United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015 No. 90

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROONEY of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 8, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS J. ROONEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live and for this great Nation which you have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the ebb and flow of our shared history we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, respect each other, work with each other, live with each other, and do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness and good in its greatness.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 8, 2015 at 10:17 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2146.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1704. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the 101st Annual Report covering operations for calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1705. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report to Congress ''MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility Construction and Operations'' for 2015, pursuant to the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 and the Explanatory Statement for the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1706. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report ''The Opportunity for the Development of Alternative Fuels and Dual Fuel Technologies for Class 8 Heavy-Duty Long-Haul Trucks'' pursuant to an explanatory note to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-76); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1707. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's ''Strategic Petroleum Reserve Annual Report for Calendar Year 2013'', in accordance with Sec. 165 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6245); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1708. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Providence, Rhode Island) [MB Docket No.: 15-98] (RM-11748) received June 4, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1709. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on the activities for the Multinational Force and

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Observers and U.S. participation in that organization for the period January 16, 2014, to January 15, 2015, pursuant to Sec. 6(b) of Pub. L. 97-132; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1710. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the 52nd Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act, as amended, covering the six-month period ending March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1711. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Semiannual Report to the Congress of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015, in accordance with Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1712. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta 2014 management report, pursuant to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1713. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015, pursuant to Pub. L. 95-452, Sec. 5, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1714. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Inventory for FY 2012 and 2013, pursuant to Sec. 2(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-270, as amended by Sec. 840 of Division A of Pub. L. 109-115; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1715. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 120328229-4949-02] (RIN: 0648-XD902] received June 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1716. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program; Amendment 45; Pacific Cod Sideboard Allocations in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130820737-5408-02] (RIN: 0648-BD61) received June 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1717. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2015 Management Measures [Docket No.: 150316270-5270-01] (RIN: 0648-XD843) received June 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1718. A letter from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the ''2014 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interest and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils and Scientific and Statistical Committees and on Apportionment of Membership on the Regional Fishery Management Councils'', pursuant to Secs. 302(b)(2)(B) and 302(j)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1719. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition filed on behalf of workers who were employed at Dow Chemical Company in Pittsburg, California, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort, pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 and 42 C.F.R. pt. 83; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1720. A letter from the Deputy Chief Counsel for Regulations and Security Standards, Office of the Chief Counsel, TSA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Adjustment of Passenger Civil Aviation Security Service Fee [Docket No.: TSA-2001-11120; Amendment No.: 1510-5] (RIN: 1652-AA68) received June 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1721. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0491; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-023-AD; Amendment 39-18130; AD 2015-07-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1722. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0766; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-26-AD; Amendment 39-18149; AD 2014-17-08R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1723. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1278; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-223-AD; Amendment 39-18155; AD 2015-09-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1724. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0589; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-069-AD; Amendment 39-18148; AD 2015-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1725. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0074; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-138-AD; Amendment 39-18147; AD 2015-09-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1726. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0429; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-039-AD; Amendment 39-18151; AD 2015-09-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1727. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31014; Amdt. No.: 3640] received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1728. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0636; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-037-AD; Amendment 39-18154; AD 2015-09-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1729. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Aerotechnics (formerly Intertechnique Aircraft Systems) Oxygen Mask Regulators [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1107; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-216-AD; Amendment 39-18143; AD 2015-08-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1730. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Pasco, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0279; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ANM-3] received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1731. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cypress, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0743; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-2] received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1732. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Amendment of Class E Airspace; Jupiter, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0794; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ASO-5] received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1733. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31013; Amdt. No.: 3639] received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1734. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Enstrom Helicopter Corporation [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1537; Directorate Identifier 2015-SW-014-AD; Amendment 39-18160; AD 2015-08-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 5, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1735. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Extension of Sunset Date for Attorney Advisor Program

[Docket No.: SSA-2015-0017] (RIN: 0960-AH83) received June 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1736. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the ''Biennial Report to Congress on the Food Safety and Food Defense Research Plan'', pursuant to Sec. 110(g) of the FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act, Pub. L. 111-353; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

1737. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Evaluation of For-Profit PACE Programs'' report, pursuant to Sec. 4804(b) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

1738. A letter from the Designated Federal Official, United States World War One Centennial Commission, transmitting the Commission's periodic report for the period ending March 31, 2015, pursuant to Pub. L. 112-272; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services, Natural Resources, and Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Pursuant to Sec. 2 of H. Res. 288, the following report was filed on June 5, 2015]

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2685. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–139). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted June 8, 2015]

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1214. A bill to amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–140, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 889. A bill to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title (Rept. 114–141). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1214 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 2686. A bill to amend section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the visa waiver program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2687. A bill to authorize an energy critical elements program, to amend the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

41. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1014, urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to refrain from reducing the ozone concentration standard; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

42. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Nevada, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation transferring title to certain public lands to the State of Nevada in accordance with the report prepared by the Nevada Land Management Task Force; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

43. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1003, urging the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to focus future Mexican Wolf introduction efforts on remote areas within the Northern Sierra Madre Occidental Mountain Range, to halt additional introductions of Mexican Wolves in Arizona and to shift the responsibility for the Mexican Wolf introduction to the Arizona Game and Fish Department; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

44. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2004, urging the United States Congress to enact legislation similar to the Mohave County Radiation Compensation Act of 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

45. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1004, urging the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 594; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 2685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause I of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 2686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 167: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 205: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 379: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 540: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 563: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 699: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 702: Mr. BRAT.
H.R. 766: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 932: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1019: Mr. COHEN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 1174: Mr. TONKO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1197: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. POSEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FARR, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 1211: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 1233: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 1234: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1258: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.R. 1282: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1309: Mr. FLORES, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1338: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 1342: Mr. CHABOT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1384: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1462: Ms.WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 1475: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1482: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 1516: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 1550: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 1555: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 1567: Mr. RUSH
H.R. 1603: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1655: Mr. MARINO and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1660: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1661: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1739: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1752: Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 1814: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1817: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 1854: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1911: Mrs. Lowey, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. JONES, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1946: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1947: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 2005: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2035: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2063: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 2102: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. REED, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2123: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2290: Mr. GIBSON and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 2303: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2315: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2405: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2410: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2434: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2461: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2514: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 2515: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2523: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 2623: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 2628: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 2646: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2652: Mr. MESSER, Mr. HILL, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 2653: Mr. BARTON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WALKER, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 2654: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2663: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2676: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2677: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2680: Ms. ADAMS.
H.J. Res. 22: Mr. YARMUTH.
H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H. Con. Res. 41: Ms. BASS.
H. Con. Res. 49: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 12: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H. Res. 28: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KIND, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H. Res. 139: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H. Res. 210: Mr. KILMER.
H. Res. 233: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. JORDAN.
H. Res. 246: Ms. PINGREE.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015 No. 90

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, to whom all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets are hidden, with reverence we pause to pray that You would make us good enough for the challenging times in which we serve.

Lord, You made humanity to dream, so enable us to see that horizon that promises a better nation and world. Keep our eyes open to the everlasting hills, the illuminated skies, the bright sunrises of hope and beauty and truth.

Keep ever before our lawmakers a vision of Your perfect Kingdom when all people will fulfill the law of love. Help our Senators to shut out all distracting sounds and obstructing movements that prevent them from receiving Your guidance.

We pray in Your sacred 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 MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The minority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, a few days ago, the majority leader was reported to have declared to a conservative talk-radio show that under his leadership, the Republican Senate will shirk its constitutional duties by not continuing to confirm judges—period. He went on to say: We may confirm a few that come from States where only Republicans give the President the names, but other than that, we are going to do none.

I assume this is accurate. I hope it is not, but I assume that it is. It would be a very stunning and disappointing declaration that the senior Senator from Kentucky, especially since he argued for the fair consideration of President Bush's court nominees, would now switch his position.

In July of 2008, here is what he said: ''Even with lameduck Presidents, there is a historical standard of fairness as to confirming judicial nominees, especially circuit court nominees.''

That is a direct quote from the majority leader. These are his words. Not a single word has been made up. That is what he said: ''Even with lameduck presidents, there is a historical standard of fairness as to confirming judicial nominees, especially circuit court nominees.''

And the record is spread with many quotes he has given just the same. He also said in that same year: ''No party is without blame in the confirmation process, but what is going on now—or, more accurately, what is not going on—is yet another step backward in politicizing the confirmation process—something we had all hoped that we would get beyond.''

Earlier my friend from Kentucky said: ''Judicial nominations need to be treated fairly and commitments need to be kept.'' And even earlier than that, here is what he said: ''On the issue of judicial confirmations, the majority leader and I discussed this matter publicly at the beginning of the Congress''—he is saying that he and I are talking—''and we agreed that President Bush, in the last 2 years of his term, should be treated as well as President Reagan, Bush 41, and President Clinton were treated in the last 2 years of their tenures in office because there was one common thread, and that was that the Senate was controlled by the opposition party.''

So what he is saying there is that what he wanted was for Bush to be treated the same way that Bush 1, President Reagan, and President Clinton had been treated. He got that with large numbers of judges being appointed.

So we are here now with the statements ringing loudly that the majority leader is intent on writing off the Senate's constitutional duty of offering our advice and consent now that President Obama is nominating individuals to the Federal bench.

The Republican leader is a student of the Senate. He says he is, and I believe that. I am confident that he understands that the Senate cannot and should not neglect the constitutional obligations we have. The Senate cannot simply ignore critical vacancies in the last 2 years of any President's term—what a bad standard to set, especially with the growth in certain communities. We have a number of judicial emergencies that have been determined.

It is all the more troubling that the majority leader wants to pick an unnecessary fight over judges just as Republican Senators are working with the President to fill vacancies in their States. The majority leader is essentially telling other Senators that their judicial recommendations simply don't matter—Democrats, Independents, Republicans. The majority leader is telling the chairman of the Judiciary Committee that regardless of the judicial nominations his committee continues to report out, they could be blocked on the Senate floor.

But I do say this just as a caveat: The present Judiciary Committee is doing the same thing that was done by the present chairman of the Finance Committee when he was chair of the

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

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Judiciary Committee. He didn't have to worry about a lot of names on the calendar because he simply held no hearings in the Judiciary Committee. The same situation is prevailing now. So we don't have a lot of people on the calendar because they are not having any hearings to speak of in the Judiciary Committee.

I have spoken here on the floor before about the nomination of Felipe Restrepo for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. After repeated, repeated, and repeated delays, the committee is finally considering his nomination on Wednesday. He has been waiting for months. This is an incredibly qualified nominee who enjoys vast bipartisan support, including both Pennsylvania Senators, one a Democrat and one a Republican. The Republican Senator from Pennsylvania has said that Judge Restrepo would be a ''superb addition to the Third Circuit.''

In that case we have waited months to even have a hearing.

So it must have been shocking for the junior Senator from Pennsylvania to learn that his judicial pick would face another delay—a delay indefinitely, perhaps. This is a blatant rejection of the Senate's constitutional duties.

Just as Senator MCCONNELL argued for fairness for President Bush's nominations, it is not unreasonable for Democrats to expect that same measure of fairness that President Bush got in the 110th Congress.

Regardless of whether a State had two Democrats, two Republicans or a split delegation, Senate Democrats brought President Bush's nominees up for a vote. By this point in the seventh year of George W. Bush's Presidency, Senate Democrats confirmed 18 judges, including 3 circuit court judges.

In almost 6 months, the Republican Senate has only confirmed four district court judges. To put this in perspective, during the Presidency of Bush, we confirmed four in 1 month.

So perhaps the majority leader's comments about a judicial slowdown were just confirming what he has already done to block the President's nominees. I repeat. The committee is being run the same way that the present chair of the Finance Committee did when he was chair of the Judiciary Committee—just holding no hearings. That way, there is nobody on the calendar—or very few.

The Republican Senate hasn't confirmed even a single circuit court judge—not even a consensus nominee such as Kara Stoll to the Federal Circuit. She was reported out of committee by a voice vote in April. Nothing so far—they are not even having hearings, I repeat, on most nominees. Therefore, there is no one to report to the floor.

Actions speak louder than words, and the majority leader can demonstrate that his remarks were misinterpreted—and I would certainly hope so—by scheduling a prompt vote on the Stoll nomination. We should schedule a vote on her nomination no later than this week. Kara Stoll is the only appeals court judge awaiting a vote before the Senate.

For the reasons I have just said, people have been in the pipeline, but they won't hold hearings. Both of these nominations—Restrepo and Stoll—need a vote now. Let's hope the majority leader will reflect upon his past statements about fair consideration of judicial nominees, in comparison to what he said on a talk show—I guess appealing to the rightwing even more than what has happened recently, and that is quite a bit. Let's hope he does not treat judicial nominees as they have never been treated before. Let's hope that the Senate will quickly confirm at least these two qualified judges. We need a lot more, but these two would be a step in the right direction.

I note there is no one on the floor, and I ask that the Chair announce the business of the day.

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 for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1735, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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.

Pending:

McCain amendment No. 1463, in the nature of a substitute.

McCain amendment No. 1456 (to amendment No. 1463), to require additional information supporting long-range plans for construction of naval vessels.

Reed amendment No. 1521 (to amendment No. 1463), to limit the availability of amounts authorized to be appropriated for overseas contingency operations pending relief from the spending limits under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Cornyn amendment No. 1486 (to amendment No. 1463), to require reporting on energy security issues involving Europe and the Russian Federation, and to express the sense of Congress regarding ways the United States could help vulnerable allies and partners with energy security.

Vitter amendment No. 1473 (to amendment No. 1463), to limit the retirement of Army combat units.

Markey amendment No. 1645 (to amendment No. 1463), to express the sense of Congress that exports of crude oil to United States allies and partners should not be determined to be consistent with the national interest if those exports would increase energy prices in the United States for American consumers or businesses or increase the reliance of the United States on imported oil.

Reed (for Blumenthal) amendment No. 1564 (to amendment No. 1463), to increase civil penalties for violations of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

McCain (for Paul) modified amendment No. 1543 (to amendment No. 1463), to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

Reed (for Durbin) amendment No. 1559 (to amendment No. 1463), to prohibit the award of Department of Defense contracts to inverted domestic corporations.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I note with some interest over the weekend in the New York Times that ''Russia Wields Aid and Ideology Against West to Fight Sanctions.''

On the front page of the New York Times:

The war in Ukraine that has pitted Russia against the West is being waged not just with tanks, artillery and troops. Increasingly, Moscow has brought to bear different kinds of weapons, according to American and European officials: Money, ideology, and disinformation.

Yesterday and today in the Wall Street Journal: ''Iraqis Call for a Deeper Overhaul of Army.'' Also: ''Mistrust of military leadership among troops is widespread in crisis of confidence.''

Right below that: ''Airstrikes Kill Dozens as Fighting in Yemen Intensifies.''

The reporting of a world in turmoil, as described by my friend LINDSEY GRAHAM as on fire, continues.

To top it all off, today, speaking to reporters at the G7 summit in Germany, President Obama said: ''We don't yet have a complete strategy about how to combat ISIS.''

I would remind my colleagues that on August 28, 2014, nearly a year ago, President Obama stated: ''We don't have a strategy yet to fight ISIS in Iraq and in Syria.''

My friends, nearly a year after the President said we don't have a strategy yet to fight ISIS in Iraq and in Syria, he said again: We don't yet have a complete strategy about how to combat ISIS.

I would like to see the incomplete strategy. I would like to see something. I would not like to see continue that 75 percent of the combat missions that are flown in Iraq and Syria return to base without firing a weapon because we don't have forward air controllers on the ground.

When is this administration going to figure out that if we want to destroy the enemy, we have to be able to identify the enemy, and that requires forward air controllers on the ground and that means U.S. troops.

I know that whenever I and some others say we need additional U.S. troops, people recoil and say, Oh, no, here we go again. Well, what is going on now is ISIS is succeeding. Bashar Assad is hanging on. Iran is on the move. They now dominate four countries: Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon. And the President of the United States says we don't yet have a complete strategy.

Well, the Pentagon is a pretty big place. There are hundreds of people who work for the National Security Advisor, and somehow, nearly a year later, we don't yet have a strategy? Wow. ISIS goes from house to house in Ramadi with lists of names and they execute people and they kill 3-year-old children and they burn their bodies in the streets. And the atrocities in Syria continue as Bashar Assad barrel-bombs innocent men, women, and children—barrel bombs, by the way, supplied by Iran and Russia—and we don't yet have a ''complete strategy.''

Well, I have never seen the world in more crises, nor has Henry Kissinger, nor have most other longtime observers of our Nation and the world.

I urge my colleagues to take a look at a map of the Middle East from January of 2009, when President Obama was sworn in as President of the United States, and look at that same map today and color in where there is ISIS, where there is Iranian domination, where there is conflict, and where there is a complete lack, except in the State of Israel, of democratization or the kinds of freedoms the United States of America stands for.

All I can say is one has to wonder whether this President just wants to wait out the next year and a half and basically do nothing to stop this genocide, blood-letting, and the horrible things that are happening throughout the Middle East, where, in the view of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Director of the CIA, they say, as far as ISIS is concerned, they pose a threat to the security of the United States. Why do they say that? Obviously, because these thousands of young men who have gone to Syria and Iraq and are being radicalized and trained are going to go back to where they came from. Everybody knows that.

On the day Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, left our Camp Bucca—where he spent 4 years along with about 25,000 others—he said to the Americans: We will see you in New York. Mr. Baghdadi is not known for his sense of humor.

What we are trying to do in this legislation that is before the Senate is to provide the means, the training, the equipment, the care for the men and women, and the much needed reforms that I have been over and will continue to go over, whether it be in retirement, whether it be in acquisition, whether it be in a number of other areas of the Department of Defense and the way we defend this Nation. That is, in my view, long, long overdue. Now we see the President of the United States threatening to veto this legislation, if it gets through the House and the Senate, over the issue of OCO. That, as my colleagues know, is overseas contingency operations, which began with the conflicts in Afghanistan and in Iraq as a means of providing additional funds to pay for and fund the operations in those countries as the name implies—overseas contingency operations.

I have opposed sequestration. I think it is a terrible thing to inflict on the men and women who are serving in the military, much less on our national security. I agree with our uniformed leaders, every one of whom has testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that if we continue sequestration, it puts the lives of the men and women who are serving in the military at greater risk. I don't know of a greater obligation that we have than to prevent putting the lives of the young men and women who have volunteered to serve this country at greater risk. But that has been lost on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

So now we have the OCO, and it funds the defense of this country at the levels the President requested. I don't like it. I don't like it because it can only give them 1 year of planning. What the military really needs is to be able to plan for at least 5 years ahead of time. We can't build new weapons and new ships and new airplanes on a year-to-year basis. But it is better than the sequestration, which, as I said, increases the threat to this Nation's security.

Last week, the White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy threatening to veto this national security legislation. The threat hardly comes as a surprise. After all, the President has threatened to veto, for some reason or another, every Defense authorization bill since 2011. The White House's compilation of complaints is long, but it is woefully short on substance.

The Statement of Administration Policy makes clear that the true basis for the administration's veto threat has nothing to do with defense. Objecting to the use of $38 billion in overseas contingency operation funds—or OCO—to meet the President's request of $612 billion, the statement said the President ''will not fix defense without fixing nondefense spending.''

It is incomprehensible that as America confronts the most diverse and complex array of crises around the world since the end of World War II, that a President of the United States, who has not yet been able to come up with a ''complete strategy'' for the challenges we face, would veto funding for our military to prove a political point.

The threats we confront today are far more serious than they were a year ago and significantly more so since the Congress passed the Budget Control Act in 2011. That legislation arbitrarily capped defense spending and established the mindless mechanism of sequestration which was triggered in 2013. As a result, with worldwide threats rising, we as a nation are on a course to cut nearly $1 trillion of defense spending over 10 years. Every single military and national security leader who has testified before the Armed Services Committee this year has denounced sequestration and urged its repeal as soon as possible. This legislation doesn't end sequestration, unfortunately. Believe me, our committee would have done so if the NDAA were capable of it, but it is not. The NDAA is a policy bill. This legislation is a policy bill. It is the appropriators who deal with the money. It only deals with defense issues, and it doesn't spend a dollar. It provides the Department of Defense and the men and women in uniform with the authorities and support they need to defend the Nation. It fully supports President Obama's budget request of $612 billion for national defense, which is $38 billion above the spending caps established by the Budget Control Act.

Let me repeat that. The legislation gives the President every dollar of budget authority he requested. The difference is that this legislation follows the Senate budget resolution, which was voted on time after time all night long and was agreed to by both Houses of Congress. It is the Senate budget resolution.

Now, this is not my preferred option, as I said. That is why the committee included a special transfer authority in this legislation that allows the Department of Defense to transfer the additional $38 billion from OCO to the base budget in the event legislation is enacted that increases the statutory limits on discretionary defense and nondefense spending in proportionately equal amounts. This was the product of a bipartisan compromise, and it was the most we could do in the Defense authorization bill to recognize the need for a broader physical agreement without denying funding for our military right now.

Here on the floor we have heard a number of misconceptions about OCO funding, many of which have been fed by this administration's rhetoric. While OCO is not the ideal way to budget our defense, technical and budgetary consequences to using OCO funding have been greatly exaggerated. OCO is authorized and appropriated on an annual basis, just like base funding. OCO funding is allocated to the same

DOD accounts as base funding. In fact, the Defense bill purposely placed the additional $38 billion of OCO funding in the same accounts and activities for which the President himself requested the money. These activities have historically had a large share of OCO funding, and the account has been designated by the President as OCO eligible in the past, and there are no laws that make OCO funding expire any differently than base funding.

The White House threat to veto this legislation and the desire for increases in nondefense spending are misguided and irresponsible. With global threats rising, it simply makes no sense to oppose a defense policy bill—legislation that spends no money but is full of vital authorities that our troops need—for a reason that has nothing to do with national defense spending. The NDAA should not be treated as a hostage in budget negotiation. The political reality is that the Budget Control Act, which the President signed, remains the law of the land. So faced with a choice between OCO money and no money, I choose OCO, and multiple senior military leaders testified before the Armed Services Committee this year that they would make the same choice for one simple reason: This is $38 billion of real money that our military desperately needs and without which our top military leaders have said they cannot succeed.

The bottom line is this. The NDAA authorized $612 billion for national defense. This is the amount requested by the President and justified by his own national security strategy. If the President and some of my colleagues oppose the Defense bill due to concerns over nondefense spending, I suspect they will have a very difficult time explaining and justifying that choice to Americans who increasingly cite national security as a top concern.

The Statement of Administration Policy raises specious concerns with the sweeping defense acquisition reforms in the NDAA. For example, the White House asserted that transferring some acquisition authority back to the services is somehow inconsistent with the Secretary of Defense's exercise of authority, direction, and control over all of the Department of Defense's programs and activities. I could not disagree more with that assertion. What this legislation does is merely switch who does what in certain circumstances from different people who all directly report and serve under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense. In this legislation, for a limited number of programs to start with, the Secretary of Defense will look to the service Secretaries directly for management of these acquisition programs rather than looking to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, or AT&L. This is not usurpation of the Secretary of Defense's power. It is called streamlining of authorities and reducing layers of unnecessary bureaucracy. There is a section in the legislation that would allow the Secretary of Defense to continue to rely on more layers of management, if he chooses, but only if he certifies to Congress that this makes sense. There simply is not any undermining of the Secretary of Defense's authority in here.

Another concern raised has been that the transfer of milestone decision authority to the services would reduce the Secretary of Defense's ability—through AT&L—to guard against unwarranted optimism in program planning and budget formulation. Unwarranted optimism is indeed a plague on acquisition, and there is not a monopoly of that in the services. Nothing in this bill overrides a requirement to use better cost estimates from the Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation. In fact, new incentives and real penalties imposed on the services in this legislation are designed to put some of this optimism in check.

Some in the White House and the Department of Defense want to perpetuate the absurd fiction that the current system is working. Even after a wave of 25 program cancellations by former Secretary Gates, all of the programs that are left under AT&L management have over $200 billion in cost overruns.

I want to repeat that. Under the supervision of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, there are programs that have over $200 billion in cost overruns. AT&L is trying to have it both ways, claiming credit for the improvements in the acquisition system while blaming the services for its long list of failures.

This is exactly the program this legislation is trying to address, blurred lines of accountability inside the Defense Acquisition System that allow its leaders to evade responsibility for results. The reality is that in the modern world the AT&L management process takes too long and costs too much. For example, an Army study looked at the time it would take to go through all of the AT&L reviews and buy nothing. I repeat: To go through all those reviews and buy nothing. What was the answer? Ten years—10 years to buy nothing. The Government Accountability Office looked at the much vaunted milestone reviews that the Office of the Secretary of Defense is touting as a success. Just one review takes on average 2 years. A similar review at the Missile Defense Agency takes about 3 months. Our adversaries are not shuffling paper. They are building weapons systems. It is time for us to do the same.

I find it disappointing or maybe just outright laughable that the Statement of Administration Policy expressed concern about the Armed Services Committee's decision to downsize and streamline the bureaucratic overhead of the Pentagon, while at the same time complaining that we are not letting them downsize the fighting forces. Let me repeat. The administration wants to keep more Pentagon bureaucrats while drawing down our forces and cutting military equipment such as fighter aircraft.

Is there any Member of this Chamber who believes we should increase the Army staff by 60 percent over a decade, and then turn around and slash our Army brigade combat teams from 45 to 32? Of course not.

The administration cites reductions already taking place in headquarters activities, but ignores the fact that the Air Force is trying to achieve those reductions by playing a shell game—creating two new organizations and shifting people around. Moving the deck chairs on the Titanic didn't keep the ship from sinking, and shifting people around in a game of ''hide the headquarters staff'' will not keep our national security from sinking under the weight of bureaucratic empires.

As the White House asks the Senate to preserve bloated staffs, the Statement of Administration Policy laments the Committee's effort to address dangerous strike fighter capacity shortfalls across the services. As deliveries of the F–35 have continued to fall short of projections, the Air Force has continued to drain combat power. Senior Air Force officials have repeatedly testified to the alarming reality that their service is the smallest in its history, with readiness at very low levels, all while our airmen perform ongoing combat operations in the Middle East, theater support packages in Eastern Europe, presence and reassurance to our allies in the Asia-Pacific, and maintain a strong strategic nuclear deterrence posture. The misallocation of airpower resources over the past 6 years, coupled with the mismanagement of very expensive aircraft weapons systems procurement programs, places America's national security interests in jeopardy and endangers the lives of our men and women in uniform.

Our military commanders know this is true. That is why, for example, the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps included in their unfunded priorities lists requests for 12 F–18 Super Hornets for the Navy and 6 F–35B Joint Strike Fighters for the Marine Corps. The NDAA funds these requests because senior Navy and Marine Corps leaders have repeatedly testified to significant strike fighter shortfalls in the maritime services due to unanticipated increased combat operations in the Middle East, aging and obsolete fighter aircraft, and significant delays in the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter delivery schedule. Bizarrely, the White House has apparently disregarded that testimony and instead labels these requests for more combat power from our military commanders as ''unnecessary.''

The Statement of Administration Policy opposes the strong oversight measures put in place by the NDAA on the Ford-class aircraft carrier program. The administration objects to a

provision in this legislation that reduces the cost cap for the USS *John F. Kennedy* by $100 million from $11.498 billion to $11.398 billion. But in the budget request, the Navy estimated the cost of this ship at $11.348 billion. In other words, the NDAA still provides a buffer of $50 million. The provision simply locks in the savings the Department has advertised, which comes after more than $2 billion in cost growth—$2 billion in cost growth of one aircraft carrier. Unless the budget request is misleading or inaccurate, this provision should not result in reduced capability or a breach of the cost cap as the administration claims.

It is also unfortunate that the administration doesn't recognize the importance of conducting full-ship shock trials on the USS *Gerald R. Ford*, known as CVN–78. With the abundance of new technology, including the catapult, arresting gear, and radar, as well as the reliance on electricity rather than steam to power key systems, there continues to be a great deal of risk in this program. Testing CVN–78 will not only improve the design of future carriers but also reduce the costs associated with retrofitting engineering changes. Absent this provision, the Navy will delay by up to 7 years full-ship shock trials and shift the test from the lead ship in the class to the second ship. That poses the risk that CVN–78 will deploy and potentially fight without this testing, putting the lives of our sailors at risk.

The Statement of Administration Policy also raised objections to a number of provisions related to military personnel. For instance, the administration bemoans the fact that the Committee did not adopt its plan to raise existing TRICARE fees and implement new fees for Medicare-eligible retirees and their family members. The so-called Consolidated Health Plans would not have created a modern, value-based health care system. The administration made no attempt at all to improve access to care, quality of care or beneficiary satisfaction. The NDAA, on the other hand, addresses those issues and more without raising enrollment fees or creating new fees.

The White House expressed concern about the provisions in the NDAA that call for a plan to privatize commissaries and a 2-year pilot program at no fewer than five commissaries in the largest markets of the commissary system to assess the feasibility and advisability of the plan. But the rationale is confusing. The administration claims that ''there is an independent study underway to determine whether privatization is a feasible option and we should wait for those results prior to making any policy changes.'' The bill did require a comprehensive review in fiscal year 2015 by an independent organization of the management, food, and pricing options of the commissary system. But in that section, there was no requirement to study the feasibility of privatization of the commissary system. It is also curious that the administration warns against implementing a pilot program on privatization before the results of an independent study, while at the same time encouraging the Congress to adopt their own proposed pilot program.

The White House's policy statement reflects the President's feckless policy towards Russia. Despite the advice of nearly every statesman and policy expert who has appeared before the Armed Services Committee in recent months—Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, Madeleine Albright, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and others—and against the advice of both the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense, the President has refused to provide defensive lethal assistance to Ukraine. The President's continued inaction, for fear of provoking Russia, is seen by Putin as weakness and invites the very aggression we seek to avoid.

The Ukrainian people aren't asking for U.S. troops. They are simply asking for the right tools to defend themselves and their country, and those are the tools that this legislation would provide.

We have seen Vladimir Putin commit aggression, draw back, commit more aggression, draw back. We are now in the phase where any day now we will see continued aggression and territory-grabbing by Vladimir Putin as he establishes his land bridge to Crimea and puts additional pressures on Baltic countries and Moldova. Meanwhile, we refuse to give the Ukrainians weapons with which to defend themselves.

This bill does not force the President to provide lethal assistance to Ukraine. Trust me, if there were a way to do that, it would be in this bill. The President has a decision to make on providing lethal assistance to Ukraine. That decision has consequences far beyond whether the President obligates the full amount of funds authorized in a decision that is long overdue.

Making matters worse, the Statement of Administration Policy seeks flexibility to continue our Nation's dependence on Russian rocket engines. The NDAA would put an end to this dependence by 2019 and stop hundreds of millions of dollars from going to Vladimir Putin and his cronies. It eliminates a launch subsidy that the commander of Air Force Space Command has stated impedes fair competition, and it directs the administration to stop playing games, develop a domestic rocket engine—not a new rocket system—to replace the Russian RD–180.

The Russians are being paid billions of dollars for their rocket engines, and there is a ''middle man'' who has made tens of millions of dollars just by moving those rockets from Russia to the United States. There is an individual who runs this outfit who has been sanctioned by the U.S. Government, and we have elements in the Pentagon who still want to deal with him for as long as possible.

In testimony before the Armed Services Committee in March, Gen. John Kelly, the commander of U.S. Southern Command, testified: ''With the amount of drugs and people that move across our southwest border, it doesn't seem all that secure to me.'' General Kelly went on to state that the threat of terrorists crossing our southern border is ''extremely serious'' and that ''if a terrorist or almost anyone wants to get into our country, they just pay the fare.'' They just pay the fare.

That is why this bill would provide $45 million for Operation Phalanx, increasing border security operations by the National Guard along the southern border, and boosting aerial surveillance of the region by up to 60 percent. To date, Operation Phalanx has directly contributed to more than 96,000 apprehensions along the border and the interdiction of more than 282,000 pounds of drugs destined for our communities.

The legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to provide up to $75 million in additional assistance to Customs and Border Protection operations to secure the southern border, potentially including the deployment of personnel, surveillance assets, and intelligence support from the U.S. military. The NDAA would authorize an additional $50 million to address U.S. Southern Command's unfunded priorities to increase surveillance and interdiction operations in Central America—a primary transit point for illicit trafficking into the United States.

Finally, I am disappointed by the administration's puzzling response to provisions in the NDAA related to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. The administration argues that this legislation's limitations placed on Guantanamo Bay transfers are unnecessary and beyond the scope of congressional authority. That is false. Congress has long had constitutional authority over wartime detention matters, and there are good reasons for Congress to assert its authority in this instance.

For over 6 years, the administration has stated that one of its highest policy priorities is to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. But for that same period of time, Members of the Senate have repeatedly requested a plan that explains how the administration will handle each of the detainees currently held there, and unfortunately, over the last 6½ years, the administration has consistently failed to provide that plan.

As the terrorist threat continues around the world and grows and metastasizes, the administration continues to demand that the facility be closed while failing to explain how it will do so. There are serious legal and security challenges inherent in moving this population to other locations, whether inside or outside of the United States. Congress is simply asking the executive branch to explain where it will hold those set for trial, how it will continue to detain dangerous terrorists pursuant to the laws of war, and how it

will mitigate the risks of moving this population. If the administration can provide those answers to these basic questions to the satisfaction of the American people, then congressional restrictions on the movement of these detainees will be lifted and the plan can be implemented.

Now, Congress's need for answers is even more acute after the administration transferred five senior Taliban detainees under secret agreement to Qatar without prior notification to Congress as required by law. The President of the United States blatantly violated the law—which required, before these five detainees were transferred to Qatar, that Congress be notified 6 months ahead of time—using the rationale that they were afraid the information might leak. Is that justification for breaking the law? And isn't it understandable, the skepticism here on both sides of the aisle about any plan they may have or may not have? Isn't it reasonable that the Congress of the United States should be presented with a plan, and shouldn't the Congress of the United States express its approval or disapproval?

The notification standard was enacted into law to allow the President the authority to implement his stated policy but with a good-faith understanding that the people's representative could weigh in on these important decisions before the transfers happened. The President's failure to abide by the notification provisions undermined any trust Congress had in the process.

Now, as the Taliban continues to plot attacks against U.S. servicemembers in Afghanistan, the administration is scurrying to figure out how to keep those five terrorists from the battlefield.

This is not congressional overreach; it is congressional oversight. The President has decided that the security risks of keeping Guantanamo open outweigh the security and legal risks of closing it. Congress is seeking information that will allow the American people and Congress to understand that decision.

The American people deserve an explanation for how the President plans to execute one of his most repeated policy goals. There is some dispute about what percentage of those who have been released from detention in Guantanamo have reentered the fight. Some say it is as high as 30 percent, and some say it is as low as 7 or 8 percent. There is no debate that detainees who were released from Guantanamo have reentered the fight, placing the lives of American service men and women in jeopardy and in danger. Of course, the five who were released were amongst the toughest, the worst, the hardest cases. Now there is some question as to whether they will remain under strict supervision in Qatar.

Let me conclude by simply saying that the NDAA is far too important to be held hostage in a budget negotiation. For 53 consecutive years, the Congress has passed a national defense authorization act. With threats to our national security multiplying around the world, I would hope this year would be no different.

I thank my colleague from Rhode Island for all of the hard work he and his staff and Members on that side of the aisle have done in order to have legislation that passed overwhelmingly through the Senate Armed Services Committee. I hope we can move forward on getting that legislation through the Senate, in consultation and in compromise with the House, and to the White House for the President's signature.

I would say again that I read carefully the administration's objection to the legislation as it now stands. These are not valid in some cases. In other cases, we would be glad to negotiate with the White House as we go to conference with the House after completing this. I sincerely hope and pray that—there are so many provisions there that are important to the lives of the men and women serving in the military that I would hope the President would take into consideration how important this is to the men and women who are serving, their lives and their welfare, their equipment, their training, and their ability to defend this Nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD).

The clerk will call the roll

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1559, AS MODIFIED

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I have a modification to amendment No. 1559, which I offered on behalf of Senator DURBIN, and I ask that the amendment be so modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right. The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 832. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTS TO INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 2338. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations

''(a) PROHIBITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not award a contract for the procurement of property or services to—

''(A) any foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity; or

''(B) any joint venture if more than 10 percent of the joint venture (by vote or value) is owned by a foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

''(2) SUBCONTRACTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency shall include in each contract for the procurement of property or services awarded by the executive agency with a value in excess of $10,000,000, other than a contract for exclusively commercial items, a clause that prohibits the prime contractor on such contract from—

''(i) awarding a first-tier subcontract with a value greater than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract to an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1); or

''(ii) structuring subcontract tiers in a manner designed to avoid the limitation in paragraph (1) by enabling an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1) to perform more than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract as a lower-tier subcontractor.

''(B) PENALTIES.—The contract clause included in contracts pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall provide that, in the event that the prime contractor violates the contract clause—

''(i) the prime contract may be terminated for default; and

''(ii) the matter may be referred to the suspension or debarment official for the appropriate agency and may be a basis for suspension or debarment of the prime contractor.

''(b) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

''(A) the entity completes before, on, or after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

''(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

''(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

''(B) after the acquisition, more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

''(i) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

''(ii) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign incorporated entity described in paragraph (1) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group.

''(B) SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall establish regulations for determining whether an affiliated group has substantial business activities for purposes of subparagraph (A), except that such regulations may not treat any group as having substantial business activities if such

group would not be considered to have substantial business activities under the regulations prescribed under section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on May 8, 2014.

''(c) WAIVER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may waive subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such head if the head determines that the waiver is required in the interest of national security or is necessary for the efficient or effective administration of Federal or Federally-funded programs that provide health benefits to individuals.

''(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The head of an agency issuing a waiver under paragraph (1) shall, not later than 14 days after issuing such waiver, submit a written notification of the waiver to the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

''(d) APPLICABILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall not apply to any contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this section.

''(2) TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS.—This section shall apply to any task or delivery order issued after the date of the enactment of this section pursuant to a contract entered into before, on, or after such date of enactment.

''(3) SCOPE.—This section applies only to contracts subject to regulation under the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(e) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'expanded affiliated group', 'foreign incorporated entity', 'person', 'domestic', and 'foreign' have the meaning given those terms in section 835(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)).

''(2) SPECIAL RULES.—In applying subsection (b) of this section for purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the rules described under 835(c)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)(1)) shall apply.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2337 the following new item:

''2338. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.''

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1569 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1463

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 1569 for Senator BURR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN], for Mr. BURR, proposes an amendment numbered 1569 to amendment No. 1463.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure criminal background checks of employees of the military child care system and providers of child care services and youth program services for military dependents)

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. 565. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE MILITARY CHILD CARE SYSTEM AND PROVIDERS OF CHILD CARE SERVICES AND YOUTH PROGRAM SERVICES FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS.

(a) EMPLOYEES OF MILITARY CHILD CARE SYSTEM.—Section 1792 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.—The criminal background check of child care employees under this section that is required pursuant to section 231 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13041) shall be conducted pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense in accordance with the provisions of section 658H of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f).''.

(b) PROVIDERS OF CHILD CARE SERVICES AND YOUTH PROGRAM SERVICES.—Section 1798 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.—A provider of child care services or youth program services may not provide such services under this section unless such provider complies with the requirements for criminal background checks under section 658H of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f) for the State in which such services are provided.''.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 1735 on Tuesday, June 9, the time until 3 p.m. be equally divided between the managers or their designees; that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote in relation to the Reed amendment No. 1521. I further ask that there be no second-degree amendment in order to the amendment prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. We are ready to schedule further votes on amendments after the 3 p.m. vote on the Reed amendment, and it is my expectation that we will be able to lock in those votes tomorrow morning. The ranking member and I have asked all of our colleagues to adhere to a filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the bill at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday. There are several hundred filed amendments already, and those with further amendments should bring them down tomorrow by close of business.

I also wish to add, my colleagues, I hope we can agree to the filing deadline. That will be approximately a week that we have been on the bill. I think that, hopefully, will be sufficient time for most of our colleagues or all of our colleagues to have time to file amendments.

Senator REED and I will continue the practice of allowing pending amendments, one on either side. We will be able then to schedule votes on pending amendments as they are, one on either side.

I thank Senator REED, and I hope we can get a lot of debate and discussion. The Reed amendment is a very important amendment. I respect Senator REED's view on this issue, and we obviously will let the body decide.

I do hope our colleagues understand that we have many filed amendments, and we would like to get to as many of them as possible. We would like to have as many Members be able to have their amendments on this bill as they feel necessary. We don't have to emphasize the importance of this legislation.

I also look forward to Members coming to the floor tomorrow and debating the Reed amendment. It is a very important amendment, and I think it deserves the views of as many Members as possible, including those who are on the committee.

Senator REED.

Mr. REED. The Senator and I concur that we should urge our colleagues to file their amendments. We have several hundred pending, as the chairman pointed out, and we hope that can be accomplished by 6 p.m. tomorrow. We will be debating amendments and then scheduling amendments tomorrow afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

MIAMI CONSERVANCY DISTRICT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Miami Conservancy District as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding on June 28, 2015.

After the Great Flood of 1913, the people of the Miami Valley vowed ''never again'' and proceeded to raise $2 million in 2 months to fund the design of a flood protection system for riverfront cities on the Great Miami River

that now extends from Piqua to Hamilton.

Since the dams and levees were completed in 1922, the Miami Conservancy District's protection system has prevented countless floods, preserving 35,000 acres of land for public use as walking trails, picnic areas and parks.

In addition, the Miami Conservancy District assists in the management of Ohio's largest state-designated water trail network with 265 miles of waterways, providing paddling and fishing opportunities on the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad Rivers.

The Miami Conservancy District is also a leader on natural resource development and has been a key partner in projects like downtown Dayton's RiverScape, which has improved the quality of life for Miami Valley residents by bringing natural features into an urban environment.

The Miami Conservancy District protects some of Ohio's greatest natural wonders and I congratulate those involved in making its first 100 years a success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE FRANCES PERKINS CENTER

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the Frances Perkins Center on the designation of the Frances Perkins Homestead, located in Newcastle, ME, as a National Historic Landmark. The Brick House was the home of the remarkable Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to a Presidential cabinet. This is an honor that has been given to only 2,500 other historic places in the United States and I applaud the Frances Perkins Center for receiving this distinction.

Frances Perkins found that no matter where she lived during her life, her true home would always be in Maine. While she was born in Boston in 1880, both of her parents were native Mainers. She grew up living in Worcester and spending summers with her grandmother on the family's saltwater farm in Newcastle. Frances credited her own character to be a direct result of her grandmother's influence and their time together in Maine.

Frances was a motivated and inquisitive person from a young age. She attended Classical High School in Worcester and, though it was uncommon at the time, she went on to Mount Holyoke College where she was a standout student. Professors immediately noticed Frances' ambition and natural intellect. Frances graduated from Mont Holyoke in 1902 with a major in physics and minors in chemistry and biology.

Throughout her life, Frances was devoted to improving the lives of American workers. After college, Frances moved to Illinois, working as a teacher and volunteering in settlement houses. She then received her master's degree from Colombia and subsequently began her extraordinary career in public service, working for the New York City Consumers League and then the New York State Industrial Commission.

The impressive work by Frances for the Industrial Commission led to newly elected New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt to name her New York State Commissioner of Labor. She received attention and admiration in this role for her ceaseless commitment to improving work conditions in New York. In February 1933, Roosevelt appointed Frances Secretary of Labor in his Presidential cabinet. Frances was the first female Federal cabinet official, which remains one of her most notable and outstanding achievements.

Frances' accomplishments as Secretary of Labor had, and continue to have, a profound impact on American lives. Frances was the lead architect in designing New Deal policies during the Great Depression; however, her work did not stop there. She was incredibly influential in creating legislation for Social Security and establishing a 40-hour work week. Frances is also known for her major role in prohibiting child labor, enforcing worker's rights, and designing unemployment insurance as well as workers' aid.

Frances' beliefs, values, and spirit grew from her strong connection to Maine. Frances regularly returned to her Maine home, especially when she desired a haven to rest and remember her roots. She owned and maintained the family farm in Newcastle from 1927 until she died on May 14, 1965 at the age of 85. She is buried nearby the homestead.

I am thrilled at the nomination of the Frances Perkins Homestead as a National Historic Landmark. Frances was a fearless leader who exemplified American values of hard work and determination. Frances' work lives on as an essential benefit to countless American citizens. I am proud that her legacy is a part of Maine's history and I warmly congratulate the Frances Perkins Homestead, and all those involved with achieving this accomplishment, on its dedication as a National Historic Landmark.•

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA 103RD ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Girl Scouts of America on the occasion of their 103rd Anniversary. The Girl Scouts were created in 1912 in the midst of the progressive movement by Juliette Gordon Low for the purpose of empowering young women and instilling them with character, honesty, patriotism, and leadership skills. The independence and integrity that young women develop with the Girl Scouts is a priceless resource for these girls later in life.

For 103 years, the Girl Scouts have influenced female leaders, and have led the fight for equality and inclusiveness in leadership positions. The fact that former girl scouts make up 60 percent of the women in the House of Representatives and over 50 percent of current female business owners demonstrates the organization's ability to cultivate leaders. Through the Girl Scouts, girls have gained skills that are essential tools to help women achieve equality in leadership positions.

The Girl Scouts have also developed and implemented programs to help middle and high school girls become financially literate and independent. Indeed, the Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the world and is a hallmark program that helps girls across the country develop the skills, such as money management, customer interaction, and business ethics, which are essential to life-long success. They have also invested in science and mathematics programs to empower young women who have an interest in those fields. Through their continued efforts to develop girls' leadership abilities, confidence, and worldly knowledge, the Girl Scouts have played an important role in helping young women reach their full potential.

Today, I mark the legacy and future of this invaluable organization. I applaud the Girl Scouts of Maine, and America, for the immeasurable impact they have had on women's rights, and women themselves, over the past 103 years.•

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETER W. OGDEN

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to honor the career of LTC Peter W. Ogden, who will retire this June as director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services. Peter has served in this role for the past 11 years and I am profoundly grateful for all that he has done for Maine and our esteemed veterans.

Peter began serving the Nation and the State of Maine long before his position as director. He enlisted in the U.S Army Corps of Engineers in 1967 and in the following years he completed two combat tours in Vietnam. After graduating from Maine Military Academy as a Distinguished Graduate, Peter served in the Maine Army National Guard. In total, Peter spent an impressive 28 years of his life dedicated to military service.

Peter is an excellent example of a person who brings personal and selfless commitment to his career. As a veteran himself, Peter has a complete and thorough understanding of the challenges and issues veterans face on a regular basis. He has worked tirelessly to provide Maine veterans and their families with informational services, assistance programs, and strong representation. Through his work as director, Peter has improved the lives of countless Maine veterans and families.

The programs and services Peter developed while director are essential to veterans as well as military men, women and families. I was particularly impressed by Peter's work supporting

Gold Star families through projects such as House in the Woods. This project continues to help both families and veterans cope with loss by providing a close support network and outdoor-related experiences, from fishing to hiking.

I greatly value public servants like Peter and I have a high appreciation for the essential and high-quality service he has ensured for Maine veterans during his time as director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services. I extend my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to Peter for all of his accomplishments and I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.●

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN MAINE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I bring to the fore an organization that serves as a model for coordinated economic development and environmental responsibility. Later this month, the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission, or SMPDC, will celebrate its 50th anniversary. This milestone is a testament not only to its longevity and breadth, but also to its ability to continually develop pertinent projects for southern Maine's economy. They are truly an inspiration for similar initiatives across the country and around the globe.

SMPDC is a Council of Governments enabled by State statute that serves the southern part of our great State in 39 communities. As this region forms the southern tip of Maine, it injects economic vitality to all corners of the State as the ''Gateway to Maine.'' It boasts 300 miles of breathtaking coastline—with rocky points, quiet inlets, and sandy beaches. This coastline alone brings in thousands of tourists each year who wish to share the marvels of our distinct and special home. This region also extends westward toward the White Mountains, an area dotted with numerous lakes, fertile lands, dense forests, and crossed by the mighty Saco River. To help maintain this land for us and for future generations, the folks at SMPDC offer comprehensive planning and ordinance revision to communities to ensure they achieve the appropriate growth while preserving the land and shoreline that so characterizes the Maine way of life.

Being the Gateway to Maine, and given the recent Federal gridlock over properly funding the Highway Trust Fund, I would be remiss not to mention the commission's work to assist municipalities throughout the region in transportation project planning and management. They have rallied local leaders and first responders to address the emergencies on the roads and made the veins of our economy safer through their Traffic Incident Management Group—which in 2007 was given the Excellence in Regional Transportation Award by the National Association of Development. Furthermore, with I–95 and Amtrak pouring resources and revenue into the State, SMPDC has been essential to coordinating community action to ensure we make the most of these assets.

And even while focusing on the largest arteries of transportation in the area, the commission has not turned a blind eye to the scenic roads and healthy travel alternatives that encourage people to get outdoors and reaffirms access and economic prospects for Maine's vibrant eco-tourism industry. Teaming up with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, SMPDC has successfully implemented the York County Active Communities Network. This initiative explores the potential for improvements and funding opportunities for those looking to bike or walk safely and freely throughout their community. The group has also added further economic vitality to Maine through its work with the Pequawket Trail Scenic Byway, which winds its way through the White Mountains in western Maine and along the Saco River. This Corridor Management Plan floods the scenic towns along it with visitors and economic opportunity from downtown Standish to historic Fryeburg.

Perhaps what the commission is most widely recognized for is their success with the Brownfields Redevelopment Project, which is funded in part by the EPA's Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program. Brownfields are abandoned or underused industrial and commercial properties that have some threat of environmental contamination, whether it is real or perceived. Beginning in 2004, the Brownfield Redevelopment Project started funding ventures throughout southern Maine to rebuild old dams, mills, and other previously condemned facilities to help reintroduce many of Maine's beautiful, historic buildings to their communities. South Berwick now boasts a fantastic renovated library and Kennebunk even retooled a gas station to create a community ice rink, while the mills in Sanford and Biddeford are teeming with hundreds of new businesses. At an event earlier in the year, the EPA cited SMPDC as one of the top 10 in the Nation for their wide ranging success with these projects. This work is truly exciting and a perfect demonstration of SMPDC's powerful impact on southern Maine.

As the Southern Maine Planning and Development Council ushers in their 50th anniversary on June 24, we should take time to reflect on the countless dedicated public servants who have worked with unwavering commitment to better their communities. I am deeply grateful for their countless accomplishments, and look forward to the many more inspiring and productive projects they undertake in the future.●

2015 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the United States women's national soccer team as it prepares for the first game in its pursuit of World Cup glory in Canada. As with the men's team last year, my home State is well represented on the women's team, with four players: Tobin Heath, Carli Lloyd, Heather O'Reilly, and Christie Rampone, who call New Jersey home.

These athletes and the 19 others selected by head coach Jill Ellis have worked tirelessly to hone their skills in order to become some of the best players in the world. Despite being drawn into the so-called ''group of death,'' this U.S. team enters the tournament as one of the favorites, and I am confident that they will represent us well and make us all proud to be Americans.

While much of the world considers the U.S. to be a relative newcomer to the global soccer community on the men's side of the game, our women's team is unmatched in its esteem, having won two World Cup titles since the tournament began in 1991 and never finishing below third place. I hope that this U.S. team will build upon its rich history of success at the seventh Women's World Cup.

I believe that we will win.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2578. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 299. A resolution relative to the death of Joseph Robinette ''Beau'' Biden, III.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2578. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the

fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1835. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''n-Butyl benzoate; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9927–65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1836. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Aluminum sulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9927–66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1837. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Alkyl (c8–20) Polyglucoside Esters; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9927–19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry .

EC–1838. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael T. Linnington, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1839. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 101st Annual Report of the Federal Reserve Board covering operations for calendar year 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1840. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of construction and operations of the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility (MOX facility) at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in South Carolina; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1841. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 9927–67)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1842. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9928–07–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1843. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clean Water Rule: Definition of 'Waters of the United States''' ((RIN2040–AF30) (FRL No. 9927–20–OW)) and economic analysis of the EPA–Army Clean Water Rule, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1844. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9928–59–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1845. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Construction Permits Required'' (FRL No. 9928–60–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1846. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; 2011 Lead Base Year Emissions Inventory'' (FRL No. 9928–68–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1847. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; Part 3 Rules'' (FRL No. 9928–35–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1848. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Biomass Fuel-Burning Equipment Standards'' (FRL No. 9928–65–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1849. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1850. A communication from the Acting Inspector General of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1851. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1852. A communication from the Director, Policy and Planning Analysis, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Employees Health Benefits Program : Subrogation and Reimbursement Recovery'' (RIN3206–AN14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1853. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1854. A communication from the Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of the Interior's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1855. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Penalty Relief Program—Late Annual Reporting for Non-Title I Retirement Plans ('One-Participant Plans' and Certain Foreign Plans)'' (Rev. Proc. 2015–32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1856. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Capital Gain Distributions of Regulated Investment Companies'' (Notice 2015–41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1857. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Request for Comments Regarding New Financial Accounting Standards Board and International Accounting Standards'' (Notice 2015–40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1858. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update to Method Change Guidance'' (Rev. Proc. 2015–33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1859. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Sunset Date for Attorney Advisor Program'' (RIN0960–AH83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1860. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Effective Date for Temporary Pilot Program Setting the Time and Place for a Hearing Before an Administrative Law Judge'' (RIN0960–AH67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1861. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 meters) Length Overall Using Jig or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD886) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1862. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Gulf of Alaska Pollock Seasonal Adjustments'' (RIN0648–XD845) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1863. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD876) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1864. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Trawl Rationalization Program; Catch Monitor Program; Observer Program'' (RIN0648–BD30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1865. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Trawl Rationalization Program; Midwater Trawl Fishery Season Date Change'' (RIN0648–BE72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1866. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Management Reference Point Updates for Three Stocks of Pacific Salmon'' (RIN0648–BE79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1867. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico , and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–XD869) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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–33. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging the United States Congress to support the conversion of the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Washington National Guard into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team with brigade units stationed in Washington, Oregon, and California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

Whereas, The opportunity exists to add a second Stryker Brigade Combat Team to the Army National Guard's force structure, and to locate this Brigade on the west coast; and

Whereas, There are a variety of practical and strategic reasons which make the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team a logical candidate for conversion; and

Whereas, A Stryker Brigade Combat Team stationed on the west coast will strengthen our nation's defense by maintaining Stryker capacity focused on the Asia-Pacific Region, enhance Regular Army/Army National Guard partnership, and provide a key domestic response capability; and

Whereas, Transitioning the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team strategically places Strykers in Washington, Oregon, and California, and will save taxpayers thirty million dollars over the course of an army force generation cycle; and

Whereas, The 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team is headquartered at Camp Murray, Washington, located just across the street from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, which is the United States Army's Stryker Center of Excellence and is within convoy range of the Yakima Training Center; and

Whereas, The extensive Stryker infrastructure available at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Yakima Training Center represents a great advantage in leveraging shared resources; and

Whereas, Furthermore, this places the Stryker Brigade Combat Team equipment sets brought back from overseas contingencies into mission-ready use, and available for overseas and domestic contingency response; and

Whereas, Strykers will also give the governors of Washington, Oregon, and California a fast, durable, and effective asset to save lives, protect property, maintain peace, and ensure the continuity of government in times of emergency;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that as you consider force structure balance in this era of constrained resources, coupled with the tactical, strategic, and domestic needs of our nation, you will support the conversion of the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Washington National Guard into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team with brigade units stationed in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Be it resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, General Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM–34. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging the United States Congress to expedite appropriation of funds, for Columbia River Basin dreissenid efforts, to significantly enhance monitoring and prevention efforts and to implement the intent of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8013

Whereas, Maintaining a healthy suite of economic, environmental, and social ecosystem services in aquatic systems is integral to the quality of life in the State of Washington; and

Whereas, Healthy aquatic habitats provide clean drinking water, flood control, transportation, recreation, purification of human and industrial wastes, power generation, habitat for native plants and animals, production of fish and other foods, marketable goods, and cultural benefits; and

Whereas, Aquatic invasive species, including Dreissenids (quagga mussels (Dreissena rostriformis bugensis) and zebra mussels (Dreissena polymorpha)), are invasive species that cause irreparable ecological damage to many waters in the United States; and

Whereas, Dreissenids have not yet been detected in the Pacific Northwest. The estimated annual cost to address established populations of dreissenids in the Pacific Northwest economic region is almost five hundred million dollars annually; and

Whereas, The Water Resources Reform and Development Act was signed in June 2014. It authorizes twenty million dollars for Columbia River Basin dreissenid efforts through the Secretary of the Army;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully request that Congress expedite appropriation of these funds to significantly enhance monitoring and prevention efforts and to implement the intent of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

Be it resolved; That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM–35. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or take any other appropriate action to ensure that the common raven is not a protected species under the Act; to the Committee on Environmental and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, The greater sage grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) is a species of bird that inhabits much of the sagebrush habitat in Nevada as well as other western states; and

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the greater sage grouse is warranted for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq.; and

Whereas, Through the enactment of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15, File Number 48, Statutes of Nevada 2005, at page 3022, the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature found that the listing of the greater sage grouse as an endangered or threatened species would have a devastatingly negative impact on Nevada's land development, land use, water use, mining, recreational activities and local economies; and

Whereas, The desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) is a species of tortoise that inhabits the desert habitat of the southwestern United States, including the Mojave desert region of southern Nevada; and

Whereas, The desert tortoise is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq.; and

Whereas, The common raven (Corvus corax) is a species of bird that inhabits Nevada and much of the western United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe and Asia; and

Whereas, The International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates the global population of the common raven as greater than 16 million and trending upwards, thus classifying it as a species of least concern; and

Whereas, A known cause of decline in the sage grouse population is egg depredation by the common raven, and research conducted at Idaho State University has suggested that reductions in the raven population significantly increase sage grouse nest success; and

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the common raven as the most highly visible predator of hatchling and juvenile desert tortoises, and research published by the Western Ecological Research Center of the United States Geological Survey recommends controlling certain raven populations to assist in the recovery of desert tortoise populations; and

Whereas, The common raven is a protected species under regulations adopted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. §§1703 et seq., which drastically curtails the ability of this State to manage the population of the common raven in order to protect sage grouse nests and desert tortoises: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Congress to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or take any other appropriate action to ensure that the common raven is not a protected species under that Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to:

1. Work with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to decrease common raven populations in this State; and

2. Adopt regulations allowing the State of Nevada to manage the common raven population and reduce the number of common ravens in this State; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the President of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, the Chair of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and the Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM–36. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States to allow an additional 25,000 refugee visas for certain displaced individuals, with preference for placement in Michigan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, The United States has long been a safe harbor for persecuted foreign nationals. Through the U.S. refugee visa program, individuals and their families who are harassed, oppressed, or have faced harassment or oppression at home because of their race, religion, nationality, public opinion, or social association can find relief in the U.S. When a humanitarian crisis occurs, the U.S. may also grant eligible individuals refugee visas. Once in the country, federal resettlement agencies help match refugees with local communities that can help support their needs; and

Whereas, The number of refugee visas available is determined and set by the President of the United States. In consultation with the cabinet and the House and Senate committees on the judiciary, the President assesses all concerns of humanitarian and national interest to determine the number of visas that will be available for the upcoming fiscal year; and

Whereas, The recent crisis in Syria and Iraq has forced hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, largely from religious minorities in the region—many of which are Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, and Yazidis—from their hometowns that have been ransacked by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Those displaced persons are unable to return to their homes, and most do not have access to resources needed to fulfill basic needs, including food, water, and shelter. Moreover, these refugees face constant fear of persecution due to nothing more than the faith they claim, and their pronouncement of faith has led to violence as explicit as crucifixions, beheadings, and slavery. Minimal support has been offered to many of the more than three million Iraqis refugees, two million of which were displaced last year alone, and those fortunate to remain in temporary shelters are overburdening and overcrowding neighboring nations and communities who stand on constant guard for fear that they will be the next target of ISIL. As this regional conflict endures, the displacement and imminent migration and persecution of refugees will continue; and

Whereas, Displaced Iraqi refugees must be offered relief from this regional instability and granted entry into the United States. Iraqi refugees have complemented our American society with a proven history of contributing to the economic and social well-being of this nation. In the Chaldean or Catholic Iraqi community of Metro Detroit, which is the largest concentration of Chaldeans outside of Iraq, 61 percent of households founded their own business, and this network of businesses is indispensable to the local economy. Moreover, organizations like the Chaldean Community Foundation offer resources to bind and strengthen the community as well as welcome and support refugees, in part by using community businesses to invest in new members and encourage the advancement of the community; and

Whereas, The current allotment of refugee visas may not be adequate to accommodate these individuals. When an unforeseen emergency arises, the President has the flexibility to issue emergency refugee visas for an affected group if the remaining annual allotment is insufficient to assist these displaced individuals, and

Whereas, The Chaldean Church and its bishop have garnered support for this request and driven a body of people able and willing to sustain and support the incoming refugees. The community stands ready to assist persecuted Iraqis and victims of war rebuild their lives in the U.S.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the President of the United States to allow an additional 25,000 refugee visas for displaced Iraqis, being the Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, and Yazidis displaced because of their faith; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge that these refugees be given preference for placement in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. VITTER for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

*Douglas J. Kramer, of Kansas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 1522. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1523. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1524. A bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1525. A bill to block any action from being taken to finalize or give effect to a certain proposed rule governing the Federal child support enforcement program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1526. A bill to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1527. A bill to enable more responsible and efficient spending on Department of State activities and foreign operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 194. A resolution welcoming the President of the Republic of Korea on her official visit to the United States and celebrating the United States-Republic of Korea relationship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 134

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 134, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marihuana, and for other purposes.

S. 270

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 270, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the definition of spouse for purposes of veterans benefits in recognition of new State definitions of spouse, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 491

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

S. 626

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 626, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to exceptional event demonstrations, and for other purposes.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 640, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to delay the review and revision of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone.

S. 677

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 711

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to amend section 520J of the Public Service Health Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 861

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 925, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the

SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, supra.

S. 1049

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1110, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States'', and for other purposes.

S. 1170

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1170, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes.

S. 1378

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

S. 1382

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1504, a bill to prohibit employers from requiring low-wage employees to enter into covenants not to compete, to require employers to notify potential employees of any requirement to enter into a covenant not to compete, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1512, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition.

S. 1513

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1513, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. RES. 193

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 193, a resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the historic Griswold v. Connecticut decision of the Supreme Court of the United States and expressing the sense of the Senate that the case was an important step forward in helping ensure that all people of the United States are able to use contraceptives to plan pregnancies and have healthier babies.

AMENDMENT NO. 1528

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1528 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1535

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1535 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1539

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1539 proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1549

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1549 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1550

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1550 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1556

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1556 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1557

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1557 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1558

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1558 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1559

At the request of Mr. REED, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1559 proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1572

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1572 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1574

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1574 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1607

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1607 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1628

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1628 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1643

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1643 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1650

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1650 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1658

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1658 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1665

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1665 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1687

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1687 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1691

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1691 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1692

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1692 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1703

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1703 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1710

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1710 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1720

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1720 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1744

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1744 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1747

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator

from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1747 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1772

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1772 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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 194—WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON HER OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA RELATIONSHIP, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 194

Whereas the Government and people of the United States and the Republic of Korea share a comprehensive alliance, a dynamic partnership, and a personal friendship rooted in the common values of freedom, democracy, and a free market economy;

Whereas the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea is a linchpin of regional stability in Asia, including against the threats posed by the regime in Pyongyang;

Whereas cooperation between our nations spans across the security, diplomatic, economic, energy, and cultural spheres;

Whereas the relationship between the people of the United States and the Republic of Korea stretches back to Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance was forged in blood, with casualties of the United States during the Korean War of 54,246 dead (of whom 33,739 were battle deaths) and more than 103,284 wounded, and casualties of the Republic of Korea of over 50,000 soldiers dead and over 10,000 wounded;

Whereas the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act (Public Law 111–41) was enacted on July 27, 2009, and President Barack Obama issued a proclamation to designate the date as the National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day and called upon Americans to display flags at half-staff in memory of the Korean War veterans;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has stood shoulder-to-shoulder alongside the United States in all 4 major engagements the United States has faced since World War II—the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, in Afghanistan, and in Iraq;

Whereas, since the 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty, to which the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification on January 26, 1954, United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula, and currently there are approximately 28,500 United States troops stationed in the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, in January 2014, the United States and the Republic of Korea successfully concluded negotiations for a new five-year Special Measures Agreement (SMA), establishing the framework for Republic of Korea contributions to offset the costs associated with the stationing of United States Forces Korea (USFK) on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the United States Government supports mutual efforts by the Republic of Korea and Japan to overcome the past and work together to contribute to peace, security, and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and the Republic of Korea share a deep commitment to addressing the continued suffering of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea due to the human rights abuses and repression of the regime in Pyongyang;

Whereas, on March 15, 2012, The United States-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement entered into force, which both sides have committed to fully implement, and the Republic of Korea is the United States' sixth-largest trade partner, with United States goods and exports to Korea reaching a record level of $44,500,000,000 in 2014, up over 7 percent compared to 2013;

Whereas, on May 7, 2013, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance Between the Republic of Korea and the United States;

Whereas, on May 8, 2013, Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea, addressed a Joint Session of Congress;

Whereas the United States Government notes the address delivered by President Park Geun-hye in Dresden, Germany, on March 28, 2014, and recognizes her efforts to promote peace, stability, and cooperation in Northeast Asia;

Whereas there are deep cultural and personal ties between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea, as exemplified by the large flow of visitors and exchanges each year between the two countries, including Korean students studying in United States colleges and universities;

Whereas Korean-Americans have made invaluable contributions to our nation's security, prosperity, and diversity;

Whereas, from June 14-17, 2015, President Park Geun-hye will visit Washington for a second official visit to the United States since her election as President; and

Whereas the United States Government looks forward to continuing to deepen our enduring partnership with the Republic of Korea on security, economic, cultural issues, as well as embracing new opportunities for cooperation on emerging regional and global challenges: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea, on her official visit to the United States;

(2) reaffirms the importance of the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, as enshrined in the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953, that is vital to peace and security in Northeast Asia, and welcomes opportunities to strengthen security ties, including on space, cyber, and missile defense; and

(3) encourages the United States Government and the Government of the Republic of Korea to continue to broaden and deepen the alliance by enhancing cooperation in the security, economic, scientific, health, and cultural spheres.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1795. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1796. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill HR. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1797. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1798. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1799. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1800. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1801. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1802. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1803. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1804. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1805. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1806. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1807. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1808. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1809. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1810. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1811. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1812. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1813. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1814. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1815. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1816. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1817. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1818. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1819. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1820. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1821. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1822. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1823. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1824. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1825. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1826. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1827. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1828. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1829. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1830. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1831. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1832. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1833. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1834. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1835. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1836. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1837. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1838. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1839. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1840. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1841. Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1842. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1843. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1844. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1845. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1846. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1847. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1848. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1849. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1850. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1851. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1852. Mr. UDALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1853. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1854. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1855. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1856. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1857. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1858. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1859. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1860. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1861. Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1862. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1863. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1864. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1865. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1866. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1867. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1868. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1869. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1795. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON POWDERED ALCOHOL.

Title I of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 118. POWDERED ALCOHOL.

"(a) DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN CHEMICALS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall by rule designate any chemical that may be used to convert alcohol in liquid form to alcohol in powder form.

"(b) PROHIBITED ACTIVITY.—

"(1) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'powdered alcohol' means any alcohol combined with a chemical designated under subsection (a).

"(2) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to make, sell, distribute, or possess powdered alcohol.

"(3) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (2) shall be fined not more than $5,000, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.".

SA 1796. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1005. SENSE OF SENATE ON FINDING EFFICIENCIES WITHIN THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Defense should, through the military departments, continue to find efficiencies within the working capital fund activities of the Department of Defense with specific emphasis on optimizing the existing workload plans of such activities to ensure a strong organic industrial base workforce.

SA 1797. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 314. PLAN TO ENHANCE MISSION READINESS THROUGH GREATER ENERGY SECURITY AT CRITICAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report with a plan for integrating energy storage, micro-grid technologies, and on-site power generation systems at military installations at risk of interruptions of power due to geographic location, dependence on connections to the electric grid, or other factors determined by the Secretary.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex as necessary.

SA 1798. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 608. TREATMENT OF RECEIPT OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING UNDER NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

Section 403(k) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) In determining the eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) program, and other Federal nutrition programs, the value of a housing allowance under this section shall be excluded from any calculation of income, assets, or resources.".

SA 1799. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Legal Justice for Servicemembers Act of 2015".

SEC. 1702. IMPROVEMENTS TO WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION PROCEDURES.

(a) ACTIONS TREATABLE AS PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(2)(A) The actions considered for purposes of this section to be a personnel action prohibited by this subsection shall include any action prohibited by paragraph (1), including the threat to take any unfavorable action, the withholding or threat to withhold any favorable action, making or threatening to make a significant change in the duties or responsibilities of a member of the armed forces not commensurate with the member's grade, a retaliatory investigation, and the failure of a superior to respond to retaliatory action or harassment by one or more subordinates taken against a member of which the superior knew or should have known.

"(B) In this paragraph, the term 'retaliatory investigation' means an investigation requested, directed, initiated, or conducted for the primary purpose of punishing, harassing, or ostracizing a member for making a protected communication.

"(C) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the ability of a commander to consult with a superior in the chain of command, an inspector general, or a judge advocate general on the disposition of a complaint against a member of the armed forces for an allegation of collateral misconduct or for a matter unrelated to a protected communication. Such consultation shall provide an affirmative defense against an allegation that a member requested, directed, initiated, or conducted a retaliatory investigation under this section.".

(b) TEMPORARY STAY OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—Subsection (c)(4) of such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph (E):

"(E)(i) If the Inspector General makes a preliminary determination in an investigation under subparagraph (D) that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a personnel action prohibited by subsection (b) has occurred and the personnel action will

result in an immediate hardship to the member alleging the personnel action, the Inspector General may impose a stay of the personnel action of not more than 90 days in order to prevent undue hardship to the member.

''(ii) If the Inspector General has not completed the investigation described in clause (i) upon the expiration of the stay of the personnel action with respect to a member imposed by the Inspector General under that clause, the Secretary of the military department concerned or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable, may continue the stay of the personnel action with respect to the member for such additional time as is required for the completion of the investigation by the Inspector General.''.

(c) PERIODIC NOTICE TO MEMBERS ON PROGRESS OF INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (e) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(3)(A) Not later than 180 days after the commencement of an investigation of an allegation under subsection (c)(4), and every 180 days thereafter until the transmission of the report on the investigation under paragraph (1) to the member concerned, the Inspector General conducting the investigation shall submit a notice on the investigation described in subparagraph (B) to the following:

''(i) The member.

''(ii) The Secretary of Defense.

''(iii) The Secretary of the military department concerned, or the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case of a member of the Coast Guard when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy.

''(B) Each notice on an investigation under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

''(i) A description of the current progress of the investigation.

''(ii) An estimate of the time remaining until the completion of the investigation and the transmittal of the report required by paragraph (1) to the member concerned.''.

(d) ACTIONS IN CASE OF VIOLATIONS.—Subsection (f)(2) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following new subparagraph (A):

''(A) order such action as is necessary to correct the record of a personnel action prohibited by subsection (b), including referring the report to the appropriate board for the correction of military records;'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) submit to the Inspector General a report on the actions taken by the Secretary pursuant to this paragraph, and include a summary of the report under this subparagraph (with any personally identifiable information redacted) in the semiannual report to Congress of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense or the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, as applicable, under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).''.

(e) CORRECTION OF RECORDS.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) In resolving an application described in paragraph (1) for which there is a report of the Inspector General under subsection (e)(1), a correction board—

''(A) shall review the report of the Inspector General;

''(B) may request the Inspector General to gather further evidence;

''(C) may receive oral argument, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and take depositions; and

''(D) shall consider a request by a member or former member in determining whether to hold an evidentiary hearing.''.

(f) UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS OF PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall prescribe uniform standards for the following:

(A) The investigation of allegations of prohibited personnel actions under section 1034 of title 10, United States Code (as amended by this section), by the Inspector General and the Inspectors General of the military departments.

(B) The training of the staffs of the Inspectors General referred to in subparagraph (A) on the conduct of investigations described in that subparagraph.

(2) USE.—Commencing 180 days after prescription of the standards required by paragraph (1), the Inspectors General referred to in that paragraph shall comply with such standards in the conduct of investigations described in that paragraph and in the training of the staffs of such Inspectors General in the conduct of such investigations.

SEC. 1703. IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS.

(a) PROCEDURES OF BOARDS.—Paragraph (3) of section 1552(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(3)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(B) If a board makes a preliminary determination that a claim under this section lacks sufficient information or documents to support the claim, the board shall notify the claimant, in writing, indicating the specific information or documents necessary to make the claim complete and reviewable by the board.

''(C) If a claimant is unable to provide military personnel or medical records applicable to a claim under this section, the board shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the records. A claimant shall provide the board with documentary evidence of the efforts of the claimant to obtain such records. The board shall inform the claimant of the results of the board's efforts, and shall provide the claimant copies of any records so obtained upon request of the claimant.

''(D) Any request for reconsideration of a determination of a board under this section, no matter when filed, shall be reconsidered by a board under this section if supported by materials not previously presented to or considered by the board in making such determination.''.

(b) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF DETERMINATIONS OF BOARDS.—Paragraph (4) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(4)'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by inserting ''or subject to review or appeal as described in subparagraph (B)'' after ''Except when procured by fraud''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) A claimant may seek judicial review of a determination of a board under this section in an appropriate court of the United States. The scope of judicial review under this subparagraph shall be as specified in section 706 of title 5.''.

(c) PUBLICATION OF FINAL DECISIONS OF BOARDS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) Each final decision of a board under this subsection shall be made available to the public in electronic form on a centralized Internet website. In any decision so made available to the public there shall be redacted all personally identifiable information.''.

(d) TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF BOARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall develop and implement a comprehensive training curriculum for members of boards for the correction of military records under the jurisdiction of such Secretary in the duties of such boards under section 1552 of title 10, United States Code. The curriculum shall address all areas of administrative law applicable to the duties of such boards.

(2) UNIFORM CURRICULA.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly ensure that the curricula developed and implemented pursuant to this subsection are, to the extent practicable, uniform.

(3) TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of a board for the correction of military records shall undergo retraining (consistent with the curriculum developed and implemented pursuant to this subsection) regarding the duties of boards for the correction of military records under section 1552 of title 10, United States Code, at least once every five years during the member's tenure on the board.

(B) CURRENT MEMBERS.—Each member of a board for the correction of military records as of the date of the implementation of the curriculum required by paragraph (1) (in this paragraph referred to as the ''curriculum implementation date'') shall undergo training described in subparagraph (A) not later than 90 days after the curriculum implementation date.

(C) NEW MEMBERS.—Each individual who becomes a member of a board for the correction of military records after the curriculum implementation date shall undergo training described in subparagraph (A) by not later than 90 days after the date on which such individual becomes a member of the board.

(4) REPORTS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(A) A description and assessment of the progress made by such Secretary in implementing training requirements for members of boards for the correction of military records under the jurisdiction of such Secretary.

(B) A detailed description of the training curriculum required of such Secretary by paragraph (1).

(C) A description and assessment of any impediments to the implementation of training requirements for members of boards for the correction of military records under the jurisdiction of such Secretary.

(5) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''Secretary concerned'' means a ''Secretary concerned'' as that term is used in section 1552 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 1704. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW OF INTEGRITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth a review of the integrity of the Department of Defense whistleblower program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review for purposes of the report required by subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment of the extent to which the Department of Defense whistleblower program meets Executive branch policies and goals for whistleblower protections.

(2) A determination and assessment of the causes and impacts of the situation in which some employees in the Office of the Inspector General of the Department Defense believed they could not disclose a suspected violation of law, rule, or regulation without fear of reprisal, as determined in a recent review of the Comptroller General.

(3) An assessment of the extent to which there have been violations of standards used in regard to the protection of confidentiality provided to whistleblowers by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

(4) An assessment of the extent to which there have been incidents of retaliatory investigations against whistleblowers within the Office of the Inspector General.

(5) An assessment of the extent to which the Inspector General of the Department of Defense has thoroughly investigated and substantiated allegations within the past 10 years against civilian officials of the Department of Defense appointed to their positions by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and whether Congress has been notified of the results of such investigations.

SA 1800. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 132, strike lines 21 through 26.

SA 1801. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL VACANCIES REFORM ACT OF 1998 WITH RESPECT TO INSPECTORS GENERAL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There are 4 Presidentially-appointed Inspector General vacancies for which a nomination is not pending before the Senate.

(2) Sections 3345 through 3349d of title 5, United States Code, (in this section referred to as the ''Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998'') prohibit an acting officer from serving in that position for longer than 210 days.

(3) Under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, the actions of an acting officer serving beyond the 210-day period ''shall have no force or effect'', but this does not apply to an acting Inspector General.

(4) The Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 provides an exception to the enforcement clause for acting Inspectors General to ensure a President cannot leave a watchdog in place who has no power or authority and therefore provides no mechanism to enforce the 210-day limit for acting Inspectors General.

(5) For 6 of the 7 Presidentially-appointed Inspector General vacancies, the individual serving in the office in an acting capacity has been serving for more than 210 days, in violation of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President should comply with the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 and fill vacancies of Presidentially-appointed positions, including Inspectors General, within 210 days of the position becoming vacant; and

(2) the President cannot avoid this requirement merely by changing the title of an acting officer if that officer still retains the same or substantially similar duties as an acting officer in that office.

SA 1802. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NOMINATING A PERMANENT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There are 4 Presidentially-appointed Inspector General vacancies for which a nomination is not pending before the Senate.

(2) It is vital that Offices of Inspectors General remain independent.

(3) In the absence of a permanent Inspector General, an Office of Inspector General is run by an acting Inspector General who, no matter how qualified or well-intentioned, is not granted the same protections afforded to an Inspector General who is confirmed by the Senate, as the acting Inspector General—

(A) is not truly independent;

(B) may be removed by the head of the agency at any time;

(C) only serves temporarily and does not drive the policy of the Office; and

(D) is at a greater risk of compromising the work of the Office to appease the agency or the President.

(4) One of the current Presidentially-appointed Inspector General vacancies is the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has been vacant since December 31, 2013.

(5) The acting Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, who has served in the position since December 31, 2013, is not properly independent from the Department of Veterans Affairs, is unresponsive to Congress, lacks transparency to the public, and has lost the trust of whistleblowers at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should nominate a permanent Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1803. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION.

The application of the provisions of section 8L of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) pursuant to the commencement of Operation Freedom's Sentinel shall not be construed to remove or impede the authority of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (commonly known as ''SIGAR'') under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) or as established under section 1229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–81; 122 Stat. 378).

SA 1804. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 622, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

(3) An unclassified assessment, with a classified annex as necessary, of the facilitation of terrorist activities and operations of foreign fighters through use of social media platforms by the organizations referred to in paragraph (1).

SA 1805. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

After subsection (a) of section 1227, insert the following:

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONCURRENCE.— Section 602(b)(2)(D) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) WRITTEN CONCURRENCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—After obtaining the approval from the Chief of Mission under clause (i), but prior to the alien's admission to the United States, the alien shall obtain the written concurrence of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia, or the written concurrence of the Commander of United States Forces-Afghanistan. Such written

concurrence shall include an attestation that the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia, or the Commander of United States Forces-Afghanistan, has personally and independently reviewed the alien's application, and has no concerns regarding the admission of the alien or the dependents of the alien to the United States, or regarding the future danger the alien or the dependents of the alien may pose to the United States after admission.''.

SA 1806. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 441, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(3) REQUIRED TIMELINES.—The business case analysis required under paragraph (1) shall include suggested timelines for acquiring and implementing information technology services pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(A).

SA 1807. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 622, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

(3) An unclassified assessment of the facilitation of terrorist activities and operations of foreign fighters through use of social media platforms by the organizations referred to in paragraph (1).

SA 1808. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 643. BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO LOSE THEIR RIGHT TO RETIRED PAY FOR REASONS OTHER THAN DEPENDENT ABUSE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Families Serve, Too, Military Justice Reform Act of 2015''.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i), (j), and (k) as subsections (j), (k), and (l), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

''(i) BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS LOSING RIGHT TO RETIRED PAY FOR MISCONDUCT OTHER THAN DEPENDENT ABUSE.—(1)(A) If, in the case of a member or former member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (2)(A), a court order provides (in the manner applicable to a division of property) for the payment of an amount from the disposable retired pay of that member or former member (as certified under paragraph (4)) to an eligible spouse or former spouse of that member or former member, the Secretary concerned, beginning upon effective service of such court order, shall pay that amount in accordance with this subsection to such spouse or former spouse.

''(B) If, in the case of a member or former member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (2)(A), a court order provides for the payment as child support of an amount from the disposable retired pay of that member or former member (as certified under paragraph (4)) to an eligible dependent child of the member or former member, the Secretary concerned, beginning upon effective service of such court order, shall pay that amount in accordance with this subsection to such dependent child.

''(2) A spouse or former spouse, or a dependent child, of a member or former member of the armed forces is eligible to receive payment under this subsection if—

''(A) the member or former member, while a member of the armed forces and after becoming eligible to be retired from the armed forces on the basis of years of service, has eligibility to receive retired pay terminated as a result of misconduct while a member (other than misconduct described in subsection (h)(2)(A));

''(B) in the case of eligibility of a spouse or former spouse under paragraph (1)(A), the spouse or former spouse—

''(i) either—

''(I) was married to the member or former member at the time of the misconduct that resulted in the termination of retired pay; or

''(II) was is receipt of marital support, alimony, or child support from the member or former member as of the time of the misconduct pursuant to a court order; and

''(ii) was not, based on the evidence adduced at trial, an aider, abettor, accomplice, or co-conspirator in the misconduct that resulted in the termination of retired pay, as certified in writing to the convening authority by—

''(I) the military judge of the court-martial that resulted in the termination of retired pay; or

''(II) the staff judge advocate of the convening authority; and

''(C) in the case of eligibility of a dependent child under paragraph (1)(B), the dependent child—

''(i) had not reached the age of 16 years at the time of the misconduct that resulted in the termination of retired pay; or

''(ii) had reached the age of 16 years at the time of the misconduct and was not, based on the evidence adduced at trial, an aider, abettor, accomplice, or co-conspirator in the misconduct that resulted in the termination of retired pay, as certified in writing to the convening authority by—

''(I) the military judge of the court-martial that resulted in the termination of retired pay; or

''(II) the staff judge advocate of the convening authority.

''(3) The amount certified by the Secretary concerned under paragraph (4) with respect to a member or former member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (2)(A) shall be deemed to be the disposable retired pay of that member or former member for the purposes of this subsection.

''(4) Upon the request of a court or an eligible spouse or former spouse, or an eligible dependent child, of a member or former member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (2)(A) in connection with a civil action for the issuance of a court order in the case of that member or former member, the Secretary concerned shall determine and certify the amount of the monthly retired pay that the member or former member would have been entitled to receive as of the date of the certification—

''(A) if the member or former member's eligibility for retired pay had not been terminated as described in paragraph (2)(A); and

''(B) if, in the case of a member or former member not in receipt of retired pay immediately before that termination of eligibility for retired pay, the member or former member had retired on the effective date of that termination of eligibility.

''(5)(A) Paragraphs (5) through (8) and (10) of subsection (h) shall apply to eligibility of former spouses to payments under this subsection, court orders for the payment of disposable retired pay under this subsection, amounts payable under this subsection, and payments under this subsection in the same manner as such paragraphs apply to such matters under subsection (h).

''(B) If a spouse or former spouse or a dependent child eligible or entitled to receive payments under this subsection is eligible or entitled to receive benefits under subsection (h), the eligibility or entitlement of that spouse or former spouse or dependent child to such benefits shall be determined under subsection (h) instead of this subsection.

''(6)(A) A spouse or former spouse of a member or former member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (2)(A), while receiving payments in accordance with this subsection, shall be entitled to receive medical and dental care, to use commissary and exchange stores, and to receive any other benefit that a spouse or a former spouse of a retired member of the armed forces is entitled to receive on the basis of being a spouse or former spouse, as the case may be, of a retired member of the armed forces in the same manner as if the member or former member referred to in paragraph (2)(A) was entitled to retired pay.

''(B) A dependent child of a member or former member referred to in paragraph (2)(A) who was a member of the household of the member or former member at the time of the misconduct described in paragraph (2)(A) shall be entitled to receive medical and dental care, to use commissary and exchange stores, and to have other benefits provided to dependents of retired members of the armed forces in the same manner as if the member or former member referred to in paragraph (2)(A) was entitled to retired pay.

''(C) If a spouse or former spouse or a dependent child eligible or entitled to receive a particular benefit under this paragraph is eligible or entitled to receive that benefit under another provision of law, the eligibility or entitlement of that spouse or former spouse or dependent child to such benefit shall be determined under such other provision of law instead of this paragraph.

''(7) In this subsection, the term 'dependent child', with respect to a member or former member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (2)(A), has the meaning given that term in subsection (h)(11).''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking ''subsection (i)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (j)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to a spouse or former spouse, or a dependent child of a member or former member

of the Armed Forces whose eligibility to receive retired pay is terminated on or after that date as a result of misconduct while a member.

(e) OFFSET.—$57,000,000 of the National Defense Function (050) of unobligated balances from fees collected to defray expenses for the automation of fingerprint identification and criminal justice information services and associated costs of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is hereby permanently cancelled and shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury.

SA 1809. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS.

The Corps of Engineers shall not make any determination regarding usual and accustomed fishing places in connection with the Gateway Pacific Terminal project until after the Corps issues a final environmental impact statement required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) that analyzes the potential impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed project required by the ''Memorandum For the Record, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Scope of Analysis and Extent of Impact Evaluation for National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement'' (dated July 3, 2013).

SA 1810. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEFINITION OF AND POLICY REGARDING SOFTWARE SUSTAINMENT.

(a) REPORT ON ASSESSMENT OF DEFINITION AND POLICY.—Not later than March 15, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the President pro tempore of the Senate a report setting forth an assessment, obtained by the Secretary for purposes of the report, on the definition used by the Department of Defense for and the policy of the Department regarding software maintenance, particularly with respect to the totality of the term ''software sustainment'' in the definition of ''depot-level maintenance and repair'' under section 2460 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—The assessment obtained for purposes of subsection (a) shall be conducted by a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), or another appropriate independent entity with expertise in matters described in subsection (a), selected by the Secretary for purposes of the assessment.

(c) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The assessment obtained for purposes of subsection (a) shall address, with respect to software and weapon systems of the Department of Defense (including space systems), each of the following:

(A) Fiscal ramifications of current programs with regard to the size, scope, and cost of software to the program's overall budget, including embedded and support software, percentage of weapon systems' functionality controlled by software, and reliance on proprietary data, processes, and components.

(B) Legal status of the Department in regards to adhering to section 2464(a)(1) of such title with respect to ensuring a ready and controlled source of maintenance (sustainment) on software for its weapon systems.

(C) Operational risks and reduction to materiel readiness of current Department weapon systems related to software costs, delays, re-work, integration and functional testing, defects, and documentation errors.

(2) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—For each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the assessment obtained for purposes of subsection (a) shall include review and analysis regarding sole-source contracts, range of competition, rights in technical data, public and private capabilities, integration lab initial costs and sustaining operations, and total obligation authority costs of software, disaggregated by armed service, for the Department.

SA 1811. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 375, line 4, insert '', which includes a sustainment strategy,'' after ''strategy''.

On page 377, line 13, strike ''(d) In this section'' and insert the following:

''(9) A sustainment strategy which includes all aspects of the total life cycle management of the weapon system, including product support, logistics, product support engineering, supply chain integration, maintenance, acquisition logistics, and all aspects of software sustainment.

''(d) INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.—The Director of Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation shall perform an evaluation of the sustainment portion of the acquisition strategy required by subsection (c)(9) prior to the Milestone B decision.

''(e) In this section

On page 410, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. 852. SUSTAINMENT ENHANCEMENT.

(a) ASSESSMENT EXPANSION OF FUNCTIONS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LOGISTICS AND MATERIEL READINESS TO INCLUDE SUSTAINMENT FUNCTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of—

(1) assigning to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness—

(A) functions relating to the sustainment strategy required under section 2431a(c)(9) of Title 10, United States Code, as added by section 841 of this Act; and

(B) functions relating to manufacturing and industrial base policy currently being carried out within the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and

(2) redesignating such Assistant Secretary (with such functions so assigned and together with the current logistics and material readiness functions of such Assistant Secretary) as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that —

(1) the Department of Defense does not place sufficient emphasis on sustainment of a weapon system during the entire acquisition process; and

(2) the Department of Defense should address this deficiency and ensure that all aspect of weapon system sustainment are carefully considered throughout the entire Integrated Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Life Cycle Management System.

SA 1812. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. PRIORITY ENROLLMENT FOR VETERANS IN CERTAIN COURSES OF EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3680A the following new section:

''§ 3680B. Priority enrollment in certain courses

''(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an educational assistance program provided for in chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, if an educational institution administers a priority enrollment system that allows certain students to enroll in courses earlier than other students, the Secretary or a State approving agency may not approve a program of education offered by such institution unless such institution allows a covered individual to enroll in courses at the earliest possible time pursuant to such priority enrollment system.

''(b) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered individual' means an individual using educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, including—

''(1) a veteran;

''(2) a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty or a member of a reserve component (including the National Guard);

''(3) a dependent to whom such assistance has been transferred pursuant to section 3319 of this title; and

''(4) any other individual using such assistance.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3680A the following new item:

''3680B. Priority enrollment in certain courses.''.

SA 1813. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. EXPANSION OF YELLOW RIBBON G.I. EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3317(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''in paragraphs (1) and (2)'' and inserting ''in paragraphs (1), (2), and (9)''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to academic years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 1814. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. 236. EXPANSION OF EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TRANSITION.

Section 2194(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''mathematics,'' the following: ''technology transfer or transition,''.

SA 1815. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____. GUIDANCE ON PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR EARLY SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES FOR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAMS OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AFTER SEPARATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance, consistent with the goals specified under section 1143a of title 10, United States Code, to the Secretaries of the military departments regarding discharge or release from active duty in the Armed Forces by eligible members who have been accepted into a public and community service program.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR EARLY SEPARATION.—For purposes of this section, a member of the Armed Forces is eligible for an early separation from the Armed Forces to participate in a program of public and community service if the member—

(1) is not essential to the performance of the mission of the command to which assigned (as determined by the commander of that command);

(2) demonstrates that the date on which the member is expected to be discharged or released from active duty in the Armed Forces is within 90 days after the date of commencement of participation in such a program (including participation in training for such program);

(3) clearly establishes that the specific public and community service program for which the member seeks early separation meets the requirements of the definition specified in subsection (c);

(4) clearly establishes that a delay of program enrollment would cause undue hardship; and

(5) provides a statement from an appropriate program official indicating acceptance into the program and reflecting that the latest acceptable date for commencement of participation in the program (including participation in training for such program) falls within the 90-day period preceding the date described in paragraph (2).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACTIVE DUTY.—The term ''active duty'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.—The term ''public and community service'' means such service, within the meaning of section 1143a of title 10, United States Code.

SA 1816. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) AUTOMATIC APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DEGREE PROGRAMS APPROVED BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.—Clause (i) of section 3672(b)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(i) A course that is described by section 3675(a) of this title.''.

(b) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS APPROVED BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3675 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (a); and

(B) by inserting before subsection (b), the following new subsection (a):

''(a) The Secretary or a State approving agency may only approve a course when such course is an eligible program (as defined in section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088)) offered by an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that has entered into, and is complying with, a program participation agreement under section 487 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1094).''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is amended—

(A) in section 3452(g), by striking ''under the provisions of section 3675 of this title'';

(B) in section 3501(11), by striking ''under the provisions of section 3675 of this title''; and

(C) in the heading for section 3675, by striking ''**accredited courses**'' and inserting ''**courses approved by Secretary of Education**''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3675 and inserting the following new item:

''3675. Approval of courses approved by Secretary of Education.''.

(c) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS NOT APPROVED BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 3676 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''(a) No course of education which has not been approved by the Secretary or a State approving agency under section 3675 of this title shall be approved for the purposes of this chapter unless—

''(1) the course—

''(A) does not lead to an associate or higher degree;

''(B) was not an eligible program (as defined in section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088)) at any time during the most recent two-year period; and

''(C) is a course that the Secretary or State approving agency determines, in accordance with this section and such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe and on a case-by-case basis, that approval of which would further the purposes of this chapter or any of chapters 30 through 35 of this title; and

''(2) the educational institution offering such course submits to the appropriate State approving agency a written application for approval of such course in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3676 of such title is amended—

(A) in the heading for such section, by striking ''**nonaccredited courses**'' and inserting ''**courses not approved by Secretary of Education**''; and

(B) in subsection (c), in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking ''non-accredited''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3676 and inserting the following new item:

''3676. Approval of courses not approved by Secretary of Education.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on August 1, 2015.

SA 1817. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. PROHIBITION ON USE BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF REVENUES DERIVED FROM EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FURNISHED UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ADVERTISING, MARKETING, OR RECRUITING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on the receipt of Department of Defense educational assistance funds, an institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, may not use revenues derived from Department of Defense educational assistance funds for recruiting or marketing activities described in subsection (b).

(b) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in subsection (c), the recruiting and marketing activities subject to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

(2) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for grant, loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

(A) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other internet communications regarding enrollment; and

(B) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including Internet websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

(3) Such other activities as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a covered activity under paragraph (2).

(d) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—In this section, the term ''Department of Defense educational assistance funds'' means funds provided directly to an institution or to a student attending such institution under any of the following provisions of law:

(1) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of such title 10.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the use by an institution of revenues derived from sources other than Department of Defense educational assistance funds.

(f) REPORTS.—As a condition on the receipt of Department of Defense educational assistance funds, each institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, that derives revenues from Department of Defense educational assistance funds shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and to Congress each year a report that includes the following:

(1) The institution's expenditures on advertising, marketing, and recruiting.

(2) A verification from an independent auditor that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

(3) A certification from the institution that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

SA 1818. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. PROHIBITION ON USE BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF REVENUES DERIVED FROM EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FURNISHED UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ADVERTISING, MARKETING, OR RECRUITING.

Section 3696 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e)(1) The Secretary shall not approve under this chapter any course offered by an educational institution if the educational institution uses for recruiting or marketing activities described in paragraph (2) any revenue derived from educational assistance furnished under any of the following provisions of law:

''(A) Chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title.

''(B) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10.

''(C) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of title 10.

''(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), the recruiting and marketing activities subject to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

''(B) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for grant, loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

''(i) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other internet communications regarding enrollment; and

''(ii) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including Internet websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

''(C) Such other activities as the Secretary may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

''(3) Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a covered activity under paragraph (2).

''(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the use by an institution of revenues derived from sources other than educational assistance furnished under the provisions of law listed in paragraph (1).

''(5) The Secretary shall not approve under this chapter any course offered by an educational institution that derives revenue from educational assistance furnished under the provisions of law listed in paragraph (1) unless the educational institution submits to the Secretary and to Congress each year a report that includes the following:

''(A) The institution's expenditures on advertising, marketing, and recruiting.

''(B) A verification from an independent auditor that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

''(C) A certification from the institution that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.''.

SA 1819. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1085. RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.

Section 119 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (20 U.S.C. 1011m) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**AND RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES**'' after ''**FUNDS**'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''subsections (a) through (c)'' and inserting ''subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e)'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, may not use revenues derived from Federal educational assistance funds for recruiting or marketing activities described in paragraph (2).

''(2) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the recruiting and marketing activities subject to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

''(B) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for grant, loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20

U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

''(i) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other internet communications regarding enrollment; and

''(ii) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

''(C) Such other activities as the Secretary of Education may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

''(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a covered activity under paragraph (2).

''(4) FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—In this subsection, the term 'Federal educational assistance funds' means funds provided directly to an institution or to a student attending such institution under any of the following provisions of law:

''(A) Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

''(B) Chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code.

''(C) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

''(D) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of title 10, United States Code.

''(E) Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.).

''(F) The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.).

''(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the use by an institution of revenues derived from sources other than Federal educational assistance funds.

''(6) REPORTS.—Each institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, that derives 65 percent or more of revenues from Federal educational assistance funds shall report annually to the Secretary and to Congress and shall include in such report—

''(A) the institution's expenditures on advertising, marketing, and recruiting;

''(B) a verification from an independent auditor that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection; and

''(C) a certification from the institution that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.''.

SA 1820. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title I, add the following:

SEC. 102. OFFSET FOR FUNDING TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL BLACK HAWK UH–60M HELICOPTERS FOR PURPOSES OF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MODERNIZATION.

The aggregate amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by division A is hereby reduced by $247,500,000, with the amount of the reduction to be achieved through anticipated foreign currency gains in addition to any other anticipated foreign currency gains specified in the funding tables in division D.

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to ''UH–60 BLACKHAWK M MODEL (MYP)'', strike the amount in the Senate authorized column and insert ''1,683,445''.

In the funding table in section 4101, insert below the item relating to ''UH–60 BLACKHAWK M MODEL (MYP)'', as part of line item no. 11, an item relating to ''ARNG Modernization—15 additional UH–60M aircraft'', with an amount of ''[247,500]'' in the Senate authorized column.

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to Total Aircraft Procurement, Army, strike the amount in the Senate authorized column and insert ''5,962,857''.

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to Total Procurement, strike the amount in the Senate authorized column and insert ''112,095,077''.

SA 1821. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title V, add the following:

SEC. 540. RECEIPT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH PRIMARY MARINER DUTIES OF TRAINING THAT COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

''(b) MEMBERS WITH PRIMARY MARINER DUTIES.—(1) For purposes of the program under this section, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall each ensure that members of the armed forces with primary mariner duties receive training that complies with national standards and requirements under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW).

''(2) The following shall comply with basic training standards under national requirements and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping:

''(A) The recruit training provided to each member of the armed forces.

''(B) The training provided to each member of the armed forces who is assigned to a vessel.

''(3) Under the program, each member of the armed forces who is assigned to a vessel of at least 100 gross tons (GRT) in a deck or engineering career field shall be provided the following:

''(A) A designated path to applicable credentials under the national requirements and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping consistent with the responsibilities of the position to which assigned.

''(B) The opportunity, at Government expense, to attend credentialing programs that provide merchant mariner training not offered by the armed forces.

''(4)(A) For purposes of the program, the material specified in subparagraph (B) shall be submitted to the National Maritime Center of the Coast Guard for assessment of the compliance of such material with national requirements and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping.

''(B) The material specified in this subparagraph is as follows:

''(i) The course material of each unclassified course for members of the armed forces in marine navigation, leadership, and operation and maintenance.

''(ii) The unclassified qualifications for assignment for deck or engineering positions on waterborne vessels.

''(C) The National Maritime Center shall conduct assessments of material for purposes of this paragraph. Such assessments shall evaluate the suitability of material for the service at sea addressed by such material and without regard to the military pay grade of the intended beneficiaries of such material.

''(D) If material submitted to the National Maritime Center pursuant to this paragraphs is determined not to comply as described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary offering such material to members of the armed forces shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the actions to be taken by such Secretary to bring such material into compliance.''.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned shall establish, for members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary, procedures as follows:

(A) Procedures by which members identify qualification gaps in training and proficiency assessments and complete training or assessments approved by the Coast Guard in addressing such gaps.

(B) Procedures by which members obtain service records of any service at sea.

(C) Procedures by which members may submit service records of service at sea and other military qualifications to the National Maritime Center for evaluation and issuance of a Merchant Marine Credential.

(D) Procedures by which members may obtain a medical certificate for use in applications for Merchant Marine Credentials.

(2) USE OF MILITARY DRUG TEST RESULTS IN MERCHANT MARINE CREDENTIAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly establish procedures by which the results of appropriate drug tests administered to members of the Armed Forces by the military departments may be used for purposes of applications for Merchant Marine Credentials.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''Secretary concerned'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SA 1822. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VI , add the following:

SEC. 622. POLICIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ON TRAVEL OF NEXT OF KIN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DIGNIFIED TRANSFER OF REMAINS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WHO DIE OVERSEAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) When deployed in combat and non-combat areas, members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense are at risk of illness, injury, and death.

(2) Invitational Travel Authorizations, more commonly known as Invitational Travel Orders, for family members are important to ensure that next of kin may travel to be at the bedside of an ill or injured member of the Armed Forces returning to the United States.

(3) When a casualty occurs overseas, Invitational Travel Authorizations ensure that next of kin are able to witness the dignified transfer of remains at Dover Port Mortuary, Delaware.

(4) Department of Defense Instruction 1300.18 and the Joint Federal Travel Regulations provide for Government funded travel for next of kin to witness the dignified transfer of remains at Dover Port Mortuary only when the casualty occurs in a combat area, excluding deaths associated with other operations or training, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

(5) The Department of Defense Instruction and the Joint Federal Travel Regulations do not reflect the realities and risks of modern day deployment and contingency operations, and do not provide relief for the families of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department involved in so-called ''phase zero operations''.

(b) REVIEW OF POLICIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a review of the current policies of the Department of Defense on the travel for next of kin to participate in the dignified transfer of remains of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department who die overseas.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The review required by this subsection shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the changes to Department instructions and Federal regulations necessary to provide Government funded travel to the next of kin to participate in the dignified transfer of remains of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department who die overseas, regardless whether the death occurred in a combat area or a non-combat area.

(B) An action plan and timeline for making the changes described in subparagraph (A).

(c) MODIFICATION OF POLICIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to modify the policies of the Department in order to provide Government funded travel for the next of kin to participate in the dignified transfer of remains of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense who die overseas, regardless whether the death occurs in a combat area or a non-combat area.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary is not required to modify the policies of the Department as described in paragraph (1) if, by not later than March, 1, 2016, the Secretary certifies, in writing, to the congressional defense committees that such action is not in the best interest of the United States. The certification shall include the following:

(A) An assessment and reevaluation by the Secretary of the rational for excluding the next of kin from Government funded travel if the death of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the Department overseas occurs in a non-combat area.

(B) Recommendations for alternative plans to ensure that the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department who die overseas in a non-combat area may participate in the dignified transfer of the remains of the deceased at Dover Port Mortuary, including through the actions of appropriate non-governmental organizations.

SA 1823. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 222, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 223, line 18, and insert the following:

''(3) AUTOMATIC AND MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—

''(A) AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall make a contribution described in section 8432(c)(1) under this subsection for the benefit of a member described in paragraph (1) for the first pay period beginning on or after the date on which the member becomes a member described in paragraph (1) (without regard to whether the member has elected to make contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund during such pay period) and each pay period thereafter during which the member serves as a member of the uniformed services.

''(B) MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall make a contribution described in section 8432(c)(2) under this subsection for the benefit of a member described in paragraph (1) for any pay period—

''(i) that begins on or after the date on which the member becomes a member described in paragraph (1); and

''(ii) during which the member described in paragraph (1) makes a contribution to the Thrift Savings Fund.

On page 228, line 21, strike ''for'' and all that follows through ''service'' on line 24.

On page 231, line 25, strike ''for'' and all that follows through ''service'' on page 232, line 3.

SA 1824. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. OFFSET OF OCO FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting '', as part of the Act containing such a designation, includes 1 or more provisions that increase revenue relative to the baseline for each fiscal year to which the designation relates in a total amount that is not less than the amount so designated under the Act for that fiscal year,'' after ''account basis''.

(b) PREVENTING USE FOR OTHER OFFSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) AMOUNTS USED TO OFFSET OCO FUNDING.—Neither scorecard maintained by OMB pursuant to this subsection shall include new revenue under a provision in an Act designating amounts as for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)), except to the extent the amount of the new revenue for a fiscal year is more than the amount so designated for that fiscal year.''.

(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of new revenue under a provision in an Act designating amounts as for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)), shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), except to the extent the amount of the new revenue for a fiscal year is more than the amount so designated for that fiscal year.

SA 1825. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for miitary construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE XXXV—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 3501. CADET COMMITMENT AGREEMENTS.

Section 51306(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''must'' and inserting ''shall'';

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) obtain a merchant mariner license, unlimited as to horsepower or tonnage, issued by the United States Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certifications required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation, before graduation from the Academy;'';

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) for at least 6 years after graduation from the Academy, maintain—

''(A) a valid merchant mariner license, unlimited as to horsepower or tonnage, issued by the United States Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certifications required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation;

''(B) a valid transportation worker identification credential; and

''(C) a United States Coast Guard medical certificate;''; and

(4) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) apply for, and accept if tendered, an appointment as a commissioned officer in the Navy Reserve (including the Strategic Sealift Officer Program, Navy Reserve), the Coast Guard Reserve, or any other reserve component of an armed force of the United States, and, if tendered the appointment, to serve, meet the participation requirements, and maintain active status in good standing, as determined by the program manager of the appropriate military service, for at least 8 years after the date of commissioning;''.

SEC. 3502. STUDENT INCENTIVE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS.

Section 51509 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting ''(3) AUTHORIZED USES.—'' before the last sentence and indenting accordingly;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by striking ''Payments'' and inserting ''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), payments'' and indenting accordingly; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may modify the payments made to an individual under paragraph (1), but the total amount of payments to that individual may not exceed $32,000.'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''Merchant Marine Reserve'' and inserting ''Strategic Sealift Officer Program'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) obtain a merchant mariner license, without limitation as to tonnage or horsepower, from the United States Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certification required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation, within three months of completion of the course of instruction at the academy the individual is attending;'';

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) for at least 6 years after graduation from the academy, maintain—

''(A) a valid merchant mariner license, unlimited as to horsepower or tonnage, issued by the United States Coast Guard as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States, accompanied by the appropriate national and international endorsements and certifications required by the Coast Guard for service aboard vessels on domestic and international voyages, without limitation;

''(B) a valid transportation worker identification credential; and

''(C) a United States Coast Guard medical certificate;'' and

(C) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) apply for, and accept, if tendered, an appointment as a commissioned officer in the Navy Reserve (including the Strategic Sealift Officer Program, Navy Reserve), the Coast Guard Reserve, or any other reserve component of an armed force of the United States, and, if tendered the appointment, to serve and meet the participation requirements and to maintain active status in good standing, as determined by the program manager of the appropriate military service, for at least 8 years after the date of commissioning;'';

(4) by amending subsection (e)(1) to read as follows:

''(1) ACTIVE DUTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may order an individual to serve on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of not more than 2 years if—

''(i) the individual has attended an academy under this section for more than 2 academic years, but less than 3 academic years;

''(ii) the individual has accepted the payments described in subsection (b) in an amount totaling at least $8,000; and

''(iii) the Secretary of Transportation has determined that the individual has failed to fulfill the part of the agreement described in subsection (d)(1).

''(B) 3 OR MORE YEARS.—The Secretary of Defense may order an individual to serve on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of not more than 3 years if—

''(i) the individual has attended an academy under this section for 3 or more academic years;

''(ii) the individual has accepted the payments described in subsection (b) in an amount totaling at least $16,000; and

''(iii) the Secretary of Transportation has determined that the individual has failed to fulfill the part of the agreement described in subsection (d)(1).

''(C) HARDSHIP WAIVER.—In cases of hardship as determined by the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Transportation may waive this paragraph in whole or in part.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) ALTERNATIVE SERVICE.—

''(1) SERVICE AS COMMISSIONED OFFICER.—An individual who, for the 5-year period following graduation from an academy, serves as a commissioned officer on active duty in an armed force of the United States or as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Public Health Service shall be excused from the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (5) of subsection (d).

''(2) MODIFICATION OR WAIVER.—The Secretary may modify or waive any of the terms and conditions set forth in subsection (d) through the imposition of alternative service requirements.''.

SEC. 3503. FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT TAX ACT.

Section 3305 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 3305) is amended by striking ''Secretary of Commerce'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of Transportation''.

SEC. 3504. SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION DEFINED.

Paragraph (1) of section 55605 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) shipped in discrete units or packages that are handled individually, palletized, or unitized for purposes of transportation; or

''(D) freight vehicles carried aboard commuter ferry boats; and''.

SEC. 3505. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016, to be available without fiscal year limitation if so provided in appropriations Acts, for the use of the Department of Transportation for Maritime Administration programs associated with maintaining national security aspects of the merchant marine, as follows:

(1) For expenses necessary for operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, $96,028,000, of which—

(A) $71,306,000 shall remain available until expended for Academy operations;

(B) $24,722,000 shall remain available until expended for capital asset management at the Academy.

(2) For expenses necessary to support the State maritime academies, $34,550,000, of which—

(A) $2,400,000 shall remain available until expended for student incentive payments;

(B) $3,000,000 shall remain available until expended for direct payments to such academies;

(C) $1,800,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance payments;

(D) $22,000,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of State maritime academy training vessels;

(E) $5,000,000 shall remain available until expended for a National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Design Program; and

(F) $350,000 shall remain available until expended for improving the monitoring of graduates' service obligation.

(3) For expenses necessary to support Maritime Administration operations and programs, $54,059,000.

(4) For expenses necessary to dispose of vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, $8,000,000 to remain available until expended.

(5) For expenses to maintain and preserve a United States-flag merchant marine to serve the national security needs of the United States under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, $186,000,000.

(6) For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5)) of loan guarantees under the program authorized by chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, $3,135,000, of which $3,135,000 shall remain available until expended for administrative expenses of the program.

(b) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2017, to be available without fiscal year limitation if so provided in appropriations Acts, for the use of the Department of Transportation for Maritime Administration programs associated with maintaining national security aspects of the merchant marine, as follows:

(1) For expenses necessary for operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, $96,028,000, of which—

(A) $71,306,000 shall remain available until expended for Academy operations;

(B) $24,722,000 shall remain available until expended for capital asset management at the Academy.

(2) For expenses necessary to support the State maritime academies, $34,550,000, of which—

(A) $2,400,000 shall remain available until expended for student incentive payments;

(B) $3,000,000 shall remain available until expended for direct payments to such academies;

(C) $1,800,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance payments;

(D) $22,000,000 shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of State maritime academy training vessels;

(E) $5,000,000 shall remain available until expended for a National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Design Program; and

(F) $350,000 shall remain available until expended for improving the monitoring of graduates' service obligation.

(3) For expenses necessary to support Maritime Administration operations and programs, $54,059,000.

(4) For expenses necessary to dispose of vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, $8,000,000 to remain available until expended.

(5) For expenses to maintain and preserve a United States-flag merchant marine to serve the national security needs of the United States under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, $186,000,000.

(6) For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5)) of loan guarantees under the program authorized by chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, $3,135,000, of which $3,135,000 shall remain available until expended for administrative expenses of the program.

SA 1826. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. BUSINESS CASE ANALYSIS ON DECISION TO MAINTAIN C–130J AIRCRAFT AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall conduct a business case analysis of the decision to maintain 10 C–130J aircraft at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. Such analysis shall include consideration of—

(1) any efficiencies or cost savings that would be achieved by transferring such aircraft to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas;

(2) any effects of such decision on the operation of the Air Mobility Command; and

(3) the short-term and long-term costs of maintaining such aircraft at Keesler Air Force Base.

SA 1827. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1283. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN THE MALDIVES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Maldives, despite its small size, is strategically important given its location in the Indian Ocean.

(2) Increasing human rights violations in the Maldives fuel instability and therefore pose a threat to regional security issues.

(3) Since January 2015, President Abdulla Yameen has cracked down on dissent both within his own party and in the political opposition.

(4) The arrest of former President Mohamed Nasheed this year was widely condemned as politically-motivated and his conviction and sentence of 13 years in prison has been condemned by Amnesty International as a ''travesty of justice''.

(5) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad described ''flagrant irregularities'' in the trial of President Nasheed, including conflicts of interests by the judges and the court's refusal to allow him to present any defense witnesses.

(6) On May 1, 2015, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets in Male, Maldives, and were met with violence, tear gas, and stun guns by security forces. More than 200 people were arrested.

(7) In his speech in Sri Lanka on May 2, 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry said ''[W]e've seen even now how regrettably there are troubling signs that democracy is under threat in the Maldives where the former president Nasheed has been imprisoned without due process. And that is an injustice that must be addressed soon''.

(8) On June 2, 2015, the Government of the Maldives charged three more leaders of opposition parties with terrorism.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Government of the Maldives should immediately release former President Nasheed and all political prisoners in the country, and guarantee human rights for all of the citizens of the Maldives.

SA 1828. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 344. FUNDING FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII.

Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 301 and available for operation and maintenance, Defense-wide, as specified in the funding table in section 4301, up to $2,000,000 may be available for the Department of Defense for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

SA 1829. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1664. FUNDING FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF EACH ELEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(40)(A) the total dollar amount proposed in the budget for intelligence or intelligence related activities of each element of the Government engaged in such activities in the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted and the estimated appropriation required for each of the ensuing four fiscal years; and

''(B) as used in subparagraph (A), the term 'element of the Government' refers to each element of the intelligence community as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).''.

SA 1830. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 820, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

(b) PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS.—Section 4602(d) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2702(d)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

''(5) In the case of a protected disclosure relating to the contract described in subsection (b) of section 4446 (relating the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant), the owner's agent specified in subsection (a) of that section.''.

SA 1831. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 818, line 25, strike ''and the congressional defense committees'' and insert '', the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Governors of the States of Oregon and Washington''.

SA 1832. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN INSPECTOR GENERAL WORK PRODUCTS.

Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) Whenever the Inspector General, in carrying out the duties and responsibilities established under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), issues a work product that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action, the Inspector General shall—

''(A) submit the work product to—

''(i) the Secretary;

''(ii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(iii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

''(iv) if the work product was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity; and

''(v) any member of Congress upon request;

''(B) submit all final work products to—

''(i) if the work product was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity; and

''(ii) any Member of Congress upon request; and

''(C) not later than 3 days after the work product is submitted in final form to the Secretary, post the work product on the Internet website of the Inspector General.

''(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law.''.

SA 1833. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1283. REPORT ON ACTIONS OF CERTAIN NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE COUNTRIES ON HOLOCAUST ERA ASSETS AND RELATED ISSUES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, submit to Congress an assessment of the compliance of each covered country with, and the progress of such country toward, the goals and objectives of the 2009 Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets and Related Issues.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment of a country under the report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of national laws or enforceable policies supporting the goals and objectives of the Terezin Declaration, including—

(A) the return to the rightful owner of any property that was wrongfully confiscated or transferred to another individual by Nazi, Nazi collaborator, or Communist regimes;

(B) if return of such property is no longer possible, the provision of comparable substitute property or the payment of equitable compensation to the rightful owner in accordance with principles of justice and through an expeditious claims-driven administrative process that is just, transparent, and fair;

(C) the return to Jewish communities of any religious or communal property that was stolen as a result of the Holocaust or subsequently nationalized by Communist regimes;

(D) the use of the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, agreed to December 3, 1998, in settling all claims involving publically and privately held movable property.

(2) An assessment of national administrative and legal processes successfully implementing such laws.

(3) An assessment of mechanism for and demonstrable progress on the resolution of claims of United States citizen Holocaust survivors and United States citizen family members of Holocaust victims.

(4) Recommendations for actions to be taken by the country, and the United States Government, to improve country compliance with, and progress toward, the goals and objectives of the Terezin Declaration.

(c) COVERED COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered country'' means any country that is a signatory or observer to the 2009 Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets and Related Issues among the following:

(1) A country that is a signatory to the Partnership for Peace Framework Documents, but is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(2) A country that became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization after January 1, 1999.

SA 1834. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. 565. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE MILITARY CHILD CARE SYSTEM AND PROVIDERS OF CHILD CARE SERVICES AND YOUTH PROGRAM SERVICES FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS.

(a) EMPLOYEES OF MILITARY CHILD CARE SYSTEM.—Section 1792 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.—The criminal background check of child care employees under this section that is required pursuant to section 231 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13041) shall be conducted pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense in accordance with the provisions of section 658H of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f).''.

(b) PROVIDERS OF CHILD CARE SERVICES AND YOUTH PROGRAM SERVICES.—Section 1798 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.—A provider of child care services or youth program services may not provide such services under this section unless such provider complies with the requirements for criminal background checks under section 658H of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f) for the State in which such services are provided.''.

(c) FUNDING.—Amounts for activities required by reason of the amendments made by this section during fiscal year 2016 shall be derived from amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 301 and available for operation and maintenance for the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program as specified in the funding tables in section 4301.

SA 1835. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title I, add the following:

SEC. 141. HEI PGU–13/B ROUND 30MILIMETER AMMUNITION.

(a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 101 is hereby increased by $1,096,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for procurement of ammunition, Air Force, for the purpose of the procurement of HEI PGU–13/B Round 30milimeter ammunition.

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—The amount available under paragraph (1) for the procurement of ammunition specified in that paragraph is in addition to any other amounts available in this Act for procurement of such ammunition.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by section 301 is hereby decreased by $1,096,000, with the amount of the decrease to be applied against amounts available for operation and maintenance, Air Force, for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation for C.4.4. Golf.

SA 1836. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1264. SENSE OF SENATE ON THE CONTINUED EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Vietnam is an important emerging partner with which the United States increasingly shares strategic and economic interests, including improving bilateral and multilateral capacity for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, upholding the principles of freedom of the seas and peaceful

resolution of international disputes, strengthening an open regional trading order, and maintaining a favorable balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) the Government of Vietnam has recently taken modest but encouraging steps to improve its human rights record, including signing the United Nations Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly December 10, 1984, increasing registrations for places of worship, taking greater action to combat human trafficking, reviewing the Criminal Code, and continuing to conduct high-level engagement with the United States and international human rights nongovernmental organizations;

(3) in light of growing challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and some steps by the Government of Vietnam to improve its human rights record, in 2014 the Department of State, in close consultation with the United States Senate, took steps to ease the United States prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam for maritime and costal defense;

(4) further easing the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam at this time, including all platforms that facilitate the ability of the armed forces of Vietnam to operate more effectively on, above, and within its territorial waters, would further United States national security interests, but steps beyond this to ease further the prohibition would require the Government of Vietnam to take significant and sustained steps to protect human rights, including releases of prisoners of conscience and legal reforms;

(5) the United States Government should continue to support civil society in Vietnam, including advocates for religious freedom, press freedom, and labor rights who seek to use peaceful means to build a strong and prosperous Vietnam that respects human rights and the rule of law; and

(6) the United States Government should continue to engage the Government of Vietnam in a high-level dialogue and specify what steps on human rights would be necessary for the Government of Vietnam to take in order to continue strengthening the bilateral relationship.

SA 1837. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1664. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE ATTACKS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should ensure that all relevant Federal agencies have a full understanding of the electromagnetic pulse threat and are prepared for such a contingency; and

(2) the United States Government should formulate and maintain a strategy to prepare and protect United States infrastructure against electromagnetic pulse events.

SA 1838. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 643. STANDARDIZATION OF AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE BY DISABILITY RETIREES WITH LESS THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE UNDER COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION AND CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

(a) STANDARDIZATION OF SIMILAR PROVISIONS.—Paragraph (2) of section 1414(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETIREES WITH FEWER THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—The retired pay of a qualified retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service is subject to reduction by the lesser of—

''(A) the amount of the reduction under sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38; or

''(B) the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under such chapter exceeds the amount equal to 2½ percent of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 1, 2015, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

SA 1839. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

Strike section 604.

SA 1840. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title V, add the following:

SEC. 540. MODIFICATION OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS AND CONTENT DELIVERY METHODS FOR PHASE II JOINT PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION.

(a) RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 2154(a)(2), by striking ''in residence at'' and inserting ''by''.

(2) In section 2156(a), by striking ''at the Joint Forces Staff College may not be less than 10 weeks of resident instruction'' and inserting ''through the Joint Forces Staff College shall be set by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff''.

(b) DELIVERY METHODS.—Section 2154 of such is further amended by adding the following new subsection:

''(c) DELIVERY METHODS.—The Secretary is authorized to certify nonresident courses for Phase II instruction, provided the joint acculturation objectives of subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 2155 of this title are met.''.

SA 1841. Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1209. USE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE VETTED SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO DEFEND THE SYRIAN PEOPLE AGAINST THE ASSAD REGIME.

Section 1209(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3541) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) Defending the Syrian people from attacks by the regime of President Bashir Assad.''.

SA 1842. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1242. STRATEGY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE EVENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, other members of the National Security Council, and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government, develop a strategy for the United States for the Middle East in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy shall include the following:

(1) Efforts to counter Iranian-sponsored terrorism in Middle East region.

(2) Efforts to reassure United States allies and partners in Middle East.

(3) Efforts to address the potential for a conventional or nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

(c) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the entry of Iran into the agreement described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit the strategy developed under that subsection to—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 1843. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REPORT ON COUNTER-DRUG EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congressional Defense Committees a report that describes—

(1) the counter-narcotics goals of the Department of Defense in Afghanistan; and

(2) how the Secretary of Defense will coordinate the counter-drug efforts of the Department of Defense with other Federal agencies to ensure an integrated, effective counter-narcotics strategy is implemented in Afghanistan.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the metrics used to evaluate the effectiveness of counter-drug efforts of the Department of Defense in Afghanistan; and

(2) a description of the process by which the Secretary of Defense will determine whether to continue each of the counter-drug initiatives of the Department of Defense in Afghanistan.

SA 1844. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment

SECTION 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services in the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of House of Representatives.

(2) CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORY; DATA ELEMENT CODE; SPECIALTY AREA.—The terms ''Cybersecurity Work Category'', ''Data Element Code'', and ''Specialty Area'' have the meanings given such terms in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 1093. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal agency shall—

(1) identify all positions within the agency that require the performance of information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions;

(2) determine the primary Cybersecurity Work Category and Specialty Area of such positions; and

(3) assign the corresponding Data Element Code, which shall be added to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report, in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) EMPLOYMENT CODES.—

(1) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency shall establish procedures—

(A) to identify open positions that include information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions (as defined in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards); and

(B) to assign the appropriate employment code to each such position, using agreed standards and definitions.

(2) CODE ASSIGNMENTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency shall assign the appropriate employment code to each employee within the agency who carries out information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions.

(c) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this section to the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 1094. IDENTIFICATION OF CYBERSECURITY SPECIALTY AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date on which the employment codes are assigned to employees pursuant to section 1093(b)(2), and annually through 2021, the head of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Director and the Secretary, shall—

(1) identify information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related Specialty Areas of critical need in the agency's workforce; and

(2) submit a report to the Director that—

(A) describes the information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related Specialty Areas identified under paragraph (1); and

(B) substantiates the critical need designations.

(b) GUIDANCE.—The Director shall provide Federal agencies with timely guidance for identifying information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related Specialty Areas of critical need, including—

(1) current Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with acute skill shortages; and

(2) information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related Specialty Areas with emerging skill shortages.

(c) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CYBERSECURITY, OR OTHER CYBER-RELATED CRITICAL NEEDS REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall—

(1) identify Specialty Areas of critical need for information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related workforce across all Federal agencies; and

(2) submit a progress report on the implementation of this section to the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 1095. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STATUS REPORTS.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) analyze and monitor the implementation of sections 1093 and 1094; and

(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of such implementation.

SA 1845. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Congress must address the ongoing, escalating threat posed by cyber attacks from foreign countries and independent or sponsored nefarious actors;

(2) cyber attacks present one of the most critical national security threats facing the United States;

(3) vulnerabilities in the cybersecurity of the United States have been exploited to access sensitive and personal information, including data relating to security clearance investigations; and

(4) in order to protect the most important information systems of the United States, including those in our weapon systems, from cyber threats, Congress must invest in developing the most sophisticated and agile cyber capability in the world.

SA 1846. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1614. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR PLANNING AND ACQUIRING SATELLITE SYSTEMS AND ARCHITECTURES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) consistent with National Space Policy issued on June 28, 2010, the United States Government should make maximum use of mature commercial space capabilities and acquisition practices for national security systems for which the required performance can be met with commodity technology to reduce acquisition timelines and costs, promote competition, capitalize on the pace of commercial technology advances, and avoid unnecessary government-unique investments;

(2) investments by elements of the intelligence community and the Department of Defense in technology development utilizing a unique, dedicated industrial base should be reserved for cases in which commercial commodity technology does not exist or in which revolutionary technology is judged to be achievable and worth the risk, cost, and time to acquire;

(3) satellite systems and architectures should be designed in such a way that a number of elements common to multiple spacecraft could be standardized, to reduce costs, simplify execution, and preserve a competitive industrial base;

(4) the entire overhead satellite architecture of the United States, including programs funded by the Department of Defense or by an element of the intelligence community, commercial providers, and foreign partners, should be viewed and treated as an integrated whole, not simply as a series of independent and unrelated satellite systems;

(5) deficiencies in, and improvements to, the current state of the space systems architecture, and planning for the future architecture, should receive priority personal attention from the President, the senior national security and scientific advisors to the President, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to ensure that architecture planning—

(A) meets the needs of the United States in peace time and in war time;

(B) responsibly stewards the taxpayers' dollars;

(C) accurately takes into account cost and performance tradeoffs;

(D) meets realistic requirements;

(E) produces and fosters excellence, innovation, and competition;

(F) aims to produce innovative satellite systems in less than 5 years that are able to leverage common, standardized design elements and commercially available technologies;

(G) takes advantage of rapid advances in commercial technology, innovation, and commercial-like acquisition practices; and

(H) fosters competition and a robust industrial base.

(b) STRATEGY ON THE UNITED STATES OVERHEAD SATELLITE ARCHITECTURE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY.—The Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall develop a strategy, with milestones and benchmarks, to ensure that there is a comprehensive review of policies and practices for planning and acquiring satellite systems and architectures, including under programs of the Department of Defense, programs of elements of the intelligence community, and programs carried out by the commercial satellite industry, and taking into account capabilities of foreign partners, to ensure that such systems and architectures comport with the principles expressed under subsection (a) and in the National Space Policy.

(2) REPORT ON STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall report to the congressional defense committees, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives on the strategy required by paragraph (1).

SA 1847. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURN INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO IDENTITY THEFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (l) of section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(23) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION IN CERTAIN CASES OF IDENTITY THEFT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has reason to believe that there has been a fraudulent use of a social security account number on a statement described in section 6051—

''(i) the Secretary shall disclose to the individual who was validly assigned such social security account number—

''(I) that the Secretary has reason to believe that the social security account number assigned to such individual has been fraudulently used in the employment context,

''(II) that the Secretary has made the disclosure described in clause (ii) to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Attorney General with respect to such fraudulent use, and

''(III) such other information (other than return information) as the Secretary determines, in consultation with Federal Trade Commission, would be helpful and appropriate to provide to a victim of identity theft, and

''(ii) the Secretary shall disclose to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Attorney General—

''(I) such social security account number,

''(II) that the Secretary has reason to believe that such social security account number has been fraudulently used in the employment context, and

''(III) the taxpayer identity information of the individual who was assigned such social security account number, the individual believed to have fraudulently used such social security account number, and the employer who made the statement described in section 6051 which included such social security account number.

''(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

''(i) DISCLOSURE TO OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.—The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Attorney General may disclose information received under subparagraph (A)(ii) to appropriate Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials.

''(ii) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—Return information disclosed under subparagraph (A)(ii) may be used by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials only for purposes of carrying out criminal investigations or prosecutions.

''(iii) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—For purposes of this paragraph, any return information disclosed under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not be provided to any State or local law enforcement official until such official has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary that includes the following terms and conditions:

''(I) Confidentiality of returns and return information and prohibitions on disclosure described in subsection (a)(3).

''(II) Safeguards, restrictions on access, and recordkeeping requirements described in subsection (p)(4).

''(III) Application of penalties for unauthorized disclosure of returns and return information under section 7213(a)(2).

''(IV) Any additional terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the Secretary.''.

(b) PREVENTION OF IDENTITY THEFT.—In the case of an employee for whom the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration has reason to believe that the social security number included on any statement described in section 6051(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to such employee is not the correct social security number for such employee, the Commissioner shall provide notification to the employer for such employee which includes—

(1) the name of the employee and the social security number included on such statements; and

(2) relevant information regarding the availability of the Social Security Number Verification Service for verification of social security numbers.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATED TO DISCLOSURE.—

(1) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Paragraph (3) of section 6103(a) of such Code is amended by striking ''or (21)'' and inserting ''(21), or (23)''.

(2) PROCEDURES AND RECORDKEEPING RELATED TO DISCLOSURES.—Paragraph (4) of section 6103(p) of such Code is amended by striking ''or (20)'' each place it appears and inserting ''(20), or (23)''.

(3) UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OR INSPECTION.—Paragraph (2) of section 7213(a) of such Code is amended by striking ''or (21)'' and inserting ''(21), or (23)''.

SEC. _____. PENALTIES FOR TAX-RELATED IDENTITY THEFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1028A(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (10) through (13), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraphs:

''(8) section 286 (relating to conspiracy to defraud the government with respect to claims), section 287 (relating to false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims), section 371 (relating to conspiracy to commit an offense or to defraud the United States), section 1001 (relating to statements or entries), section 1341 (relating to frauds and swindles), section 1342 (relating to a fictitious name or address), section 1343 (relating to fraud by wire, radio, or television), or section 1344 (relating to bank fraud), if the felony violation is a tax-related offense punishable under such section;

''(9) section 7206 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to fraud and false statements);''.

(b) PENALTY FOR MISAPPROPRIATION OF TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 of the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 6720D. MISAPPROPRIATION OF TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.

"In addition to any penalty provided by law, any person who knowingly or willfully misappropriates another person's tax identification number in connection with any list, return, account, statement, or other document submitted to the Secretary shall pay a penalty of $5,000.".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 6720D. Misappropriation of tax identification number.".

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to returns and information submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 1848. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

In the funding table in section 4201, in the item relating to the High Performance Computing Modernization Program, strike the amount in the Senate authorized column and insert "177,159".

In the funding table in section 4301, in the item relating to Defense Media Activity, strike the amount in the Senate authorized column and insert "182,625".

SA 1849. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 344. REPORT ON USE OF COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT FOR MAINTENANCE FOR WHEELED VEHICLE AND TRACKED VEHICLE FLEETS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment of the use of commercially available equipment to conduct organizational maintenance and combined support maintenance for the wheeled vehicle and tracked vehicle fleets of the National Guard. The report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the use of such equipment for such maintenance on the operational readiness rates of such fleets.

(2) A comparison of the cost of the use of such equipment for such maintenance with the current cost of such maintenance.

(3) An assessment of the extent to which the use of such equipment is viable at the State level to reduce maintenance costs and duration to improve readiness of the fleets.

(4) Such other matters, and such recommendations, as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau considers appropriate.

SA 1850. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

Strike section 1251 and insert the following:

SEC. 1251. UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 by title XV and available for overseas contingency operations as specified in the funding tables in division D, $300,000,000 may be available to the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide appropriate security assistance and intelligence support, including training, equipment, and logistics support, supplies and services, to military and other security forces of the Government of Ukraine for the purposes as follows:

(1) To enhance the capabilities of the military and other security forces of the Government of Ukraine to defend against further aggression.

(2) To assist Ukraine in developing the combat capability to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(3) To support the Government of Ukraine in defending itself against actions by Russia and Russian-backed separatists that violate the ceasefire agreements of September 4, 2014, and February 11, 2015.

(b) APPROPRIATE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT.—For purposes of subsection (a), appropriate security assistance and intelligence support includes the following:

(1) Real time or near real time actionable intelligence, including by lease of such capabilities from United States commercial companies.

(2) Lethal assistance such as anti-armor weapon systems, mortars, crew-served weapons and ammunition, grenade launchers and ammunition, and small arms and ammunition.

(3) Counter-artillery radars, including medium-range and long-range counter-artillery radars that can detect and locate long-range artillery.

(4) Unmanned aerial tactical surveillance systems.

(5) Cyber capabilities.

(6) Counter-electronic warfare capabilities such as secure communications equipment and other electronic protection systems.

(7) Other electronic warfare capabilities.

(8) Training required to maintain and employ systems and capabilities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

(9) Training for critical combat operations such as planning, command and control, small unit tactics, anti-armor tactics, counter-artillery tactics, logistics, countering improvised explosive devices, battlefield first aid, and medical evacuation.

(10) Training for strategic and operational planning at and above the brigade level.

(c) FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATION.—

(1) TRAINING.—Up to 20 percent of the amount described in subsection (a) may be used to support training pursuant to section 1207 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note), relating to the Global Security Contingency Fund.

(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 50 percent of the amount described in subsection (a) may be obligated or expended until an amount equal to 20 percent of such amount has been obligated or expended for appropriate security assistance described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) for the Government of Ukraine.

(3) ALTERNATIVE USE OF FUNDS.—In the event funds otherwise available pursuant to subsection (a) are not used by reason of the limitation in paragraph (2), such funds may be used at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, with concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide security assistance and intelligence support, including training, equipment, logistics support, supplies and services to military and other national-level security forces of Partnership for Peace nations other than Ukraine that the Secretary of Defense determines may face an elevated risk of Russian aggression and that the Secretary determines is appropriate to defending their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(d) UNITED STATES INVENTORY AND OTHER SOURCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense is authorized, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to make available to the Government of Ukraine weapons and other defense articles, from the United States inventory and other sources, and defense services, in such quantity as the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate to achieve the purposes specified in subsection (a).

(2) REPLACEMENT.—Amounts for the replacement of any items provided to the Government of Ukraine pursuant to paragraph (1) may be derived from funds available for this section or from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for overseas contingency operations for weapons procurement.

(e) CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORIZATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to constitute a specific statutory authorization for the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations wherein hostilities are clearly indicated by the circumstances.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State and other appropriate agencies, submit to Congress a report setting forth in detail the following:

(1) The current criteria governing the provision of security assistance and intelligence support to the Government of Ukraine.

(2) The plan, including timelines for delivery, types and quantities of security assistance, and costs, to ensure that such assistance and support are being provided in compliance with the authorized purposes specified in subsection (a).

(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Assistance may not be provided under the authority in this section after December 31, 2017.

SA 1851. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the

Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 354, line 19, insert ''<, protecting the best interests of taxpayers,'' after ''process''.

SA 1852. Mr. UDALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 58, strike lines 14 through 17 and insert the following:

services of the Centers;

''(C) enhance capabilities by reducing the cost and improving the performance and efficiency of executing laboratory missions; and

''(D) expand commercial business ventures based on the core competencies of a Center, as determined by the director of the Center, to promote technology transitions.

SA 1853. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1040. PROHIBITION ON THE INDEFINITE DETENTION OF CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

Section 4001 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) No citizen or lawful permanent resident shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except consistent with the Constitution and pursuant to an Act of Congress that expressly authorizes such imprisonment or detention.'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b)(1) A general authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority, on its own, shall not be construed to authorize the imprisonment or detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States apprehended in the United States.

''(2) Paragraph (1) applies to an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority enacted before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

''(3) This section shall not be construed to authorize the imprisonment or detention of a citizen of the United States, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, or any other person who is apprehended in the United States.''.

SA 1854. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 738. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON GAMBLING AND PROBLEM GAMBLING BEHAVIOR AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on gambling installations operated by the Department of Defense and problem gambling among members of the Armed Forces.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) With respect to gambling installations (including bingo) operated by each branch of the Armed Forces—

(A) the number, type, and location of such gambling installations;

(B) the total amount of cash flow through such gambling installations;

(C) the amount of revenue generated by such gambling installations; and

(D) how such revenue is spent.

(2) An assessment of the prevalence of and particular risks for problem gambling among members of the Armed Forces, including recommendations for policies and programs to be carried out by the Department of Defense to address problem gambling.

(3) An assessment of the ability and capacity of military health care personnel to adequately diagnose and provide dedicated treatment for problem gambling, including—

(A) a comparison of treatment programs of the Department for alcohol abuse, illegal substance abuse, and tobacco addiction with treatment programs of the Department for problem gambling; and

(B) an assessment of whether additional training for military health care personnel on providing treatment for problem gambling would be beneficial.

(4) An assessment of the financial counseling and related services that are available to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who are impacted by problem gambling.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 1855. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 355. ELIGIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED, GOVERNMENT-OPERATED ARSENALS FOR ARMAMENT RETOOLING AND MANUFACTURING SUPPORT (ARMS) INITIATIVE.

Section 4551(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''manufacturing facility, or'' and inserting ''manufacturing facility,''; and

(2) by inserting '', or a Government-owned, Government-operated arsenal'' before the period at the end.

SA 1856. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1257. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SANCTIONING INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED TO THE DETAINMENT OF UKRAINIAN FIGHTER PILOT NADIYA SAVCHENKO.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko was captured on June 17, 2014, in a town in Ukraine north of Luhansk, by armed men loyal to the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic.

(2) Nadiya Savchenko was subsequently beaten, transported to Voronezh, a town due north of Luhansk in the Russian Federation, and held on falsified charges, including the charge of illegal crossing of the border into the Russian Federation even though she was brought to the Russian Federation forcefully, blindfolded and handcuffed.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the detainment and continued detention of Nadiya Savchenko and the falsified charges that have been brought against her are serious violations of internationally recognized human rights and are offenses for which sanctions may be imposed under the law of the United States; and

(2) the United States should impose sanctions with respect to the individuals connected to the detainment and continued detention of Nadiya Savchenko.

SA 1857. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such

fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1257. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HARMONIZATION OF LISTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION OF PERSONS SANCTIONED IN RELATION TO THE AGGRESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AGAINST UKRAINE.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should work with the European Union to harmonize the lists of the United States and the European Union of persons with respect to which sanctions are imposed in relation to the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

SA 1858. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 616, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(g) EXPANSION OF LIMITATION ON REIMBURSEMENT OF PAKISTAN PENDING CERTIFICATION ON PAKISTAN.—Subsection (d) of section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 is further amended in paragraph (1)(B)(i) by inserting ''Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed,'' after ''the Haqqani Network''.

SA 1859. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1274. ASSESSMENT OF THE MILITARY CAPABILITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment of the military capability of the Republic of Cyprus to defend against threats to its national security, including threats posed by hostile foreign governments and international terrorist groups.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An analysis of the effect on the national security of Cyprus of the United States policy to deny applications for licenses and other approvals for the export of defense articles and defense services to the armed forces of Cyprus.

(2) An analysis of the extent to which such United States policy is consistent with overall United States security and policy objectives in the region.

(3) An assessment of the potential impact of lifting such United States policy.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 1860. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1065. REPORT ON THE LOCATION OF C–130 MODULAR AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM UNITS.

Not later than September 30, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to Congress a report setting forth an assessment of the locations of C–130 Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) units. The report shall include the following:

(1) A list of the C–130 Modular Airborne Firefighting System units of the Air Force.

(2) The utilization rates of the units listed under paragraph (1).

(3) A future force allocation determination with respect to such units in order to achieve the most efficient use of such units

(4) An assessment of the advisability and feasability of any changes to C–130 Modular Airborne Firefighting System program to enhance firefighting capabilities.

SA 1861. Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1209. AUTHORITY FOR SUPPORT FOR THE VETTED SYRIAN OPPOSITION UPON THEIR RETURN TO SYRIA TO PROTECT THEM FROM HOSTILE ADVERSARIES.

Section 1209 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat, 3541) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(1) SUPPORT FOR THE VETTED OPPOSITION UPON RETURN TO SYRIA.—In order to meet the purposes specified in subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense may provide assistance to appropriately vetted elements, groups, and individuals described in that subsection, upon their return to Syria to provide protection to such recipients from hostile adversaries, including the following types of support:

''(1) Intelligence.

''(2) Logistics.

''(3) Defensive supporting fire.

''(4) Medical assistance.

''(5) Any other support the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.''.

SA 1862. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXXI, add the following:

SEC. 3124. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR PROVISION OF DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, and none of the funds authorized to be appropriated for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities for any fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 that are available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act, may be obligated or expended to enter into a contract with, or otherwise provide assistance to, the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Russian Federation is in compliance with—

(1) the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the ''Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty'' or ''INF Treaty'');

(2) the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on April 8, 2010, and entered into force on February 5, 2011 (commonly referred to as the ''New START Treaty'');

(3) its obligations under the Presidential Nuclear Initiatives agreed to by President George H.W. Bush and President Boris Yeltsin; and

(4) its obligations under the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 10, 1996.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) not less than 15 days before the waiver takes effect, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report, in classified form if necessary, providing the justification for the waiver.

(2) NONDELEGATION.—The Secretary may not delegate the waiver authority under paragraph (1).

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the following:

(1) The congressional defense committees.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 1863. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 209, line 19, strike ''1.3 percent'' and insert ''2.3 percent''.

SA 1864. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1637. PROHIBITION ON REDUCTION IN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE ALERT STATUS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2016 may be obligated or expended for reducing, or preparing to reduce, the responsiveness or alert level of the intercontinental ballistic missiles of the United States.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the following activities:

(1) Maintenance or sustainment of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

(2) Ensuring the safety, security, or reliability of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

SA 1865. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 475, beginning on line 17, strike ''2035; and'' and all that follows through ''(E) Implications'' on line 18 and insert the following: ''2035;

(D)

Viz:

(D) options to address ship classes that begin decommissioning prior to 2035, including Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruisers; and

(E) implications

SA 1866. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1264. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE NEXT RIM OF THE PACIFIC NAVAL EXERCISES.

No amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise available for the Department of Defense funds may be obligated or expended for the participation of the People's Republic of China in the next Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) naval exercises until the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that—

(1) the People's Republic of China has ceased its land reclamation activities on disputed islands located in the South China Sea as well its militarization of those islands, including the building or deployment of surface-to-air missile, coastal defenses, cruise missiles, naval guns, fortified aviation hangars, and artillery; and

(2) the Republic of China Navy has been invited to participate in the Rim of the Pacific naval exercises.

SA 1867. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 622, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

(3) An assessment of the facilitation of terrorist activities and operations of foreign fighters through use of social media platforms by the organizations referred to in paragraph (1).

SA 1868. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP AND DEPLOY UAS TECHNOLOGIES.—The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall work in conjunction with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the heads of other Federal agencies, existing UAS test sites designated by the Federal Aviation Administration, the private sector, and academia on the research and development of technologies to safely detect, identify, and classify potentially threatening UAS in the national air space and to develop mitigation technologies—

(1) to ensure that, as the commercial use of UAS technologies increases and such technologies are safely integrated into the national air space, the United States is taking full advantage of existing and developmental technologies to detect, identify, classify, track, and counteract potentially threatening UAS, including in and around restricted and controlled air space, such as airports, military training areas, National Special Security Events, and sensitive national security locations; and

(2) to contribute to the development of intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance capabilities for national security over widely dispersed and expansive territories.

(b) UAS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''UAS'' means unmanned aerial systems.

SA 1869. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1463 proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

Strike section 1103 and insert the following:

SEC. 1103. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "NEW BEGINNINGS" PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE INCENTIVE SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Section 1113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84) required the Department of Defense to institute a fair, credible, and transparent performance appraisal system, given the name ''New Beginnings'', for employees which—

(A) links employee bonuses and other performance-based action to employee performance appraisals;

(B) ensured ongoing performance feedback and dialogue among supervisors, managers, and employees throughout the appraisal period, with timetables for review; and

(C) developed performance assistance plans to give employees formal training, on-the-job training, counseling, mentoring, and other assistance.

(2) The military components and Defense Agencies of the Department are currently reviewing the proposed ''New Beginnings'' performance management and workforce incentive system developed in response to section 1113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

(3) The Department anticipates it will begin implementation of the ''New Beginnings'' performance management and workforce incentive system in April 2016.

(4) The authority in section 1113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 provided the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, flexibilities in promulgating regulations to redesign the procedures which are applied by the Department in making appointments to positions within the competitive service in order to—

(A) better meet mission needs;

(B) respond to manager needs and the needs of applicants;

(C) produce high-quality applicants;

(D) support timely decisions;

(E) uphold appointments based on merit system principles; and

(F) promote competitive job offers.

(5) In implementing the ''New Beginnings'' performance management and workforce incentive system, section 1113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 requires the Secretary to comply with veterans' preference requirements.

(6) Among the criteria for the ''New Beginnings'' performance management and workforce incentive system authorized by section 1113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, the Secretary is required to—

(A) adhere to merit principles;

(B) include a means for ensuring employee involvement (for bargaining unit employees, through their exclusive representatives) in the design and implementation of the performance management and workforce incentive system;

(C) provide for adequate training and retraining for supervisors, managers, and employees in the implementation and operation of the performance management and workforce incentive system;

(D) develop a comprehensive management succession program to provide training to employees to develop managers for the Department and a program to provide training to supervisors on actions, options, and strategies a supervisor may use in administering the performance management and workforce incentive system;

(E) include effective transparency and accountability measures and safeguards to ensure that the management of the performance management and workforce incentive system is fair, credible, and equitable, including appropriate independent reasonableness reviews, internal assessments, and employee surveys;

(F) utilize the annual strategic workforce plan required by section 115b of title 10, United States Code; and

(G) ensure that adequate resources are allocated for the design, implementation, and administration of the performance management and workforce incentive system.

(7) Section 1113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 also requires the Secretary to develop a program of training—to be completed by a supervisor every three years—on the actions, options, and strategies a supervisor may use in—

(A) developing and discussing relevant goals and objectives with employees, communicating and discussing progress relative to performance goals and objectives, and conducting performance appraisals;

(B) mentoring and motivating employees, and improving employee performance and productivity;

(C) fostering a work environment characterized by fairness, respect, equal opportunity, and attention to the quality of the work of employees;

(D) effectively managing employees with unacceptable performance;

(E) addressing reports of a hostile work environment, reprisal, or harassment of or by another supervisor or employee; and

(F) allowing experienced supervisors to mentor new supervisors by sharing knowledge and advice in areas such as communication, critical thinking, responsibility, flexibility, motivating employees, teamwork, leadership, and professional development, and pointing out strengths and areas of development.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should proceed with the collaborative work with employee representatives on the ''New Beginnings'' performance management and workforce incentive system and begin implementation of the new system at the earliest possible date.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Larry Babin, my military fellow, who is also a major in the Army, during the pendency of the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 9; 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 leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that the time be equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the final half; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1735; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned, following the remarks of Senator BLUMENTHAL, who I am told will appear shortly.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I appreciate the courtesy of the Presiding Officer in the Chamber in allowing me to speak this late in the day about issues that are vital to our national defense, which will be addressed tomorrow and during the course of the week in votes on the National Defense Authorization Act.

The task before the Senate in the National Defense Authorization Act is nothing less than to craft a sustainable, long-term strategy to defend America. In fact, it is to sustain our global leadership in a time of shifting alliances, significant challenges, and emerging threats, while bringing a long-term balance and sustainability to our military.

This defense measure is a solid start, but it must be made stronger to better meet the needs of our military men and women and our Nation as we enter this supremely perilous time. The danger to America has never been greater. Our foes have never been more insidious and pernicious, and many of the States opposing us have never been more willing to take measures that fundamentally contravene not only our security but our sense of moral right and wrong.

I approach the National Defense Authorization Act with this principle in mind. Neither the United States nor our troops, nor anyone involved in our national defense should ever face a fair fight. Our men and women in uniform should never be challenged in the air, on the sea or on land with a fair fight. It should be one-sided and in our favor. That is the basic principle. We must be superior in our military Armed Forces.

I am grateful to the chairman of our committee, Senator MCCAIN of Arizona, an extraordinarily distinguished veteran and a partner in a number of amendments to this measure, and to the ranking member Senator JACK REED, also a public servant of extraordinary distinction and a veteran. I am grateful for their leadership in bringing us to this point on a bill that attracted bipartisan support—overwhelming support—on the Armed Services Committee, where I am privileged to serve.

The provisions in this bill will enable us to remain the strongest country militarily in the world. At the end of the day, our values, our way of life, and our democracy give us our real strength, but the military is necessary to defend those values and our quality and way of life. The military defends our values and traditions and our fundamental rights and liberties, which we worked hard last week to uphold in the USA FREEDOM Act.

I have filed a number of amendments that underscore the need for continuing improvement in this bill. They are forward-looking amendments. One of them would modernize the National Guard's helicopter fleet by providing vital capabilities for the military as well as the sustainability and growth for Connecticut's dedicated defense industry.

To protect our heroes in uniform, I have also proposed an amendment that would provide stronger legal tools against predatory lending and other abuses targeting our military men and women nearby the very bases they are stationed.

Mr. President, I refer my colleagues to these two amendments, Nos. 1820 and 1564.

I also joined Ranking Member REED in cosponsoring his amendment, which will set forth a responsible and sustainable budget strategy by ending sequestration in our military budget and allowing us to ensure that all of our Nation's key security priorities are addressed.

Tomorrow, this body will vote on that amendment. It is a critical vote. It allows us to choose sides as to whether we will put close to $40 billion, in effect, on our national debt rather than in our budget or on our credit card rather than find a sustainable means to pay for it. Each of us will have to decide whether we want to end sequestration, which I am committed to ending, or instead whether we will continue sequestration-and the very real harm it imposes on our nation-by putting an extra $40 billion in the overseas contingent operations account known as OCO. Sequestration cannot be allowed to become a permanent fixture. We must work together in a bipartisan manner to end it.

In my time in the U.S. Senate, I have fought for our national defense funding because I believe our troops in harm's way deserve our full, uncompromising, unyielding, and unstinting support. We owe them the best equipment, the best training and supplies, as well as the best institutional support and health care that the world has to offer because they are the best fighting force that our world has ever seen. They fight for a nation that is the best, strongest, and greatest in the history of the world—not only in its military strength but in its fundamental values and freedom that allow us to speak as we wish in this very Chamber, to criticize authority, to speak truth to those in power, to debate, to come together, as we did this past weekend to worship and gather together and say whatever we please and think as we wish.

I hope we will address this vital interest in making sure we provide a sustainable source of funding by ending sequestration rather than relying on the overseas contingency operation account, which is a form of borrowing. It increases the deficit; it doesn't reduce it. It diminishes stable and sustainable funding; it doesn't enhance it. It simply provides more uncertainty rather than a long-term strategy.

This measure, which I support, enhances our security by providing for the construction of Virginia-class submarines—that are necessary. In fact, the NDAA provides $800 million in additional funding over what the President requested, and it endorses equipping all future attack submarines within an enhanced payload capability.

Naval warfare, and particularly undersea warfare, is as relevant and important now as it ever was, and these submarines will do much to enhance our readiness, our nuclear deterrence, our special operations, and our surveillance. They are the stealthiest, strongest weapons platform under the sea ever known to man. Likewise, the research and development in the Ohio replacement program will continue to go forward.

The bill provides for $1 billion for six additional Joint Strike Fighter aircraft for the Marine Corps—this is profoundly significant—as well as $17 million in new military construction for the Connecticut National Guard.

There are other measures, but apart from the hard work is an important step for fairness and keeping faith and dealing fairly with our men and women in uniform. This legislation provides for a 1.3 percent pay raise and $85 million to be directed toward improving financial literacy among our servicemembers. That is really the very least we can do.

Our military men and women do not do this for the pay or the financial compensation, but for their families' sake, we need to deal with them fairly and keep faith with them. In my role as ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have paid special attention to ensuring that this bill helps to ease the transition of military personnel into civilian life by establishing a new ''RECORD of Service'' card upon their separation that will help prevent identity theft and financial fraud. I urge the DOD, as does the Armed Services Committee, to discontinue its use of Social Security numbers on military records. It will help prevent identity theft and the kinds of breaches that put our servicemen and their families at risk financially, just as they are often at risk physically in combat.

The bill also directs DOD to stem the tide of opioid prescription drug abuse, and it helps military retirees get smoking cessation assistance. I would go further and provide for stronger measures to deal with over-prescription through education programs and drug formularies that provide alternatives, and that is one of the amendments I will offer.

Finally, two principal amendments I propose are an amendment to provide additional helicopters for the Army National Guard, which I will speak on now and seek to make pending at a later point, and an amendment improving consumer protections for military personnel and their families, which is currently pending.

First, we can greatly strengthen this bill by making a commitment to our National Guard to provide additional helicopters. The UH–60 Black Hawk helicopter is one of the most versatile and heavily used aviation capabilities in the Army National Guard, as well as by all the states in which they serve. The UH–60A is the oldest model Black Hawk in service and is currently flown almost exclusively by the Army National Guard.

We can strengthen this bill by fulfilling our commitment to the National Guard in providing 15 additional UH–60M Black Hawk helicopters that are the workhorse of our warriors who serve in our National Guard, warriors who have distinguished themselves not only in combat but also in emergencies and disasters at home. These helicopters will help them serve at home and abroad, which is one of the reasons that acquiring more of these helicopters, M model Black Hawks, are one of the priorities of the National Guard Association.

I have listened to the National Guard leaders in Connecticut, and I have listened to distinguished warriors and veterans of the National Guard from around the country, and I know these UH-60 Black Hawks are the workhorses. They are important in medium-lift capability to the National Guard in support of homeland defense and response to emergencies. The UH–60A models now lack onboard capabilities—modern capabilities that would enable them to be deployed overseas in hostile environments without significant upgrades to others parts of their configuration. They need that upgrade to be configured properly. The new aircraft would flow to states all across the country and ensure the National Guard is ready to deploy both at home and abroad.

Under the Army's current budget projections, the Army National Guard will not replace their aging UH–60A Black Hawk helicopters until 2025. We need to do better, we need to do it more promptly, and that is why I am proposing amendment No. 1820.

The amendment is fully paid for by an offset from the Foreign Currency Fund. The upside of a strengthening American dollar is that the Army can put more funds towards buying American helicopters and spend less in foreign currency expenses.

The other principal amendment, which I have made pending to the bill, improves the consumer protections afforded to our servicemembers and their families by the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. On the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, penalties, quite bluntly, are too low, and that is why I wish to thank my colleagues Ranking Member REED as well as Senators DURBIN, MURRAY, and WHITEHOUSE, all of whom have been working tirelessly and have joined me in proposing stronger protections in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act by doubling the penalties and making them as high as $110,000 for a first violation and $220,000 for a second or subsequent violation. This legislation provides deterrents, punishment, and a stop to this kind of financial abuse that may take place, literally, within sight of military bases.

Recently, the Department of Justice used this authority to obtain a civil penalty against Capital One and Sallie Mae. We have seen financial abuse by Capital One, when it foreclosed improperly on servicemembers' homes. These practices can include these kinds of abuses involving foreclosure and other kinds of exploitation which Sallie Mae, unfortunately, engaged in. ''Federal

law protects our servicemembers from having to repay loans under terms that are unaffordable or unfair.'' Student lender Sallie Mae sidestepped requirements by charging excessive rates to borrowers who filed documents proving they were members of the U.S. military. For over a decade Sallie Mae violated SCRA by failing to provide over 60,000 military servicemembers with the 6 percent interest rate cap they were entitled to on their student loans. This type of conduct is more than just inappropriate, it is inexcusable, and it will not be tolerated.

In addition, my colleagues have been working to make other important improvements to the SCRA. For example, Senator REED has worked tirelessly to ensure servicemembers can terminate leases on rental properties without early termination fees if they are assigned to, or relocate to, government quarters. Senator WHITEHOUSE has sought to make permanent a one-year post service protection from foreclosure for returning servicemembers and Senator DURBIN has been fighting to make sure our servicemembers with student loan debt can take advantage of the protections of the SCRA. I appreciate my colleagues tireless advocacy and look forward to working together to advance these important provisions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for Senator REED's amendment tomorrow. We face critical decisions ahead. This measure has extraordinary merit. We must keep faith with those who serve, and I hope we will when we vote this week on the National Defense Authorization Act.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:44 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MARY L. KENDALL, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, VICE EARL E. DEVANEY, RESIGNED.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

SCOTT ALLEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, VICE JAMES LAGARDE HUDSON, RESIGNED.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on June 8, 2015 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ERICKA M. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE EDUARDO M. OCHOA, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MARCH 4, 2015.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JACK HEARN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Jack Hearn, a veteran of World War II, for his exceptional service to our country.

Beginning his service just after graduating high school, Mr. Hearn enlisted in the Texas National Guard in 1940. Soon after, the Army incorporated all guardsmen for active duty. From November 1940 to November 1945, Mr. Hearn served in the U.S. Army, initially as an enlisted man in the field artillery division of the 36th battalion. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant shortly after and ultimately received a direct commission to Second Lieutenant. During the twenty-five months he spent in the European theater, Mr. Hearn fought in many battles and helped fight the Germans through France to the Rhine River. He was wounded in action in December of 1944 after running over a land mine. For his exceptional and brave service, Mr. Hearn was awarded the Purple Heart, FAME ribbon with four battle stars, the Invasion Arrowhead, American Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Distinguished Unit Citation.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Mr. Jack Hearn for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for the following votes on Thursday, June 4, 2015. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 301 and 308, and "nay" on roll call vote 307.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for a series of votes on June 2, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call # 268, I would have voted AYE.

On Roll Call # 269, I would have voted AYE.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE MARY H. MELFI

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the public service of the Honorable Mary H. Melfi, County Clerk of Hunterdon County, New Jersey who is celebrating her sixtieth birthday. Mary is currently serving in her second five year term as County Clerk, where she has built a reputation as a trusted resource for information, manager of public affairs and public servant.

Mary oversees a tremendous operation, managing numerous departments and programs that deliver community services at the speed of the 21st century. Her style brings dependability to this important constitutional office and her management has instituted greater accessibility and transparency of critical governmental functions for constituents. To the benefit of residents, businesses and taxpayers, public information is readily available and put to good use for County projects.

The County Clerk is the chief election officer and master pollworker in charge of overseeing the essential process of administering free and fair elections. This major undertaking includes the oversight of dozens of election districts, numerous polling machines and poll workers and thousands of ballots cast in each election—both in-person and through the mail.

Mary has lived her life in Hunterdon County, growing up in Lebanon Borough and graduating from North Hunterdon Regional High School. Her public service started with membership on the Flemington Borough Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. She was elected to serve on the Borough Council for 12 years.

I thank and congratulate the Honorable Mary H. Melfi for her work for the residents of Hunterdon County and wish her continued professional success, good health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, graduation season is once again upon us, and congratulations go to all who have accomplished the outstanding goal of attaining a high school diploma or college degree. I also want to recognize the hundreds of thousands of teachers in my home state, the great state of Texas—from pre-K to post-grad.

One of the great higher education systems in the nation is the University of Texas System, which just happens to be headquartered in my district. Each year, UT System institutions confer more than one-third of Texas' undergraduate degrees and educate two-thirds of the state's health care professionals. Overall, the UT System includes more than 210,000 students across the state, a group of young Texans that includes first generation Americans striving to improve their place in society, engineers, computer scientists, historians, educators, inventors, and future doctors.

The UT System is also one of the largest employers in Texas. Across its fourteen campuses, the System employs more than 90,000 faculty, staff, and administrators, all focused on three aligned objectives: educate the future leaders of our nation, innovate and create the discoveries and tools of tomorrow, and advance scholarly knowledge beyond current boundaries.

The UT System family includes three of the nation's 68 National Cancer Institute cancer centers—one of which, the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio, is located in my district. In addition, the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio is one of the four UT System medical centers to have received continuous Clinical and Translational Science Awards from the National Institutes of Health for their proven success in quickly delivering to patients the drugs and therapies they discover.

UT San Antonio was the first university in Texas, and twenty-third nationwide, to be recognized by the NSA as a national leader in the emerging field of cybersecurity research and training and designated a Center for Academic Excellence.

UT's MD Anderson Cancer Center, located at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, is often recognized as the top cancer center in the world. It conducts more cancer clinical trials than any institution across the globe, receives more National Cancer Institute funding than any other institution, and is responsible for more than one-third of all new FDA-approved cancer drugs.

UT Austin is home to more than 200 members of the National Academies and 12 recipients of the National Medal of Science. And it has 43 academic programs considered to be in the Top 10 nationally; 50 in the Top 25.

The UT Medical Branch is home to the Galveston National Laboratory, the only operational BioSafety Level 4 National Lab on a university campus in the United States. Scientists there are playing a leading role in researching and developing treatments and vaccines for global infectious diseases, and were recently included in the group of Ebola fighters Time Magazine chose to represent their Person of the Year.

Last year, UT El Paso was selected by Washington Monthly as one of the top 10 universities in the nation, grouped with Stanford, Harvard, UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego and ranked #1 for the third consecutive year among all U.S. universities in the social mobility category for its success in helping students achieve the American Dream.

The UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas is home to six Nobel Laureates—a distinction no other medical school in America can claim.

UT Arlington is the largest producer of baccalaureate educated nurses in Texas and the largest not-for-profit college of nursing in the nation, training nearly 8,000 on-line and in-person students.

The extraordinary emergency care doctors of UT Health Science Center Houston who manage the world's busiest Level 1 Trauma Center at Memorial Hermann Hospital were featured this year in the Lifetime Network series "Life flight: Trauma Center Houston."

UT Dallas was ranked 15th in the 2014 Times Higher Education magazine list of the world's most outstanding young universities. One of the criteria contributing to this ranking is the high standing of the university's students. The average SAT score for incoming freshman consistently is the highest among public universities in Texas.

UT Health Science Center Tyler, northeast Texas' only university medical center, is ranked by Axial and Becker's Hospital Review as one of the top 100 hospitals in the country for patient healthcare, including quality, patient satisfaction, and communication.

UT Tyler is a leading innovator for providing students with multiple options to complete a degree from remote locations. It is the only university in Texas to offer three distance-learning campuses where students can take classes close to home. In addition, the UT Tyler Houston Engineering Center provides a seamless pathway to a four-year degree in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering in partnership with Houston Community College. Students can take lower-division courses at HCC and upper-division courses from UT Tyler at the Alief-Hayes Road Campus in Houston.

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) has created Early College High Schools with several West Texas school districts at which at-risk high school students have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to sixty college credit hours. The first UTPB Early College High School within the Presidio Independent School District was the first in Texas where college courses are delivered online.

But, Mr. Speaker, the UT System is not resting on its laurels. In fact, it is preparing for the future on several fronts.

It is in the process of opening what will become the second-largest Hispanic-serving institution in the nation. UT Rio Grande Valley will incorporate multiple locations throughout South Texas and will have a transformative effect on the health, economy and overall well-being of the region. When UTRGV opens its doors, the UT System will also become the only university system in America to open a new university with a medical school in the 21st century.

In fact, the UT System is the only university system in the country currently building two new medical schools—in addition to UTRGV, the System is creating the new Dell Medical School as a part of UT Austin's growing presence.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see I am proud to represent the University of Texas System, which rightfully has been recognized as one of the great university systems in the U.S.

HONORING MR. JOSHUA RAY JOHNSON

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joshua Ray Johnson for his sacrifice and service to our country. Upon graduation from Eustace High School, Petty Officer 3rd Class Johnson enlisted in the Navy in October 2006.

Petty Officer Johnson served stateside in the Military Police before being deployed overseas. He was assigned to the MOB Accounting OPS unit. Petty Officer Johnson's assignment was part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) that was established after the regime change in Afghanistan in 2001. Initially, the ISAF was established to train the Afghan National Security Forces and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding key government institutions. When Josh arrived in the Middle East, the ISAF had expanded its operations to more intensive combat operations and part of this involved reconnaissance missions to evaluate, account and report on the status of residential occupants. Petty Officer Johnson was wounded in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated and he suffered a bullet wound in his arm. He was honorably discharged in April of 2010 and was the recipient of the Purple Heart.

While serving his country bravely and courageously, Petty Officer Johnson battled enemies and faced danger and possible death every day. Today, Petty Officer Johnson faces the toughest fight ever. He was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer that is inoperable and incurable in November 2014, on the day before Veterans Day. We will continue to keep him, his family and medical personnel in our prayers daily, that he will overcome this battle.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Petty Officer Joshua Ray Johnson for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 2015, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call #264 (Dingell of Michigan Amendment), Aye on #265 (Lowenthal of California Amendment), Aye on #266 (Motion to Recommit) and NO on Roll Call #267 (Final Passage of H.R. 1335).

IN HONOR OF SANDRA VOGELSON

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sandra Vogelson, for her achievements, contributions, and her service to the people of New Jersey as a community leader and a health advocate. Mrs. Vogelson passed away at the age of seventy-three. Sandra was revered throughout her community and she will truly be missed.

Sandra graduated from my alma mater, Camden County Community College, with a degree in Art, and dedicated her life to the community of South Jersey. She served as a member of Cooper's Ferry Development Association, where she was always seeking new ways to improve the City of Camden.

Sandra founded a philanthropic event, "Pink Roses and "Teal Magnolias." This event raises funds to continue the fight against breast and gynecologic cancers. Over the years, "Pink Roses and Teal Magnolias" became a staple within our community, by raising tens of thousands of dollars for research and other clinical programs at the MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper.

Furthermore, she took a keen interest in the education of New Jersey's young people. In 1992, Sandra established the Camden County College Foundation, and served on the board for the next two decades. Her leadership provided critical fundraising efforts for the college, allowing it to expand and serve as an exemplary educational institution for the students of Camden.

Mr. Speaker, Sandra Vogelson was a pillar of society who lived a life full of virtue service. She left a great mark on South Jersey, and is survived three daughters, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. I join the Camden County community and the state of New Jersey in honoring the achievements and the life of this extraordinary woman.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the Cohen amendment and urge the House to oppose the excessive cuts to the nonprofit and independent Legal Services Corporation.

Legal Services has a mission to "provide equal access to the system of justice" in America. It is the most important provider of civil legal aid for Americans who cannot afford high-priced legal counsel. In fact, legal representation often is out of reach for many

American families. This amendment will make the lives of millions of American families even more challenging. Plus, if you take away legal counsel, you also complicate the resolution of disputes for businesses and others as well. You all know Legal Services is not a Washington-based bureaucratic program. To the contrary, there are legal aid attorneys and professionals in every State, with more than 800 offices. Legal Services' moneys are put to work back home across America outside of Washington.

In my Tampa Bay community, Bay Area Legal Services helps to keep the wheels of justice turning for everyone. What type of legal help? Foreclosure, consumer assistance, domestic violence. Many of the domestic violence victims are simply trying to keep their children safe and their families together. Others include veterans returning from war, families with housing issues, those that were hit hard by natural disasters and are dealing with the aftermath, and families involved in child custody disputes. I have seen these advocates in action. Many Members of Congress actually refer cases to Legal Services groups in our area. They help families navigate the justice system. They also boost the economy through avoided costs and swift resolution of disputes.

I would also like to remind my colleagues that Legal Services has already undergone significant cuts over the past few years. Funding for Legal Services was $420 million in fiscal year 2010. It was cut—especially after sequestration in 2013—and any further cuts will do severe damage. This amendment jeopardizes access to justice and the rule of law.

This year's bill is a destructive step backwards which threatens these vital community services by slashing funding by $75 million. This is the lowest level of funding since FY 1999. These devastating cuts will terminate over 1,000 full time staff including 430 attorney positions. Under these draconian cuts, Legal services offices across the country will be forced to close 25 offices, complete 150,000 fewer cases, and serve 350,000 fewer people.

In exacting such severe cuts, your advice to families is, ''You can't get help''. ''You can't avoid a foreclosure''. ''You can't escape an abusive relationship or defend yourself against consumer scams''.

We cannot allow hundreds of thousands of American veterans, elderly victims of foreclosure, and women and children desperate to escape domestic violence to be denied assistance.

So I strongly urge a ''yes'' vote on the Cohen amendment.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the FY16 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

In short, this bill is shortsighted and fraught with handouts to special interests at the expense of the safety of the American people.

Once again, the Majority in this body has squandered an opportunity to invest in our nation's crumbling roads and infrastructure, and it has squandered an opportunity to combat homelessness and provide access to safer, affordable housing for millions.

Our future prosperity and economic growth depend on the investments we make now to ensure America remains the most competitive nation in an increasingly global economy.

Instead of investing in safer rail to prevent accidents like the recent and fatal derailment of Amtrak in Philadelphia, this bill cuts Amtrak's budget by nearly $290 million and subsequently hampers its ability to implement proven technologies that would have prevented this tragedy and countless others.

Instead of supporting the Federal Aviation Administration's efforts to implement NextGen technologies to keep our skies the safest in the world, this bill cuts the agency's capital investment program by $100 million from the FY15 enacted level and $355 million below the President's budget request.

This bill cuts funding to programs like Choice Neighborhoods and the Community Development Block Grants that would revitalize our communities, the Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes programs that would keep our families safe from harmful materials, and programs such as Housing for the Elderly that helps deliver the dignity and assistance for our most vulnerable populations.

This is just a bad bill, Mr. Chair, and these are just a few of the reasons why this is a terrible bill, and one that will surely be vetoed by the President.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and bring this legislation back to the drawing board.

HONORING MR. JOHN J. DAWDY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. John J. Dawdy for his courageous service to our country. A graduate of Mabank High School, Private First Class Dawdy served in the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (1 MEF) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On March 19, 2004, Pfc. Dawdy was driving a seven-ton truck in his unit's convoy. Shortly after leaving Camp Fallujah, Iraq, the convoy hit an improvised explosive device. With his leg torn with shrapnel, Pfc. Dawdy still managed to maintain control of his truck and maneuvered nearly one hundred yards before pulling off to the side of the road and losing consciousness. As a testament to his bravery and leadership, a fellow Marine called Pfc. Dawdy a ''father figure'' who made ''all the wise decisions.'' Pfc. Dawdy was awarded the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained in combat while bravely serving his country.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, ''We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free.'' And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Pfc. John J. Dawdy for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 10

Time to be announced

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of the Treasury, and Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

TBA

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, and David S. Shapira, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2019.

SD–342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States''.

SD–406

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine passenger rail safety, focusing on accident prevention and on-going efforts to implement train control technology.
SR–253
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine health information exchange, focusing on a path towards improving the quality and value of health care for patients.
SD–430
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Federal regulatory system to improve accountability, transparency and integrity.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016''.
SD–192

1:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Luis Felipe Restrepo, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Travis Randall McDonough, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.
SD–226

2 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine the escalating threat of ISIL in Central Asia.
RHOB–2175

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine addressing the need for victim services in Indian County.
SD–628

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks
To hold hearings to examine S. 145, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown, S. 146, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, S. 319, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali, S. 329, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 403, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, S. 521, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, S. 610, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes, S. 782, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park, S. 873, to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area, and S. 1483, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System.
SD–366
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management
To hold hearings to examine wasteful spending in the Federal government, focusing on an outside perspective.
SD–342
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the proliferation of unwanted calls.
SD–562

5 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on verification and assessment, focusing on how to create a successful inspection regime.
S–116

JUNE 11

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, and Thomas A. Burke, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, both of Maryland, all to be to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD–406

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016'', an original bill entitled, ''Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016'', and an original bill entitled, ''Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016''.
SD–106
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine accounts of current and former federal agency whistleblowers.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

JUNE 16

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Elkind, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs), and Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).
SD–366

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security
Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''Fiscal Year 2016 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.''
SD–138

JUNE 18

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management
To hold hearings to examine the EPA's management of the renewable fuel standard program.
SD–342

JUNE 24

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine demanding results to end Native youth suicides.
SD–628

JULY 9

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle and related legislation, including S. 854, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste.
SD–366

CANCELLATIONS

JUNE 11

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–226

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3849–S3887

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1522–1527, and S. Res. 194. **Pages S3860–61**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 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, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3850–55**

Pending:

McCain Amendment No. 1463, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3850**

McCain Amendment No. 1456 (to Amendment No. 1463), to require additional information supporting long-range plans for construction of naval vessels. **Page S3850**

Reed Amendment No. 1521 (to Amendment No. 1463), to limit the availability of amounts authorized to be appropriated for overseas contingency operations pending relief from the spending limits under the Budget Control Act of 2011. **Page S3850**

Cornyn Amendment No. 1486 (to Amendment No. 1463), to require reporting on energy security issues involving Europe and the Russian Federation, and to express the sense of Congress regarding ways the United States could help vulnerable allies and partners with energy security. **Page S3850**

Vitter Amendment No. 1473 (to Amendment No. 1463), to limit the retirement of Army combat units. **Page S3850**

Markey Amendment No. 1645 (to Amendment No. 1463), to express the sense of Congress that exports of crude oil to United States allies and partners should not be determined to be consistent with the national interest if those exports would increase energy prices in the United States for American consumers or businesses or increase the reliance of the United States on imported oil. **Page S3850**

Reed (for Blumenthal) Amendment No. 1564 (to Amendment No. 1463), to increase civil penalties for violations of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. **Page S3850**

McCain (for Paul) Modified Amendment No. 1543 (to Amendment No. 1463), to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government. **Page S3850**

Reed (for Durbin) Modified Amendment No. 1559 (to Amendment No. 1463), to prohibit the award of Department of Defense contracts to inverted domestic corporations. **Pages S3850, S3854–55**

McCain (for Burr) Amendment No. 1569 (to Amendment No. 1463), to ensure criminal background checks of employees of the military child care system and providers of child care services and youth program services for military dependents. **Page S3855**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, June 9, 2015; that the time until 3 p.m. be equally divided between the managers, or their designees; that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on or in relation to Reed Amendment No. 1521 (to Amendment No. 1463) (listed above); and that there be no second-degree amendment in order to the amendment prior to the vote. **Page S3855**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Mary L. Kendall, of Minnesota, to be Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

Scott Allen, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. **Page S3887**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, which was sent to the Senate on March 4, 2015. **Page S3887**

Messages from the House: **Page S3857**

Measures Referred: **Pages S3857–58**

Executive Communications: **Pages S3858–59**

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S3859–60
Executive Reports of Committees: Page S3860
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S3861–64
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Page S3864
Additional Statements: Pages S3856–57
Amendments Submitted: Pages S3864–85
Privileges of the Floor: Page S3885

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:44 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3885.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R.2686–2687; were introduced. Page H3921

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H3921–22

Reports Filed: A report was filed on Friday, June 5, 2015 as follows:

H.R. 2685, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–139).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1214, to amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–140, Part 1); and

H.R. 889, to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title (H. Rept. 114–141). Page H3921

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rooney (FL) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H3919

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3919.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Defense Appropriations.", 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 15, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to recognize the authority of States to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation, S. 454, to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, S. 784, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories, S. 1033, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to replace the current requirement for a biennial energy policy plan with a Quadrennial Energy Review, S. 1054, to improve the productivity and energy efficiency of the manufacturing sector by directing the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the National Academies and other appropriate Federal agencies, to develop a national smart manufacturing plan and to provide assistance to small-and medium-sized manufacturers in implementing smart manufacturing programs, S. 1068, to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the

bulk-power system from cyber security threats, S. 1181, to expand the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program to include commercial trucks and United States flagged vessels, to return unspent funds and loan proceeds to the United States Treasury to reduce the national debt, S. 1187, to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, facilitate public-private partnerships, S. 1216, to amend the Natural Gas Act to modify a provision relating to civil penalties, S. 1218, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, S. 1221, to amend the Federal Power Act to require periodic reports on electricity reliability and reliability impact statements for rules affecting the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, S. 1223, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve the loan guarantee program for innovative technologies, S. 1229, to require the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan to implement recommendations to improve interactions between the Department of Energy and National Laboratories, S. 1230, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program under which the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall enter into memoranda of understanding with States providing for State oversight of oil and gas productions activities, S. 1241, to provide for the modernization, security, and resiliency of the electric grid, to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs for research, development, demonstration, and information-sharing for cybersecurity for the energy sector, S. 1256, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy storage research program, loan program, and technical assistance and grant program, S. 1258, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a distributed energy loan program and technical assistance and grant program, S. 1259, to establish a grant program to allow National Laboratories to provide vouchers to small business concerns to improve commercialization of technologies developed at National Laboratories and the technology-driven economic impact of commercialization in the regions in which National Laboratories are located, S. 1263, to provide for the establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund to assist United States businesses with exporting clean energy technology products and services, S. 1274, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to reauthorize Federal agencies to enter into long-term contracts for the acquisition of energy, S. 1275, to establish a Financing Energy Efficient Manufacturing Program in the Department of Energy to provide financial assistance to promote energy efficiency and onsite renewable technologies in manufacturing and industrial facilities, S. 1277, to improve energy savings by the Department of Defense, S. 1293, to establish the Department of Energy as the lead agency for coordinating all requirements under Federal law with respect to eligible clean coal and advanced coal technology generating projects, S. 1306, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to use existing funding available to further projects that would improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions, S. 1310, to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new oil or natural gas production leases in the Gulf of Mexico under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to a person that does not renegotiate its existing leases in order to require royalty payments if oil and natural gas prices are greater than or equal to specified price thresholds, S. 1311, to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to modify certain penalties to deter oil spills, S. 1312, to modernize Federal policies regarding the supply and distribution of energy in the United States, S. 1338, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide licensing procedures for certain types of projects, S. 1340, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve coal leasing, S. 1346, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an e-prize competition pilot program to provide up to 4 financial awards to eligible entities that develop and verifiably demonstrate technology that reduces the cost of electricity or space heat in a high-cost region, S. 1363, to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a report assessing the capability of the Department of Energy to authorize, host, and oversee privately funded fusion and fission reactor prototypes and related demonstration facilities at sites owned by the Department of Energy, S. 1398, to extend, improve, and consolidate energy research and development programs, S. 1405, to require a coordinated response to coal fuel supply emergencies that could impact electric power system adequacy or reliability, S. 1407, to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, S. 1408, to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy, S. 1420, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to provide for the collection of information on critical energy supplies, to establish a Working Group on Energy Markets, S. 1422, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a comprehensive program to improve education and training for energy-and manufacturing-related jobs to increase the number of skilled workers trained to work in energy and manufacturing-related fields, S. 1428, to amend the USEC Privatization Act to require the Secretary of Energy to issue a long-term Federal excess uranium inventory management plan, S. 1432, to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the technology, potential lifecycle energy savings, and economic impact of recycled carbon fiber, S. 1434, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish an energy storage portfolio standard, S. 1449, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to add certain medium-duty

and heavy-duty vehicles to the advanced technology vehicles manufacturing incentive program, and H.R. 35, to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 756, to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, an original bill entitled, ''Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016'', the nominations of Azita Raji, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Nancy Bikoff Pettit, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Gregory T. Delawie, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Ian C. Kelly, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to Georgia, Julieta Valls Noyes, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, and routine lists in the Foreign Service, all of the Department of State, and Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration, focusing on first-hand and government watchdog accounts of agency challenges, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of David J. Shulkin, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Health, and LaVerne Horton Council, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (Information and Technology), both of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, S–216, Capitol.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2393, the ''Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act of 2015''; and H.R. 2685, the ''Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016'', 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of June 9 through June 12, 2015

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act, and vote on or in relation to Reed Amendment No. 1521 (to Amendment No. 1463) at 3 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: June 9, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Defense Appropriations.'', 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

June 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016'', 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

June 11, Full Committee, business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016'', an original bill entitled, ''Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016'', and an original bill entitled, ''Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016'', 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: June 10, to hold hearings to examine passenger rail safety, focusing on accident prevention and on-going efforts to implement train control technology, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: June 9, to hold hearings to examine S. 15, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to recognize the authority of States to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation, S. 454, to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, S. 784, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories, S. 1033, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to replace the current requirement for a biennial energy policy plan with a Quadrennial Energy Review, S. 1054, to improve the productivity and energy efficiency of the manufacturing sector by directing the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the National Academies and other appropriate Federal agencies, to develop a national smart manufacturing plan and to provide assistance to small- and medium-sized manufacturers in implementing smart manufacturing programs, S. 1068, to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system from cyber security threats, S. 1181, to expand the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program to include commercial trucks and United States flagged vessels, to return unspent funds and loan proceeds to the United States Treasury to reduce the national debt, S. 1187, to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, facilitate public-private partnerships, S. 1216, to amend the Natural Gas Act to modify a provision relating to civil penalties, S. 1218, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and

water production, use, and efficiency, S. 1221, to amend the Federal Power Act to require periodic reports on electricity reliability and reliability impact statements for rules affecting the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, S. 1223, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve the loan guarantee program for innovative technologies, S. 1229, to require the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan to implement recommendations to improve interactions between the Department of Energy and National Laboratories, S. 1230, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program under which the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall enter into memoranda of understanding with States providing for State oversight of oil and gas productions activities, S. 1241, to provide for the modernization, security, and resiliency of the electric grid, to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs for research, development, demonstration, and information-sharing for cybersecurity for the energy sector, S. 1256, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy storage research program, loan program, and technical assistance and grant program, S. 1258, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a distributed energy loan program and technical assistance and grant program, S. 1259, to establish a grant program to allow National Laboratories to provide vouchers to small business concerns to improve commercialization of technologies developed at National Laboratories and the technology-driven economic impact of commercialization in the regions in which National Laboratories are located, S. 1263, to provide for the establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund to assist United States businesses with exporting clean energy technology products and services, S. 1274, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to reauthorize Federal agencies to enter into long-term contracts for the acquisition of energy, S. 1275, to establish a Financing Energy Efficient Manufacturing Program in the Department of Energy to provide financial assistance to promote energy efficiency and onsite renewable technologies in manufacturing and industrial facilities, S. 1277, to improve energy savings by the Department of Defense, S. 1293, to establish the Department of Energy as the lead agency for coordinating all requirements under Federal law with respect to eligible clean coal and advanced coal technology generating projects, S. 1306, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to use existing funding available to further projects that would improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions, S. 1310, to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new oil or natural gas production leases in the Gulf of Mexico under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to a person that does not renegotiate its existing leases in order to require royalty payments if oil and natural gas prices are greater than or equal to specified price thresholds, S. 1311, to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to modify certain penalties to deter oil spills, S. 1312, to modernize Federal policies regarding the supply and distribution of energy in the United States, S. 1338, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide licensing procedures for certain types of projects, S. 1340, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve coal leasing, S. 1346, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an e-prize competition pilot program to provide up to 4 financial awards to eligible entities that develop and verifiably demonstrate technology that reduces the cost of electricity or space heat in a high-cost region, S. 1363, to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a report assessing the capability of the Department of Energy to authorize, host, and oversee privately funded fusion and fission reactor prototypes and related demonstration facilities at sites owned by the Department of Energy, S. 1398, to extend, improve, and consolidate energy research and development programs, S. 1405, to require a coordinated response to coal fuel supply emergencies that could impact electric power system adequacy or reliability, S. 1407, to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, S. 1408, to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy, S. 1420, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to provide for the collection of information on critical energy supplies, to establish a Working Group on Energy Markets, S. 1422, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a comprehensive program to improve education and training for energy- and manufacturing-related jobs to increase the number of skilled workers trained to work in energy and manufacturing-related fields, S. 1428, to amend the USEC Privatization Act to require the Secretary of Energy to issue a long-term Federal excess uranium inventory management plan, S. 1432, to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the technology, potential lifecycle energy savings, and economic impact of recycled carbon fiber, S. 1434, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish an energy storage portfolio standard, S. 1449, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to add certain medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles to the advanced technology vehicles manufacturing incentive program, and H.R. 35, to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

June 10, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 145, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown, S. 146, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units

of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, S. 319, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali, S. 329, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 403, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, S. 521, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, S. 610, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes, S. 782, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park, S. 873, to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area, and S. 1483, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: June 10, business meeting to consider S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States'', 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

June 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, and Thomas A. Burke, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, both of Maryland, all to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: June 10, business meeting to consider the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of the Treasury, and Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Foreign Relations: June 9, business meeting to consider S. 756, to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, an original bill entitled, ''Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016'', the nominations of Azita Raji, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Nancy Bikoff Pettit, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Gregory T. Delawie, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Ian C. Kelly, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to Georgia, Julieta Valls Noyes, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, and routine lists in the Foreign Service, all of the Department of State, and Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

June 10, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on verification and assessment, focusing on how to create a successful inspection regime, 5 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: June 10, to hold hearings to examine health information exchange, focusing on a path towards improving the quality and value of health care for patients, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: June 9, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration, focusing on firsthand and government watchdog accounts of agency challenges, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

June 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, and David S. Shapira, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2019, 9 a.m., SD–342.

June 10, Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine wasteful spending in the Federal government, focusing on an outside perspective, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

June 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine accounts of current and former federal agency whistleblowers, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: June 10, business meeting to consider S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine addressing the need for victim services in Indian County, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: June 10, to hold hearings to examine the Federal regulatory system to improve accountability, transparency and integrity, 10 a.m., SD–226.

June 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Luis Felipe Restrepo, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Travis Randall McDonough, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, 1:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: June 9, business meeting to consider the nominations of David J. Shulkin, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Health, and LaVerne Horton Council, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (Information and Technology), both of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, S–216, Capitol.

Select Committee on Intelligence: June 9, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

June 11, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: June 10, to hold hearings to examine the proliferation of unwanted calls, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: The Means to Climbing the Economic Ladder'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

June 11, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing entitled ''Implementing the Agricultural Act of 2014: Conservation Programs'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, June 10, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, markup on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2016, 10:15 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, markup on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, FY 2016, 9 a.m., 2358–B Rayburn.

June 11, Full Committee, markup on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for FY 2016, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, June 11, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled ''The Department of Defense Views on the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission's Recommendations for Military Health Care Reform'', 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, June 10, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Reviewing the Rules and Regulations Implementing Federal Wage and Hour Standards'', 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, June 11, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Oversight of FCC Field Offices'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining H.R. 1786, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

June 12, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''EPA's Proposed Ozone Rule'', 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 12, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Oversight Failures Behind the Radiological Incident at DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant'', 9:45 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, June 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Examining Legislative Proposals to Preserve Consumer Choice and Financial Independence'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, June 10, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Iran's Enduring Ballistic Missile Threat'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''Retreat or Revival: A Status Report on Democracy in Asia'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Goldman Act to Return Abducted American Children: Assessing the Compliance Report and Required Action'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, June 10, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''Defense Support of Civil Authorities: A Vital Resource in the Nation's Homeland Security Missions'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, June 10, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing on H.R. 487, to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; H.R. 2212, to take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2387, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 10, Full Committee, H.R. 387, the ''Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act''; H.R. 521, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; H.R. 1289, the ''John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act''; H.R. 1992, the ''American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act''; H.R. 2295, the ''National Energy Security Corridors Act''; H.R. 2358, the ''Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act''; and H.R. 2647, the ''Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015'', 4 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 11, Full Committee, H.R. 387, the ''Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act''; H.R. 521, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; H.R. 1289, the ''John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act''; H.R. 1992, the ''American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act''; H.R. 2295, the ''National Energy Security Corridors Act''; H.R. 2358, the ''Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act''; and H.R. 2647, the ''Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015'' (continued), 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, June 10, Subcommittee on the Interior, hearing entitled ''The Impact of Executive Order 13658 on Public Land Guides and Outfitters'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 10, Subcommittee on Information Technology; and Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing entitled ''The Federal Information Technology Reform Act's Role in Reducing IT Acquisition Risk'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules, hearing entitled ''Examining Fraud, Waste, and Abuse at the Export-Import Bank'', 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, June 10, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2596, the ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, June 11, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled ''Transforming America's Air Travel'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

June 12, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''U.S. Surface Transportation: Technology Driving the Future'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, June 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2499, ''Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2015''; H.R. 208, ''Superstorm Sandy Relief Act of 2015''; H.R. 1023, ''Small Business Investment Company Capital Act of 2015''; and H.R. 2670, ''Microloan Modernization Act of 2015'', 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade, hearing entitled ''Squeezed: Current Challenges for Small Citrus Operations'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, June 10, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''One Year Anniversary after Enactment: Implementation of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, June 10, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Prescription Mismanagement and the Risk of Veteran Suicide'', 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

June 11, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''Exploring VBA's Fiduciary Program'', 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 10, Full Committee, hearing on Obamacare implementation and the Department of Health and Human Services FY16 Budget request, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: June 10, to hold hearings to examine the escalating threat of ISIL in Central Asia, 2 p.m., 2175, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act, and vote on or in relation to Reed Amendment No. 1521 (to Amendment No. 1463) at 3 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Tuesday, June 9

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 2088—United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, 2) H.R. 2051—Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015, 3) H.R. 2394—National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015, 4) H.R. 235—Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, 5) H.R. 889—Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act, and 6) H. Res. 295—Supporting local law enforcement agencies in their continued work to serve our communities. Consideration of H.R. 2289—Commodity End-User Relief Act (Subject to a Rule). Continued consideration of H.R. 2577—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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