleeping arrangements, and fire hazards. It will improve reliability and stability of care.

Now, we really focused on improving quality of child care. What that means is we have significant sums, which means that States have to invest in training and professional development of childcare workers. It also will evaluate what is working and what isn't. We developed an improved quality rating system to give parents—the consumer—information to pick the right care.

This bill will provide vouchers to people who are at the minimum wage or lower. In my own State, to qualify for this type of voucher subsidy, it is income-based. In Maryland, for a family of two to be eligible for the CCDBG, their incomes cannot exceed $24,000. A family of four cannot have an income that exceeds $35,700. The children must be less than 13 years old, and the children must live with parents who are working or enrolled in an education program that is leading to a job.

This is really good. But this bill—as good as it is—it is only the first step in childcare. It can't be the only step. So while we are looking for how to help parents be able to work, particularly those at the minimum-wage level, we have to be able to look also at our middle-class families. That is why I was happy to join Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND in introducing the childcare tax deduction bill, S. 1975. This bill would allow all families to deduct the cost of childcare as a business expense. Imagine that—to actually be able to do this. So many women in the middle class also find that the cost of childcare is so expensive. With this bill families can deduct up to $14,000 in child care expenses from the amount of taxes they owe. We have to show that we are on the side of families, that we are on the side of the middle class, by offering a substantial tax deduction for childcare; and we have to show that we are on the side of the people who want to be middle class, who are working harder, going to school to be able to move ahead and move into that middle class, and that they have the childcare bill. This legislation, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, will make a significant step forward. I urge my colleagues to help and support this.

When I worked on this bill, to me it is not about numbers and statistics—19,000 or 1 million children or so on. It is about people in my own home State—whether it is the single mom in Baltimore County who, due to some major changes, found that she was needing to work full time instead of part time but was barely above the minimum wage. She wondered how she was going to have that job at the minimum wage but have childcare that was safe. When she went to the department of social services, she found a childcare subsidy that could help her be able to work today, have her children in daycare today, and lay the groundwork for a better job tomorrow.

Then there was Theresa, a single mom in Prince George's County. She has four children. They were enrolled in a childcare program while she worked in another. She was making $23,000 a year—again, below the minimum wage. Thanks to the voucher program, she was able to provide her children with childcare, actually work in the field, and begin to get the kind of training that could enable her to move on up to being a childcare worker.

It is about these people who want their child to be safe and secure. They want to make sure they are going to do the best and be able to continue to work in our society, make sure their children are taken care of, and also that we are able to provide this important step.

I hope we pass this bill tonight. I also hope that we develop a comprehensive childcare approach so that we are helping those at the minimum wage and slightly above tonight, but we also want to be able to help the middle class.

Remember what our goal is. We need to focus on the day-to-day needs of our constituents. What does that mean in terms of national policy? What we need to look at is for those who are middle class—through their hard work, their

education and determination, however they get to be there—that they have a government and a Tax Code on their side, and for those who are trying to get to the middle class, that they have an opportunity ladder and the self-help tools that enable them to move ahead.

I really hope my colleagues vote for this bill and we move it to the President's desk for signature.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a CCDBG fact sheet be printed in the RECORD.

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

CCDBG FACT SHEET

S. 1086—THE CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG) ACT OF 2014

The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014

This bipartisan bill (S. 1086) was introduced by Senators Mikulski, Burr, Harkin, and Alexander. It reauthorizes, refreshes, reforms, and revitalizes the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

What the CCDBG Program Does

The CCDBG program was first signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 to assist working families with the cost of providing child care. It has not been reauthorized since 1996.

CCDBG is the primary source of federal funding for child care assistance. CCDBG is administered to states in formula block grants. States use the funding to help low-income families gain access to quality, affordable child care and after-school programs while parents work, train for work, or attend school. Assistance is administered through vouchers or certificates, which can be used by parents for the provider or program of their choice—whether in a family child care home, with a relative or friend, or in a child care center.

Who the CCDBG Program Serves

CCDBG serves more than 1.6 million children every month.

Eligibility Requirements for CCDBG Assistance

There are certain requirements that must be met for families to be eligible for CCDBG assistance:

Family income cannot exceed 85% of the state median (states have flexibility to adopt income eligibility limits below this federal maximum, and generally do)

Example: In MD, for a family of two to be eligible for CCDBG funds, their annual income cannot exceed $24,277; a family of four cannot have an income that exceeds $35,702

Kids must be less than 13 years old

Kids must live with parents who are working, enrolled in school/training, or be in need of protective services

Amount of Subsidy

The CCDBG program generally requires that families contribute to the cost of care on a sliding fee scale basis. Federal regulations do allow states to waive child care fees for families with incomes at or below poverty guidelines. HHS has suggested that a family's fee should be no more than 10% of its income.

In FYI2, the average monthly subsidy paid to a family with an infant younger than 1 year was $467. The average monthly subsidy paid to a family with a child between the age of 5–6 years of age was $365.

Funding Level for the CCDBG Program

In the FY14 omnibus, the CCDBG program was funded at $2.36 billion. This is an increase of $154 million above FY13. This funding increase will ensure 22,000 additional children will receive child care assistance.

In addition to discretionary funding, mandatory funding exists for child care subsidies (authorized in Social Security Act). In FY14, there were $2.9 billion in mandatory funds—for a total of approximately $5.3 billion for child care subsidies.

Cost of Child Care

Child care is the highest household expense faced by dual income households, averaging $14,872 a year for 2 kids.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I want to speak in support of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, the bill that is before us. It has taken us a long time to get to this point. I cannot be more pleased that we are on the verge of sending this legislation to the President for his signature.

We know—we know—that learning begins at birth and the preparation for education begins even before birth. That is why I am very excited about my committee's bill to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. This bill will lead to important reforms and improvements to the early care and education of our Nation's children.

This bipartisan legislation is also a big win for working families. It helps make it possible for over 1.5 million kids to receive quality childcare every month. The last time we reauthorized the child care block grant was 1996. When we did that, childcare was seen principally as a work support activity and only incidentally as something that could have a great impact on the development of children. Today, backed by impressive scientific research, we know that childcare settings can and should be much more. In addition to providing critical work support for the parents, early childhood settings are now widely recognized as a rich early learning opportunity for all children.

So it is not just childcare—we are taking care and watching them so they don't get in trouble—it is now childcare that is part of the learning process. As I said, it begins at birth and even before birth. Because much of a child's intellect and skills development begin before he or she begins kindergarten, we need to give all children every opportunity to reach their full potential at this early stage. This means supporting access to high-quality early learning programs, including high-quality childcare. That is why reauthorizing the child care development block grant with the array of reforms and improvements is so important.

This bill contains many commonsense improvements to a program that hasn't been reauthorized, as I said, since 1996. That is nearly a whole generation. We have improved the health and safety requirements by asking States to increase the amount of funding they set aside to serve infants and toddlers. We require pre-service training and ongoing professional development for childcare workers. We ask that States inspect childcare providers at least once a year—hopefully more, but at least once a year.

I am particularly excited about the set-aside that we have in the bill to improve access to and quality of care for infants and toddlers. This is something I included for several years in my appropriations subcommittee bill, and I am pleased that it is now an important component of this reauthorization. These are the kinds of commonsense, research-based activities and services that any parent would want for their child, and they deserve it. That is why I am so pleased we are now on the cusp of passing this important reauthorization.

I should note that this legislation passed the Senate in March of this year by a vote of 96 to 2, and after a few changes by the House, it passed that Chamber by acclamation in September. I believe we had the cloture vote last week, and even then I think there was only one vote against it.

I encourage every Member of the Senate to vote in favor of final passage and finally get this bill to the President's desk.

I wish to especially thank Senators MIKULSKI and BURR—two members of our committee and the original sponsors of this legislation—for their persistence and commitment in getting this bill done.

I would also like to thank many of the staff for their years of work on this legislation.

I would like to thank Brent Palmer and Jessica McNiece of Senator MIKULSKI's staff; David Cleary, Peter Oppenheim, and Patrick Murray of Senator ALEXANDER's staff; Chris Toppings and Celia Simms of Senator BURR's staff.

I would like to thank current and past members of my staff: Pam Smith, Derek Miller, Mildred Otero, and Mario Cardona. Of course, I also wish to thank our HELP Committee's ranking member Senator ALEXANDER for his key role in reauthorizing this vital program. And my debt of gratitude to Senator ALEXANDER extends far beyond this particular bill.

This will likely be the last bill originating in the HELP Committee to see floor time in this Congress, and thus, this is the last bill that will come to the Senate floor out of the committee I so proudly chair.

I wish to take this opportunity to express not only my gratitude to Senator ALEXANDER but my respect and admiration for the senior Senator from Tennessee. In the new Congress in January, Senator ALEXANDER will assume

the chairmanship of this HELP Committee, and I know this important committee will be in very able hands.

Throughout my 30 years in the Senate, I have been blessed to share many excellent working relationships with Republican colleagues, both when I served as chair or ranking member on various committees. Senator Arlen Specter was my partner for many years on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. In fact, from 1989 until the day he left the Senate, Senator Specter and I were either chair or ranking member of that important Appropriations subcommittee.

I had great relationships on the agriculture committee with Senator Dick Lugar, Senator THAD COCHRAN, and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS. Since 2009, as chair of the HELP Committee, I have enjoyed very productive relationships, first with Senator MIKE ENZI, who had been both the chair and then ranking member of that committee, and more recently with Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, with whom I have worked on CCDBG—the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program that we are now authorizing.

In fact, I am proud to note that when this bill is signed into law by the President, this will be the 21st HELP Committee bill enacted into law in this Congress. In a Congress that has been criticized, rightfully or wrongfully, for its lack of productivity, Senator ALEXANDER and I have forged a partnership that has enabled us to chart a different course—a course of bipartisan productiveness. To cite several examples, we worked together to pass major legislation to revamp and modernize America's job training system, overhaul and improve America's food safety system, improve drug safety and speed the approval of potentially lifesaving drugs—so 21 bills.

Someone said that our committee really represents probably one of the widest spectrums ideologically in the Senate—both from very conservative to very progressive on our committee. Yet we forged these relationships to get things done. Now, just because these relationships have helped us to get these bills through, it doesn't mean that we always agreed on everything.

The fact is our disagreements have been oftentimes and vigorous. After all, I am a proud progressive and Senator ALEXANDER is a proud conservative, but our disagreements have never been personal and they were never the last word. We have consistently sought areas of agreement, and more often than not, we found them. As a result, we have forged a remarkable record of accomplishment in the HELP Committee with 21 bills in 2 years signed into law.

More importantly, we have accomplished big things for the American people. Thanks to legislation passed by our committee, lives will be improved and lives will be saved. Drugs will be approved faster and they will be safer. Workers will have access to quality job training and retraining opportunities, including young people with disabilities who will now have provisions to support them in school to get them ready for competitive, integrated employment or for higher education or for technical education, which they have not really had before. That is one big part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that we passed that not too many people know about. So from now on, kids in school who have an IEP—an Individualized Education Program—will now have internships, summer jobs, and job coaching that will, again, raise their expectations and hope of what they can do. They will be able to visit colleges and have college internships or college support systems, which they have never had before, to enable them to seek a higher education or perhaps to go to community colleges. Those are a few of the things we have done on our committee. Soon, with this bill, babies and kids across the country will have better access to safe, high quality, and affordable care.

It has been with great pride that I have been chair of this HELP Committee. I still think it is the best committee in the Congress. I remember once Dan Inouye—Senator Inouye—said that I chaired the committee that helped define America. He chaired the committee that defended America, but I chaired the committee that defined America. I would like to think of the HELP Committee as doing that—an America where every kid has the possibility of going up that ladder or ramp of opportunity no matter the circumstances of his or her birth, where health care is a right and not a privilege, where everyone will have affordable health care coverage.

This committee has even helped those who have fallen off of that ladder of opportunity because of an illness or injury to get back on it with job retraining and support services. This committee has ensured that every person with a disability—either through an accident or through birth or illness—can have a full and meaningful and productive life. Our elderly know they are going to have the kind of support systems that will enable them to also be productive in their retirement years—in their golden years, as they say.

The Labor, Education, Health, and Pensions Committee covers a broad array of how we define America as a caring, compassionate, and productive society. It has been a challenge, but it has also been a great honor and privilege to chair this committee.

As I leave, I can say we are fortunate to have someone of Senator ALEXANDER's depth and breadth of experience. In fact, he has been the Secretary of Education, Governor of Tennessee, and President of the University of Tennessee. He is well qualified, and I know he will do a great job in leading this committee in the future.

I wish to thank all of my committee members, but especially Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER from Tennessee, and let him know on the record how much I valued our collaboration and how much I benefited from his counsel and his wisdom.

I urge all Senators to support this new reauthorization—the first time since 1996—of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I see my distinguished friend the Senator from Iowa on the floor. I am here, very simply, to say that we are about to vote on the Child Care and Development Block Grant, a piece of legislation that would provide childcare to 1.5 million children so that their mothers can work or continue their education or training.

I have repeated on this floor several times the story of a young woman in Memphis, TN, who attended LeMoyne-Owen College and received about $500 a month to pay for childcare for her child so she could get her degree. She then graduated from LeMoyne-Owen with a business degree and was able to work her way up to the position of assistant manager at a local Walmart. The block grant helped her be able to continue her education and obtain a good job so that she can now pay for the childcare costs of her second child on her own.

This bill has strong support on both sides of the aisle, but we Republicans especially like it because it is a block grant to the States. The grant gives States flexibility with minimal Federal rules. It also encourages the use of vouchers allowing that young mother I just mentioned to choose among her various options for childcare.

It doesn't mandate from Washington, it enables from Washington. It recognizes that leaders in States have very good judgment, and what might work in Hawaii might not in Tennessee or Iowa. Different programs may work better in different jurisdictions, and that mothers themselves ought to be able to make the judgment of where their child receives care.

I wish to thank Senator HARKIN, who is retiring this year, and who is chairman of the committee that has produced this bill. He and Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR have worked for years on this piece of legislation. It received a lot of consideration in the Senate and in the House. We all would like to see the Senate function better, and it did function better for this bill. When we first brought this to the Senate floor in March, the majority leader

didn't fill the tree or file cloture. We considered 50 amendments and adopted 18 of them. Fourteen of them we agreed to adopt by voice vote, four of them received roll call votes, and then we passed the bill 96 to 2. The House made a few minor changes in it. They did it while consulting with Senator HARKIN and me and others who did work on the bill, and we have come to this point today.

This is a very important piece of legislation, helping 900,000 families, 1.5 million children across the country. In Tennessee alone, 21,000 families will be helped by this. In our society today, worksite daycare is not available to every single mother or father who has a child, and this helps with that.

I thank the Senate for its consideration of this very important bill. I thank the House for working with the Senate and I congratulate Senator HARKIN. I imagine he has mentioned it, but if he hasn't, this will be the 21st piece of legislation the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has produced this year that will become law under his leadership. As Senator HARKIN goes back to Des Moines, IA, and rocks on his front porch and pursues the next chapter of his life, he can say that in the Senate, which didn't always work that well in this Congress, his committee did, and it has benefited lots of families and lots of children.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the bill, and I am glad to see it as a good example of what I hope to see more of as we move into the new year.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

RECOGNIZING HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. I'm glad to say that the bill before us today contains a number of provisions intended to facilitate homeless families' access to quality child care. I appreciate the work of my colleagues, particularly Chairman HARKIN, Senator MIKULSKI and Ranking Member MILLER, in supporting these important new provisions.

Unfortunately, young children who are homeless are more likely to have developmental delays, and more health and mental health problems, than low-income housed children. At the same time, their mothers are less likely to receive childcare subsidies than are poor mothers at-risk of homelessness. So I believe that this legislation will be important in helping rectify this inequity.

However, I want to ensure there is a common understanding of who we intend to include within the definition of homeless families or homeless children. The most common Federal definition of homelessness is found in the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, at 42 U.S.C. §11434A. That definition applies to public schools, including local educational agency preschool programs, and is used in the Head Start Act, Higher Education Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, among others. The definition includes children and youth who are staying in motels, or with others temporarily because they have nowhere else to go. Eighty percent of the homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools last year were staying in these situations when they were first identified.

Is it the chairman's intention that the definition of homeless to be applied to the provisions of this bill be the definition from subtitle VII–B of the McKinney-Vento Act, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program?

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I thank the Senator for her important question. Her understanding is correct. The definition of homeless children and youth found at 42 U.S.C. §11434A is the definition we intend to apply to homeless children and families where those terms are used in this bill.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the Senator for that clarification, which will assist States in implementing the provisions of this bill by aligning definitions across Federal programs serving homeless families.

This bill overlaps with the McKinney-Vento Act in another way which I would like to clarify. This bill requires State plans to describe how the State will coordinate childcare services with programs for children in preschool programs and other early childhood programs serving homeless children and children in foster care, in order to expand accessibility and continuity of care and assist children enrolled in early childhood programs to receive full-day services.

The McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is the only education program specifically designed to promote academic success for homeless students. The McKinney-Vento Act requires every local educational agency to designate a homeless education liaison, whose job includes identifying homeless children and youth and ensuring homeless children and families receive educational services for they are eligible, including Head Start and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency. In order for States to expand accessibility and continuity of care for homeless children, it is critically important that McKinney-Vento liaisons are among the professionals with whom States and child care providers coordinate.

Is it Senator MIKULSKI's understanding and intention that McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons be included among those programs for children in preschool programs and other early childhood programs serving homeless children with which States should coordinate child care services?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I thank the Senator for raising the issue of local educational agency McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons. Given their central role and responsibility in identifying homeless children and ensuring they receive education and early childhood education services for which they are eligible, liaisons are important partners in coordinating childcare services. The Senate-passed version of this legislation had called for coordination with McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons. It is indeed our intention that State plans include a description of how the State will coordinate childcare services with McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the Senator for clarifying the bill's intent that McKinney-Vento liaisons be part of States' coordination of childcare services.

I would also like to clarify the intent behind two related bill provisions. First, this bill requires State plans to include a certification that there are in effect in the State requirements applicable to childcare providers which are designed to protect children's health and safety, including the establishment of a grace period that allows homeless children and children in foster care to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. This provision is similar to language found in the McKinney-Vento Act and the Head Start Act. It recognizes that families experiencing homelessness have particular challenges in producing health records and other documents, due largely to their poverty and unstable living situations.

At the same time, the bill requires States to use funds for activities that improve access to childcare services, including the use of procedures to permit enrollment—after an initial eligibility determination—of homeless children while required documentation is obtained. I would ask the chairman, is it the intent of the bill language that regardless of the procedures States use to permit enrollment while required documentation is obtained, States still must establish a grace period that allows homeless children to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements?

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, again, I thank the Senator for this clarifying question. Under this bill, State plans must include a certification that there are in effect in the State requirements that include the establishment of a grace period that allows homeless children to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. That requirement stands apart from procedures the State uses to permit enrollment of homeless children while other required documentation is obtained.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, Thank you for that explanation. I am pleased to hear that homeless children will be able to receive services while their families are taking actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.

Regarding enrollment while other required documentation is obtained, the bill language requires that States use procedures to ensure such enrollment occurs after an initial eligibility determination is made. Yet, eligibility documentation is among the required documentation homeless families must produce. However, we know that homeless families struggle to produce documents, due to their poverty and mobility. Can Senator MIKULSKI, please clarify the intent of the phrase ''after an initial eligibility determination?''

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, The language calls for procedures to permit enrollment of homeless children, after an initial eligibility determination, while required documentation is obtained. To implement this language and its intent, States will need to implement procedures to make abbreviated initial eligibility determinations of homeless children and enroll them immediately, while required documentation, including some documentation to prove eligibility, is obtained.

For example, a State could adopt a procedure that a child referred by a local educational agency McKinney-Vento homeless liaison would be determined to be initially eligible and enrolled in services immediately, while required documentation is obtained. The family then would have to take necessary steps to provide standard documentation to establish eligibility.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank Senator MIKULSKI for that important clarification. The intent of the bill as she describes it will greatly improve homeless children's access to childcare. I appreciate the Senator's dedication to this legislation, which helps expand opportunity for families and enhance the quality of childcare for young people across the country.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I support the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, reauthorization bill, S. 1086, which is now pending before the Senate. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation, which would send it to the President for his signature. I want to congratulate my colleagues, Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership on this bill, and Senator HARKIN, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator BURR. This reauthorization has truly been a bipartisan effort and illustrative of the Senate HELP Committee's effectiveness this Congress, and I congratulate Senator HARKIN on his leadership of this committee as he retires from Congress next month. Through the HELP Committee's leadership and work with their House counterparts, this legislation will serve to better support working families and children and make a significant improvement to our current childcare programs.

The last time we authorized this program was in 1996. I know that very well because I was serving in the House of Representatives at the time and had the opportunity to be the ranking member on the Human Resources Subcommittee in the House Ways and Means Committee that was considering welfare reform and childcare, and how we could reward families for work, and how our welfare system could become a transitional program rather than a permanent program that would allow people, particularly moms, to be able to get into the workforce, stay in the workforce and climb up the economic ladder.

Today, under CCDBG, there are 1.6 million children eligible for program services. CCDBG provides not only a safe environment for those children, but allows 70 percent of their parents to work and an educational opportunity for the child at the same time. A Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, study showed that parents who had their children in childcare for 2 years or more were more likely to remain employed. CCDBG provides stable employment, help for the child, and a positive economic situation for the family.

This bi-cameral, bi-partisan CCDBG reauthorization bill before us makes improvements to this successful program, as it should. It allows the States to develop 13 specific health and safety standards, such as first aid and CPR, and SIDS, sudden infant death syndrome. It is keeping our children safer in childcare by having safety standards that are developed. This legislation: requires the States to do annual health, safety, and fire inspections of nearly all childcare providers; expands comprehensive background checks for those who are involved in childcare; steadily increases the annual authorization of appropriations; phases in a doubling of the annual set-aside for quality initiatives to 9 percent by 2019; makes information available online for parents to make informed childcare decisions; promotes more transparency in the program; and provides additional State flexibility on how they can set priorities within the childcare program. This program is a model of how federalism should operate, with the Federal Government and the States collaborating together to improve the quality of life for many middle-class American families.

This legislation will accomplish our objectives so we can get more people into the workforce and provide access to early childhood education to help children succeed in life. This program will allow us to help American families and strengthen the economic security of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence fo a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3924 (to amendment No. 3923), of a perfecting nature.

MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The motion to concur with amendment No. 3923 is withdrawn.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''aye'' and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted ''aye.''

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Leg.]

YEAS—88

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

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—11

Boxer	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Murkowski	Shaheen
Coburn	Murray	Thune
Hagan	Rubio	

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, while I was unable to vote on the motion to concur in the House Amendment to S. 1086, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, I would have recorded a vote in opposition to this bill, just as I did when this bill was originally before the Senate in February. I have three reasons to oppose this bill.

First, the Constitution does not permit the Federal Government to operate this program. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution lists all the powers given to the Federal Government, none of which includes funding for and oversight of State and local child care programs.

Second, this bill will increase the authorized size of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, program by over $1 billion without eliminating or reducing a lower priority program elsewhere. At a time when our national debt is over $17 trillion, Congress continues to spend away the future of the next generation. This reauthorization will exacerbate this problem, and our children will deal with the harsh consequences of our Nation's future fiscal insolvency.

Third, this CCDBG reauthorization does not address previously identified duplication and overlap in existing Federal child care programs and tax expenditures. While it does include a provision for the Department of Health and Human Services to study the issue, I do not believe it goes far enough. The Government Accountability Office has already identified 33 programs for which child care is an eligible use of funds. For example, States often transfer billions of dollars in funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program to use in their child care programs. Ultimately, this kind of overlap and duplication underscores Congress' reckless disregard for our future well-being.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 1050, 898, 961, and 533—these are career ambassadors, in case anyone wants to know—that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Mr. REID. We expect these nominations to be approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote to end Republican filibusters on three district court nominations for Georgia, two of which are judicial emergency vacancies. The Senate should not need to waste our time jumping through these procedural hurdles to confirm nominees who are strongly supported by two Republican home State Senators.

After we vote to invoke cloture and confirm these three nominees, we will still have 17 judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar—11 to serve on district courts and 6 to serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Another nine judicial nominees will be recommended by the Judiciary Committee this Thursday. By the end of the week, there will be 26 nominees reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee pending before the full Senate. All but a few of these nominees will have been reported unanimously and several are from States with at least one and sometimes two Republican home State Senators, including: Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, and Texas. These nominees should all be confirmed before we recess in December. As I mentioned last week, I hope that Senate Republicans will work with Senate Democrats to ''clear the decks'' on pending business before the end of the 113th Congress, as the incoming majority leader has suggested.

So let us work together as we have in past lameduck sessions to get these nominees confirmed and serving their communities. In 2002, after the midterm elections, Senate Democrats worked to confirm all 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar all but one by voice vote. In the 2006 lameduck session, after Senate Democrats won the majority in the elections, Democrats agreed to confirm all 14 of President Bush's judicial nominations pending on the Executive Calendar, but this package was blocked by a Republican Senator. In the most recent lameduck sessions, in 2010 and 2012, a total of 32 judicial nominees were confirmed. We should do the same now.

Leslie Abrams is nominated to fill a vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. She is currently an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia. Prior to becoming an assistant U.S. attorney, she was in private practice at two nationally known law firms. After graduating from Yale Law School, Ms. Abrams served as a law clerk to Judge Marvin J. Garbis on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Mark Cohen is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He has extensive experience, having practiced for over 30 years in both the public and private sectors. Currently a partner at the law firm Troutman Sanders, Mr. Cohen has also served as counsel to former Georgia Governor, Zell Miller, and spent part of his legal career at the Georgia office of the attorney general.

Eleanor Ross is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She currently serves as a State court judge in DeKalb County, where she has presided over hundreds of cases dealing with both civil and criminal matters. Prior to becoming a judge, she served in various capacities as both a State and Federal prosecutor for over a decade. Throughout her legal career, she has tried over 150 cases to verdict.

All three of these nominees have the strong support of their Republican home State Senators, Senator CHAMBLISS and Senator ISAKSON. All three were also reported unanimously from the Judiciary Committee 5 months ago by voice vote.

If confirmed, Leslie Abrams and Eleanor Ross will be the first African-American women to ever serve as Federal judges in the State of Georgia. This historic moment is long overdue.

In the few remaining days of this Congress, I hope that the Republican Senators who recommended many of the pending judicial nominees to the President will work within their caucus to get consent to confirm nominees to their own home States.

I hope that all Senators will vote to end the filibuster of these nominations today and confirm them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Abrams nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time on this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Ayotte	Cantwell	Collins
Baldwin	Cardin	Coons
Begich	Carper	Cornyn
Bennet	Casey	Donnelly
Blumenthal	Chambliss	Durbin
Booker	Coats	Feinstein
Brown	Cochran	Flake
Franken	Levin	Schatz
Gillibrand	Manchin	Schumer
Graham	Markey	Shaheen
Harkin	McCaskill	Stabenow
Hatch	Menendez	Tester
Heinrich	Merkley	Toomey
Heitkamp	Mikulski	Udall (CO)
Hirono	Murkowski	Udall (NM)
Isakson	Murphy	Vitter
Johnson (SD)	Murray	Walsh
Kaine	Nelson	Warner
King	Pryor	Warren
Kirk	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Reid	Wicker
Landrieu	Rockefeller	Wyden
Leahy	Rubio	

NAYS—28

Alexander	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Blunt	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Inhofe	Roberts
Burr	Johanns	Scott
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Cruz	McCain	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Hagan
Coburn	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Cohen nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield back time on this side.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back time on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time being yielded back, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Ayotte	Graham	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Hatch	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Reid
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Booker	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	King	Stabenow
Casey	Klobuchar	Tester
Chambliss	Landrieu	Toomey
Coats	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Vitter
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Cornyn	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wicker
Flake	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—29

Alexander	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Heller	Paul
Blunt	Hoeven	Portman
Boozman	Inhofe	Risch
Burr	Johanns	Roberts
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Crapo	Kirk	Sessions
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McCain	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Hagan
Coburn	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote to invoke cloture on the Ross nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

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

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Hatch	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Inhofe	Reid
Cantwell	Isakson	Rockefeller
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Carper	Kaine	Schatz
Casey	King	Schumer
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Vitter
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—29

Alexander	Cruz	Kirk
Barrasso	Enzi	Lee
Blunt	Fischer	McConnell
Boozman	Grassley	Moran
Burr	Heller	Paul
Cochran	Hoeven	Portman
Corker	Johanns	Risch
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	
Roberts	Sessions	Thune
Scott	Shelby	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	Hagan	Toomey
Coburn	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

NOMINATION OF BARBARA A. LEAF, 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 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NOMINATION OF THEODORE G. OSIUS III, 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 SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

NOMINATION OF ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, 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 RWANDA

NOMINATION OF KAREN CLARK STANTON, 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 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

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

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Barbara A. Leaf, 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 United Arab Emirates; Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, 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 Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, 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 Rwanda; and Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, 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 Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time on these nominations.

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

VOTE ON LEAF NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Barbara A. Leaf, 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 United Arab Emirates?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON OSIUS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, 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 Socialist Republic of Vietnam?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON RUGGLES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, 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 Rwanda?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON STANTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, 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 Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste?

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.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the confirmation vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 927, 954, 1047, 1048, and 1052; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in this 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.

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, we expect the nominations that I have listed here to be confirmed by voice vote tomorrow.

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.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Doby on his service to the U.S. Senate and the Capitol Hill community. A loving husband and devoted father, Chris has dedicated three decades of his life to the Senate.

Chris began working for the Senate Disbursing Office as a junior auditor in 1983. His honorable character and strong work ethic quickly earned him greater responsibility. Before becoming the assistant financial clerk Chris served as auditor, audit counselor, senior auditor, senior auditor/counselor, financial manager system analyst, systems administrator and IT systems administrator. In 2005 Chris became the financial clerk of the Senate where he has served with distinction.

His discipline and special attention to detail have been remarkable. Chris is best known for his willingness to share his extensive institutional knowledge and for his calm demeanor. When faced with the difficulties of government shutdowns and the challenges of sequestration, Chris remained steadfast, and encouraged others to do the same. He has served this body, our staff and the entire Capitol Hill community with character and conviction and he will be greatly missed.

I join my colleagues in wishing Chris all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend last night's cloture votes on the nominations of Randolph Moss to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and Leigh Martin May to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. I was with my family welcoming my new grandson. Had I been able to attend, I would have supported both cloture motions.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY RAYMOND F. CHANDLER III

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding soldier who has, for the last three and one-half years, served as the Army Chief of Staff's primary advisor on matters related to the needs and welfare of all enlisted soldiers and their families.

In January, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler will retire after 33 years of distinguished service to the Army and the Nation. Throughout his career, he has been an exceptional leader and has personified the values of duty, integrity, and selfless service in all of the missions to which he has contributed.

SMA Chandler was born in Whittier, CA and enlisted in the Army in September 1981. He attended one station unit training at Fort Knox, KY and graduated as a 19E armor crewman.

SMA Chandler has served in every tank crewman position and has had multiple tours as a troop, squadron, and regimental master gunner. He also served as the 19th Commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, the first enlisted commandant of that academy in its history.

I know that SMA Chandler is looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his twelve grandchildren, and I wish he and his wife Jeanne the very best. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Sergeant Major of the Army Chandler and his family for their many years of commitment, sacrifices, and service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING TURNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commend Turner Elementary School of Turner, ME, on being named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This year, Turner Elementary was one of only 337 schools across the country and the only school from Maine to receive this prestigious recognition of high accomplishment by the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award honors schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award recognizes the remarkable progress that Turner Elementary has made over the past several years in closing student achievement gaps. These outstanding improvements can be attributed to the school's emphasis on professional development opportunities for its teachers and to its commitment to educating the whole child. Turner Elementary has strengthened its curriculum initiatives in math, reading, and writing and has also benefited greatly from its talented and dedicated leadership team, which helps students, parents, and educators set and reach their goals.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Turner Elementary School for this well-deserved honor and congratulate not only the students but also the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents on this outstanding achievement. Together, they are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of students by helping them become energetic learners and engaged citizens.

RECOGNIZING CEDARVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Cedarville Elementary School of Fort Wayne, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as Exemplary High Performing, schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State's assessment, or as Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics.

Cedarville Elementary School has made great strides in these areas.

Cedarville Elementary School is dedicated to combining quality education with innovative community involvement. By collaborating with community partners in Fort Wayne, Cedarville imparts on students not only the value of a great education, but also how to foster strong relationships for the future. These teaching methods have led Cedarville Elementary School to consistently achieve both an A-rating and a four star designation from the Indiana Department of Education. With hard work, Cedarville Elementary will continue to help build a stronger and better Indiana.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Bradley R. Bakle of Cedarville Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Cedarville Elementary School community, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SPRUNICA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Sprunica Elementary School of Nineveh, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools, with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Sprunica Elementary School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

In 2014 alone, Sprunica Elementary School's combined ISTEP+ passing rate for English and mathematics was 92 percent for third grade and 93 percent for fourth grade. By giving the student body a variety of tools for early educational development, such as flexibility to pursue their own reading interests and observing the many facets of nature outside of the classroom, the staff at Sprunica Elementary School provides students with an independent and hands on learning environment. Students can be challenged at their own pace. Beyond the classroom setting, the staff dedicates their time to help the student body develop strategies to become more respectful and aware citizens within the greater town of Nineveh through community service. In addition to its Blue Ribbon School recognition, it is no wonder that Sprunica has also been selected as an Indiana four star school.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Dr. Abbie Suzanne Oliver of Sprunica Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Sprunica Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MERLE SIDENER GIFTED ACADEMY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I also applaud Merle Sidener Gifted Academy of Indianapolis, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has a rigorous academic curriculum, and students are provided a different approach to learning through the incorporation of technology. Students are given the opportunity of choice in their academic development—whether they want to learn a foreign language, learn how to play chess, or even take up karate. This approach helps keep the learning process not only fresh but exciting. In addition, the students at Merle Sidener Gifted Academy are taught to be aware of, not only their surroundings, but of global issues that affect people from different cultures.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Tennille Wallace of Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, and I wish the staff and students continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF SHANE CONLAN INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize former Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan for being named to the College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

On the night of January 2, 1987, more than 52 million Americans were introduced to Shane Patrick Conlan, then the 22-year-old cocaptain of the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions. This was the brightest of spotlights—the bowl game between No. 2 Penn State and No. 1 Miami still remains the most viewed college football game of all time and Conlan's performance was worthy of the stage. Despite an injured knee and a twisted ankle, Conlan intercepted his Heisman Trophy-winning opponent two times, returning one for 40 yards to set up Penn State's game-winning touchdown. This National Championship victory against a highly favored opponent and the accompanying defensive most valuable player award would be crowning achievements in a storied college career.

Mr. Conlan's origins are much more modest than that memorable night in the desert of Arizona. This son of a State policeman and a grocery store clerk grew up in a western New York town that was too small for even a stoplight. The relative obscurity of Frewsburg almost hid the young Conlan's athletic prowess. Even though he was named Western New York Player of the Year in 1981, Mr. Conlan only had one scholarship offer waiting for him when he graduated high school: Penn State.

In State College Mr. Conlan would evolve from a 6′3″, 185 pound, mild-mannered freshman to become one of the most significant contributors to Penn State's cherished legacy as ''Linebacker U.'' A 4-year letterman, 3-year starter, and first-team All-American, Mr. Conlan helped lead a football team that would go 23-to-1 over his final 2 years. In a lasting display of the reverence for Mr. Conlan in Happy Valley, several star linebackers at his alma mater have since donned his No. 31 as a tribute to his success and leadership, while he wore the blue and white. This October 25 his university and fans honored Mr. Conlan once again with a mid game salute by a sold-out crowd of 107,895 at Beaver Stadium.

After graduation from Penn State with a degree in administration of justice, success would follow Mr. Conlan

to the National Football League. There he would be named Defensive Rookie of the Year and earn three trips to the Pro Bowl during a 9-year career. Today, Mr. Conlan resides in the Pittsburgh area with his wife Caroline and their four children: Patrick, Christopher, Mary Katherine, and Daniel.

I am privileged to have the opportunity and the venue to offer congratulations to this adopted son of my State and thank him for his significant contributions to college football, the Penn State University community, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish him all the best as he is inducted as a member of the College Football Hall of Fame this December. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lincoln, NH—a town in Grafton County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

Located in the heart of the White Mountains, Lincoln is renowned for its spectacular scenery. Several of New Hampshire's natural wonders are in Lincoln, including ''the basin'' at Franconia Notch State Park, Indian Head Profile Rock formation, and the Flume Gorge—all examples of the Granite State's unique natural beauty.

The town of Lincoln was named for Henry Fiennes Pelham-Clinton, the 2nd Duke of Newcastle, 9th Earl of Lincoln. It was granted in 1764 by colonial Governor Benning Wentworth to a group of 70 land investors from Connecticut. The grant was so large that today Lincoln remains the second largest town by area in the State.

Lincoln's location near the Pemigewasset River was integral to the development of its logging and paper industries, an important part of the town's history. By the mid-19th century, Lincoln was a center for processing and shipping timber. North Country businessman James E. Henry purchased over 100,000 acres of timber at the turn of the century and constructed a pulp and paper mill to process the wood in what is now the center of Lincoln. Henry also built the Lincoln House Hotel to house the increasing number of tourists eager to experience the beauty of the White Mountains.

Today, the population of Lincoln has grown to over 1,600 residents, and the town has become one of New Hampshire's most popular tourist destinations. Visitors come from across the Nation to ski at Loon Mountain, hike the Appalachian Trail, spot a moose, or take a ride on the Kancamagus Highway—one of the State's most scenic routes. Families—including mine—also enjoy stopping by Clark's Trading Post to see Clark's famous trained bears perform, and riding through the mountains aboard the Hobo Railroad. Each September, Lincoln hosts the New Hampshire Highland Games, where thousands gather to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lincoln on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.•

TRIBUTE TO MIKE JACOBS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Mike Jacobs, who will retire as the Johnson County judge after more than two decades of public service to the citizens of Arkansas in this elected position.

As Johnson County judge, Mike was a constant advocate for services, programs, and improvements for Johnson County residents. He worked to secure funding to provide a safe source of drinking water for citizens in county, preserving funding for rural schools and protect rural firefighters. After a tornado devastated Johnson County in 2011, Mike fought to ensure FEMA would allow citizens to receive Federal disaster assistance.

Mikes passion for public service extends beyond the borders of Johnson County. As the president of board of directors for the Association of Arkansas Counties for more than 15 years, Mike has shared his efforts, experiences, and examples of success with others. He is a visionary for the State and the Nation as he also serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Counties.

I congratulate Mike for his commitment to public service. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Arkansas. I am grateful to be able to call Mike a friend. While he is stepping down as county judge, Mike will continue public service in another capacity. We will be able to rely on his advice and his experience as he serves as justice of the peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Johnson County judge Mike Jacobs on his retirement. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.•

REMEMBERING JACK CHATFIELD

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to remember Jack Chatfield, a longtime resident of Hartford, CT, who passed away on September 18, 2014. Although Jack was not well known outside Connecticut, he helped create a better history for our Nation. Born in Baltimore, MD, in 1942, he first came to Connecticut to attend Trinity College. Later, he returned to teach, first at the Watkinson School and then at Trinity.

Jack Chatfield was an incomparable individual who lived a full life. He interrupted his undergraduate career at Trinity in 1962 to volunteer with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, SNCC. An article in the New York Times detailed how southern sheriffs had beaten his college roommate Ralph Allen, and without looking back Jack went down to join him in rural southwest Georgia. At the time, SNCC workers faced great personal danger, both from local law enforcement and from vigilantes known as ''nightriders.'' Immediately after arriving, Jack was wounded by shotgun blasts fired by nightriders while he was eating dinner in the house where he was staying. Despite this, Jack's spirit never wavered, and he kept working to register African Americans to vote. He later said that it was during this time that he became ''a true student of American history.''

Jack returned to Trinity in the fall of 1963 and graduated in 1965. He went on to earn his master's and doctorate from Columbia University. During this time, he turned his attention to teaching, which he found to be his true calling. He returned to Trinity in 1987.

In the classroom, Jack absolutely excelled. He had an exceptional ability to teach history as if it were happening today. He drew his students in, immersing them in history texts that would make them think and question, building knowledge and skills that they would never forget. His love of the subject was equaled by his unwavering dedication to his students. Whether they were interested or not, brilliant or not, Jack wanted to reach them all. He was honored for his ability with Trinity's Hughes Teaching Prize for junior faculty in 1993 and its Brownell Prize for senior faculty in 2002.

Jack was equally concerned with how his students were faring outside the classroom, and he saw part of his job as facilitating their moral development and understanding of life. With another colleague, he started what became known as the ''Friday Table.'' This informal gathering of students and faculty for Friday lunch became a tradition that endured for over 15 years. Around the table, the participants would talk about history and politics, life at Trinity, and other issues of importance. For many of the students who were fortunate enough to participate, this remains one of their most cherished memories.

The world is a little bit emptier today without Jack Chatfield, but his spirit and vision live on. Robert Kennedy once remarked that our actions could send out ripples of hope and that those ripples together can make a significant difference. Everyone who knew Jack Chatfield came away a little better for the experience, and each of these people are one of his ripples of hope. Whether consciously or unconsciously, they will continue to carry on his vision, maintaining his legacy and his spirit for many years to come.•

RECOGNIZING JANICE HELWIG

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to Janice Helwig

for her 20 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki Commission. Janice joined the Helsinki Commission as a member of the professional staff just a few years after the watershed changes in Europe in 1989, including the fall of communism, the unification of Germany, and the breakup of the Soviet Union.

While 1989 did indeed mark a transition to peace and prosperity for many countries in Central Europe—a Europe ''whole and free'' in the words of President George Bush—by the time Janice joined the Commission staff in late 1994 it was clear that the countries of the region still had many challenges ahead.

At the 1994 Budapest Summit, where Janice first joined the U.S. delegation to the OSCE as a member of the Helsinki Commission contingent, she heard Russian President Boris Yeltsin warn that ''Europe, having not yet freed itself from the heritage of the Cold War, is in danger of plunging into a cold peace.'' Unfortunately, Russia's effort to solidify its own sphere of influence and to block the OSCE's ability to advance human rights has been a hallmark of Moscow's approach throughout Janice's tenure.

As the Helsinki Commission's policy adviser attached to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, Janice has worked on almost every aspect of the Commission's mandate. Her expertise and dedication on Central Asia has particularly stood out.

In the aftermath of the crackdown in Turkmenistan beginning in November 2002, Janice was a tireless advocate for the victims of the regime. She has faithfully and continuously pressed to determine the fate of all those who were disappeared and been the voice of those who were silenced.

In the wake of the Uzbekistan Government's massacre in Andijan in 2005, she helped put a spotlight on the tragic loss of life there. She also personally went to Kyrgyzstan after the outbreak of inter-ethnic conflict in 2010 and met with survivors. When Kazakhstani human rights advocate Evgeny Zhovtis was imprisoned in Siberia after a sham process, Janice visited him in prison. An international organization is only a means to an end, not an end to itself. In the case of the OSCE, that end is the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Janice has helped to ensure that the OSCE stays focused on those goals.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Janice Helwig for her commitment and service to the Helsinki Commission.●

RECOGNIZING THE USA CANOE/KAYAK TEAM

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team on their outstanding performance at Deep Creek 2014—the International Canoe Federation, ICF, Canoe Slalom World Championships—held at the Adventure Sports Center International, ASCI, in Garrett County, MD this past September.

U.S. paddlers advanced to the semifinals in every event, despite competing alongside more than 400 Olympic-level athletes from 46 countries. I congratulate U.S. team member and Marylander Fabien Lefevre on winning the Gold Medal in C1M—canoe single men—and advancing to the finals in K1M—kayak single men—and to his team members Michal Smolen, K1M; Casey Eichfeld, C1M; Dana Mann, K1W; and the team of Casey Eichfeld and Devin McEwan, C2M, who paddled their way into semifinals. I offer my congratulations to these outstanding athletes and my encouragement to all the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team as they train and compete for a chance to represent the United States at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.

U.S.A. canoe/kayak is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing body for the Olympic sports of flatwater sprint and whitewater slalom as well as the paralympic sport of paracanoe. Since 2009, the team has been led by Olympic Gold Medalist, 10-time U.S. National Champion, and 6-time World Cup Medalist Joe Jacobi. Joe has been a major force in energizing the team and developing the vitality of paddlesports in the United States. I wish him all the best as he steps down from this role later this year to pursue new projects and initiatives.

I also offer my congratulations to Garrett County commissioner Gregan Crawford and Maryland Office of Sports marketing executive director Terry Hasseltine who served as cochairs for Deep Creek 2014; Deep Creek 2014 executive director Todd Copley; ASCI executive director Mike Logsdon; and the many sponsors and volunteers who worked together to bring this world-class event to the United States and to provide a warm welcome to athletes and visitors from around the world. This was only the second time this prestigious international competition has been held in the United States since its inception in 1949; I am proud that Mountain Maryland also hosted the World Championships on the Savage River in 1989.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with members of the U.S. team and students in Garrett College's Adventure Sports Institute who are preparing to lead the next generation of athletes and outdoor sports enthusiasts. I commend the region's leaders for recognizing Mountain Maryland's unique opportunity to support the training and development of leaders in this exciting industry, and I look forward to the continued growth of competitive paddle sports in my State and around the country.●

TRIBUTE TO NARVA ROSS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge and thank Ms. Narva Ross, who will retire on January 2, 2015 from the Department of the Navy, for her completion of 45 years of Federal service.

Ms. Ross is a native of Plummerville, AR where her mother still resides. She has held positions with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Economic Opportunity, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Navy. Ms. Ross has been a dedicated Federal employee and has served with distinction in a highly professional and exemplary manner for the Department of the Navy for the last 38 years of her career. She has received numerous performance awards including the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1990.

Since July 1, 1990 Ms. Ross has been the lead administrative officer for the Sea Warfare and Weapons Department, Office of Naval Research, Department of the Navy. The Department has an annual budget of approximately $500 million and has 100 employees. As administrative officer, Ms. Ross has provided leadership for all human resources functions, and for the implementation of personnel policy and procedures. She also serves as the Department's lead for the creation of administrative business rules and processes, and she manages contracts for support personnel.

Ms. Ross has two children, Antoine and Jerri, and two grandchildren. Her husband, who passed away in 2005 after an extended illness, was a Vietnam Veteran serving 17 months in theater. Ms. Ross cared for her husband during his illness while working full time and raising their children.

Ms. Narva Ross has been a valued servant to the people of the United States and Arkansas. We are fortunate to have had such a dedicated Federal employee and I thank her again for her 45 years of service.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD A. MULDER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bernard A. Mulder, a veteran of World War II.

Bernard, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Bernard's service in the Second World War because no story of bravery and especially not one from our ''greatest generation'' should ever be forgotten.

Bernard was born in Beaumont, TX, on July 21, 1922. After growing up in Beaumont and Galveston, he graduated from Galveston High School in 1939. Bernard enlisted with the Army Air Corps in San Antonio in May of 1941.

He trained in Texas and Nevada, and soon after, a squadron commander suggested that he put in for flight training. In December 1941, the same month as Pearl Harbor, Bernard was accepted for primary flight training in Santa Maria, CA. Until then, Bernard had never even been near a plane, much less flown one.

Bernard flew training operations until heading overseas in November 1942 to join the war effort. Bernard was stationed with the British Aid Army in North Africa, where he flew supplies to Cairo and the Western Front, and returned the wounded to hospitals.

During the invasion of Sicily, Bernard dropped off the 82nd Airborne. He did it once again on D-day, dropping them at Sainte Mere-Englise, which became the first town liberated on the Western Front.

While dropping supplies to troops in France, Bernard's plane was hit and he was shot. In July of 1944 Bernard was flown back to the United States to recover.

One good thing did come out of his 9-month hospital stay: Bernard met the love of his life, an Australian nurse named Margaret. Bernard and Margaret married in July 1945, and in January 1946 Bernard ended his service in the military.

Through the GI bill, Bernard attended the University of Colorado and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Bernard and Margaret then moved to Perth, Australia, in August of 1960, where Bernard worked as a machine designer for 15 years. Margaret sadly passed away in 1975.

After returning to the United States, Bernard discovered his love of travel and began to explore the American West. Bernard has lived in Las Vegas; Guadalajara, Mexico; Arizona; and Wyoming. He's been to all 50 States.

Bernard moved to Billings after he read that monthly bus passes for senior citizens were only $3. Bernard then offered to make Christmas ornaments for a daycare in downtown Billings, and after 6 years, the teachers asked him to join the Foster Grandparent Program.

Every morning since then, Bernard works with 4- and 5-year-olds. They keep Grandpa Bernard young.

While Bernard was in the hospital, two of his medals were stolen from his belongings. He also never received the rest of the medals he earned. This past September, in the presence of his friends, who claim him as family, it was my honor to finally present to Bernard his Purple Heart, Air Medal with Two Bronze Service Stars, and Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon.

Bernard also earned the following medals: Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Four Bronze Service Stars, and a World War II Victory Medal.

These medals are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

RECOGNIZING THE ROBERT HICKS HOUSE

● Mr.VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor the home of civil rights hero, the late Robert ''Bob'' Hicks in Bogalusa, LA. This month, the State of Louisiana is unveiling a historical land marker on the site where, 50 years ago, Mr. Hicks organized armed men outside his home to protect civil rights workers from Ku Klux Klan violence.

Mr. Hicks, a former paper mill worker, became a key civil rights leader during the tumultuous 1960s and 70s in his hometown of Bogalusa, LA. He earned the respect of others as a courageous organizer, who not only stood toe-to-toe with the Ku Klux Klan, but also fought against the racist political power structure and the city's discriminatory businesses. He filed a landmark civil rights lawsuit in Federal court against the city requiring the police to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to protect those who protested against injustice in the city. His lawsuits also resulted in orders to desegregate Bogalusa's public schools and the prohibition of new public housing in segregated neighborhoods in the city. His lawsuit against his employer, the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, resulted in the prohibition of unfair hiring tests and seniority systems at the city's major paper mill. Mr. Hicks became the first black supervisor at the paper mill, and his work opened doors for others, as his case became the precedent for similar discrimination cases throughout the region.

On the night of February 1, 1965, Mr. Hicks received a call telling him the Klan was coming to bomb his home, because he was accommodating two white civil rights workers there. Mr. Hicks and his wife Valeria found neighbors willing to take in their children and they reached out to others for protection. Soon, a group of armed men gathered to protect the Hicks' home, and there was never a violent confrontation. Less than 3 weeks later, the leaders of a secretive, paramilitary organization called the Deacons for Defense and Justice visited Bogalusa. The organization had been formed in Jonesboro, LA, in 1964 mainly to protect unarmed civil rights demonstrators from the Klan. After listening to the Deacons, Mr. Hicks took the lead in forming a Bogalusa chapter, recruiting many of the men who had joined him at his house to protect his family and guests.

Mr. Hicks died of cancer at his home in Bogalusa on April 13, 2010, at the age of 81. He was one of the last surviving Deacon leaders. The historical land marker will be unveiled on November 22, 2014, and it will be the first official State marker honoring an African American in Washington Parish, LA.

I am honored to join with the State of Louisiana in recognizing the Robert ''Bob'' Hicks House.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

H.R. 1233. An act to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4194. An act to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2141. An act 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. 2539. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

S. 2583. An act to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3326. An act to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

H.R. 4846. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4867. An act to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of

Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5167. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

H.R. 5682. An act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

H.J. Res. 129. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3326. An act to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4846. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5167. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2. An act to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 17, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM–345. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the founders of the Constitution of the United States empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded; and

Whereas the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of their people, particularly for the generations to come, to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under art. V to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That under art. V, Constitution of the United States, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully applies to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with art. V, Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have applied for a similar convention of the states; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the legislatures of the other 49 states to apply to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.

POM–346. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska opposing the warrantless collection of telephone call data by the National Security Agency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides ''The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized''; and

Whereas the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides ''No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law''; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2013, United States District Court Judge Richard Leon ruled that the National Security Agency's program, bulk collection, and querying of telephone record metadata are likely unconstitutional; and

Whereas the legislature objects to the dragnet approach to data collection allowed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a court that operates in secret and, under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, issues orders that perpetuate the warrantless collection of data of nearly all Americans; and

Whereas the National Security Agency stores the date and time of calls, their duration, and the participating telephone numbers of the calls of nearly all Americans in a centralized database, which allows National Security Agency analysts to access not only those numbers, but the numbers with which the numbers have been in contact, and, in turn, the numbers in contact with those numbers; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, in its January 2014 report titled ''Report on the Telephone Records Program Conducted under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and on the Operations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court,'' questions the legal basis for the National Security Agency's mass telephone call data collection program; and

Whereas, when telephone call data of Americans is collected by the National Security Agency, that data is not related to specific investigations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas orders issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court at the request of the federal government require telephone companies to provide new calling records on a daily basis, a mandate not grounded in statute; and

Whereas sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act is designed to enable the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain records in the course of investigations, but the National Security Agency's mass collection of the records is not consistent with that design; and

Whereas the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 prohibits telephone companies from sharing consumer data with the government except in special circumstances, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board concluded that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program may violate the Act; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board found that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program has not prevented, discovered, or identified terrorist attacks, plots, or suspects that threatened the security of the United States; and

Whereas the widespread collection of telephone call data of Americans reveals highly sensitive personal information; and

Whereas the legislature resolutely opposes the continuation of the National Security Agency's warrantless data collection program; and

Whereas the legislature views the National Security Agency's storage in a central database of the telephone call metadata of all Americans as an unconstitutional practice that should be immediately suspended; and

Whereas the history of government coercion, persecution, and abuse of personal information and human life in the twentieth

century prompts the legislature to seek to protect the liberty of future generations from an oppressive and tyrannical federal government; and

Whereas the fundamental rights of Americans to speak freely and associate with others are threatened and are likely being diminished by the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data; and

Whereas the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data may intimidate or chill the freedom of expression of individuals and groups that disagree with certain government policies or result in extreme scrutiny of those persons simply for opposing those policies; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has deviated from its purpose to authorize warrants for electronic surveillance relating only to a specific person, a specific place, or a specific communications account or device; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court operates in a secretive manner that prevents the court from hearing public input regarding government requests to conduct surveillance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to end the mass telephone call data collection program conducted under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, because of its lack of a statutory foundation and because it raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to eliminate all stored metadata upon ending the mass telephone call data collection program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to authorize the creation of a panel of private sector lawyers to serve as advocates for the public before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to increase public knowledge and oversight; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to write opinions in a manner that allows the government to declassify and release the opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to work to declassify past opinions and release those opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Attorney General and members of the intelligence and judiciary committees of the United States Congress to inform the Alaska State Legislature of the federal government's activities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and provide the Alaska State Legislature with copies of reports submitted under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to prohibit the use of state personnel and resources to assist the National Security Agency in its collection of mass data on Alaskans without a specific search warrant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature considers the National Security Agency's unilateral collection of the telephone call data of all Americans a violation of statute, an unconstitutional program, and a troubling overreach by the federal government; the Alaska State Legislature has sworn to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska and will not assist the federal government by facilitating programs that are tyrannical in nature, that subject Americans to unreasonable and unwarranted searches, and that violate the fundamental principle of liberty; let this resolution serve as a notice to this Administration and all future Administrations that Alaskans reject surrendering their liberty in the name of an unconstitutional program.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppersburger, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Jeh Johnson, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; General Keith B. Alexander, United States Army, Director, National Security Agency; Richard H. Ledgett, Jr., Deputy Director, National Security Agency; James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM–347. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging that health, safety, and planning concerns be addressed and mitigated in the environmental review and all other review processes before project permissions be granted for Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market natural gas pipeline, compressor, and metering stations expansion project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM–348. A resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Bar Association requesting that the government of the United States exempt Puerto Rico from the regulations of the Jones Act, also known in Puerto Rico as the Cabotage Act, to allow foreign-flag ships to bring goods to the country, which has previously been done in similar situations with the U.S. Virgin Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, and other jurisdictions of the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM–349. A resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Bar Association reaffirming the historical opposition of the Puerto Rico Bar Association to the death penalty and urging such actions as are necessary to implement that opposition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1804. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–273).

S. 1893. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–274).

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4366. A bill to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement (Rept. No. 113–275).

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 Ms. STABENOW:

S. 2929. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the decisions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation affecting cost allocation under system support resources agreements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2930. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2931. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules and consideration of the least burdensome regulatory alternative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2932. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2933. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized use of electronic tracking devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2934. A bill to prohibit trespassing on critical infrastructure used in or affecting interstate commerce to commit a criminal offense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2935. A bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 579. A resolution relative to the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr., former Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 580. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1086

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1828, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2053

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action on the Capitol Grounds.

S. 2113

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2113, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2115, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) 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. 2621

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2663

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2663, a bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2685

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 2693

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms.

HIRONO) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2694, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 2746

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) 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.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, supra.

S. 2787

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller ID information.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 2876

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2876, a bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception.

S. 2917

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2917, a bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. 2921

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the ''Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic''.

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2924, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

AMENDMENT NO. 3741

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3741 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD O. GREENE, JR., FORMER SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. began his service to the United States Senate as a Doorkeeper in January 1968;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. served the United States Senate as Republican cloakroom assistant, Assistant Secretary for the Minority, Secretary for the Minority, and Secretary for the Majority;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. was elected as Senate Sergeant at Arms during the 104th Congress;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr.'s more than 28 years of service was characterized by a deep and abiding respect for the institution and customs of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Howard O. Greene, Jr.

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN AWAITING FAMILIES, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 580

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 402,378 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 102,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 62 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas in 2013, nearly 23,000 youth ''aged out'' of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

Whereas every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that although ''Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years'';

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 50 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 39 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and inter-county adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, often disrupted foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in the month of November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 50,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2013, nearly 400 events were held in the United States, finalizing the adoptions of approximately 4,500 children from foster care; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 22, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Hearing on the nomination of Lauren McFerran to serve as a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Sarah Cupp of the committee staff on (202) 224–5484.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on November 20, 2014, at 1 p.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Why Are Some Generic Drugs Skyrocketing In Price?''.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Billy Gendell of the committee staff on (202) 224–5480.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Summerside, Marcha Chaudry, and Zack Decker, the interns with my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2280

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the proponent debate time for S. 2280 be divided as follows: 2 hours under the control of Senator HOEVEN or his designee and 1 hour under the control of Senator LANDRIEU or her designee.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I would object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 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 any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2280, as provided under the previous order; and that the Senate then recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, if all debate time is used, there will be up to five rollcall votes at approximately 6:15 p.m. in relation to the Keystone XL Pipeline, confirmation of the Abrams, Cohen, and Ross nominations, and then 30 minutes of debate prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the USA FREEDOM Act.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 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 provisions of S. Res. 579 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Howard O. Greene, Jr.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

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. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

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. ANDREW E. BUSCH

IN THE ARMY

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. RICHARD D. CLARKE, JR.

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

LT. GEN. JOHN F. MULHOLLAND, 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 brigadier general

COL. AARON T. WALTER

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. DAVID W. LING

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 vice admiral

REAR ADM. TROY M. SHOEMAKER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD M. HESTER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

LAKEEVA B. GUNDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

TRAVIS S. ANDERSON
AARON S. ARKY
JOHN M. BEAR
BENJAMIN J. BERNARD
PATRICK J. BRAY
DAVID M. CAMP
MICHAEL J. CHAVARRIA
JASON H. DAO
PHILLIP E. DAVIS
GREGORY L. DESCOVICH
ANTHONY K. DEVOTO
RIAN Q. EVERETT
ANDREW D. FREEMAN
MICHAEL W. FRITTS
KEVIN L. GARNER
DONALD R. HEAD
JAMES H. HORA
MICHAEL J. HUMARA
DAMIEAN M. JOHNSON
KYLE A. JOHNSON
BRAD W. KASENBERG
SAMEER KHANNA
DOMINIC J. KRAMER
NELS D. LINDBERG
CHARLES A. LONGEWAY
NATHAN M. R. MCCOY
SETH K. POWELL
GRABIELA QUINONES
LUKE RADLOWSKI
ANDREW REGALADO
ERIK S. REYNOLDS
LAURA B. SANTIAGO
KARL Q. SAULT

CHRISTIAN L. SMITH
THAD D. TASSO
RICHARD J. TERRIO II
MICHAEL S. WELLS
JULIAN G. WILSON III

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 17, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KAREN CLARK STANTON, OF MICHIGAN, 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 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR–LESTE.

THEODORE G. OSIUS III, OF MARYLAND, 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 SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, OF MINNESOTA, 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 RWANDA.

BARBARA A. LEAF, 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 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.