United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017 No. 79

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 8, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

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

Send Your spirit of peace, honesty, and fairness to all Members during this week of constituent visits. May their ears and hearts be open to listen to the hopes and needs of those whom they represent—those who voted for them and those who did not.

Bless the people of this great Nation with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that they might responsibly participate in our American democracy.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 299, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Thursday, May 4, 2017:

H.R. 244, making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill and joint resolution were signed by Speaker pro tempore COMSTOCK on Friday, May 5, 2017:

H.R. 534, to require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes;

H.J. Res. 66, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees.

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, May 5, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, 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 May 5, 2017, at 11:56 a.m.:

Appointment:

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Thursday, May 4, 2017:

H.R. 244. An act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mrs. COMSTOCK, on Thursday, May 4, 2017:

H.R. 534. An act to require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 66. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 4, 2017, she presented to the President of the United

Printed on recycled paper.

States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 244. Making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

HR. 274. To provide for reimbursement for the use of modern travel services by Federal employees traveling on official Government business, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on May 5, 2017, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 534. To require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 66. Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 299, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1279. A letter from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — United States Standards for Barley received May 5, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1280. A letter from the NIFA Director, Office of Grants and Financial Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs — General Award Administrative Provisions and Specific Administrative Provisions (RIN: 0524-AA69) received May 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1281. A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Office of Grants and Financial Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (RIN: 0524-AA39) received May 5, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1282. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting designation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding (including the rescission of funds) and contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, Sec. 6(b) (H. Doc. No. 115—37); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

1283. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting designating as emergency requirements all funding so designated by the Congress, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, Sec. 6(a) (H. Doc. No. 115—38); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

1284. A letter from the Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Office's 2016 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 14; Feb. 18, 1875, ch. 80, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 106-569, Sec. 1103(c)); (114 Stat. 3031); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1285. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Major final rule — Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock [Regulation I; Docket No.: R-1533] (RIN: 7100-AE 47) received May 5, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1286. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Correction [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0950; FRL-9959-68-Region 1] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1287. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; 2016 Nitrogen Oxides Averaging Plan Consent Agreement with Raven Power [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0562; FRL-9961-17-Region 3] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1288. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; New Regulations for Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0454; FRL-9961-25-Region 3] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1289. A letter from the Acting Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — The Establishment of Policies and Service Rules for the Broadcasting-Satellite Service at the 17.3-17.7 GHz Frequency Band and at the 17.7-17.8 GHz Frequency Band Internationally, and at the 24.75-25.25 GHz Frequency Band for Fixed Satellite Services Providing Feeder Links to the Broadcasting-Satellite Service and for the Satellite Services Operating Bi-directionally in the 17.3-17.8 GHz Frequency Band [IB Docket No.: 06-123] received May 4, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1290. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau/Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations [MB Docket No.: 12-106] received May 4, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1291. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Secretary's determination and certification that five countries are not cooperating fully with U.S. antiterrorism efforts: Eritrea, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Syria, and Venezuela, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2781(b); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 40A (as added Public Law 104-132, Sec. 330); (110 Stat. 1258); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1292. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1293. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1294. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1295. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the thirty-fifth quarterly report to Congress on Afghanistan Reconstruction, in accordance with Sec. 1229 of Public Law 110-181; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1296. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a federal nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1297. A letter from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting the Commission's Seventy-Sixth Financial Statement for the period of October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act Reporting Requirements and the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1298. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a federal nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1299. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's FY 2016 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1300. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Potomac Electric Power Company, transmitting the Balance Sheet of Potomac Electric Power Company as of December 31, 2016, pursuant to D.C. Code Ann. Sec. 34-1113 (2001); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1301. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 along with a separate Management Report containing certain required information; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1302. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock [Regulation I; Docket No.: R-1560] (RIN: 7100-AE 68) received May 5, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1303. 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-2015-7526; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-217-AD; Amendment 39-18852; AD 2017-08-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1304. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Aspen, CO; and Pueblo, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0054; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-2] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1305. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Elmira, NY [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8128; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AEA-14] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1306. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Atlantic City, NJ [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9344; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AEA-7] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1307. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E En Route Airspace; Paso Robles, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9295; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AWP-16] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1308. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Kill Devil Hills, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9266; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-5] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1309. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace, Denver, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9286; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ANM-13] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1310. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment, Modification and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Western United States [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9264; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AWP-1] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1311. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Restricted Area R-2507W; Chocolate Mountains, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2193; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AWP-8] received May 3, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1312. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-4102A and R-4102B; Fort Devens, MA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0307; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANE-1] received May 4, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1313. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a report entitled ''Department of Energy Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Fiscal Year 2016'', pursuant to Sec. 316(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Armed Services.

1314. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification to Congress under Sec. 609(b) of Public Law 101-162 Regarding the Incidental Capture of Sea Turtles in Commercial Shrimping Operations; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Appropriations.

1315. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Second Quarter of FY 2017 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 report, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4332(b)(2); Public Law 103-353, Sec. 2(a) (as added by Public Law 110-389, Sec. 312(c)); (122 Stat. 4165); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

1316. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a letter opposing the inclusion of language in any appropriations legislation that would prohibit the use of Department of Justice funds or in any way inhibit its authority to enforce the Controlled Substances Act; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Energy and Commerce.

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:

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1039. A bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties (Rept. 115–112). 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. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. MACARTHUR):

H.R. 2399. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2400. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow individuals who are not Federal employees to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 2401. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. COMER):

H.R. 2402. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, to substitute certain land selections of the Navajo Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. EMMER, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HECK, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. MESSER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. HILL, and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 2403. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that the reciprocal deposits of an insured depository institution are not considered to be funds obtained by or through a deposit broker, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 2404. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the treatment of the United States territories under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. PETERSON):

H. Res. 318. A resolution promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling and encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

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

35. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, encouraging the United States to appropriate funds from the Nuclear Waste Fund for the establishment of a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste or reimburse electric utility customers that paid into the fund; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

36. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8, urging the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent solution for handling high-level nuclear waste; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

37. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, urging the President and Congress of the United States to explore and support policies that will lead to the establishment of facilities within the United States for the reprocessing and recycling of spent nuclear fuel; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

38. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 50, urging the Congress of the United States to eliminate the ''Widows' Tax'' on the surviving spouses of retired U.S. military service members; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

39. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of North Dakota, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3037, requesting the Congress and the President of the United States enact legislation to expand and extend the current federal tax credit for carbon capture, utilization, and storage under Section 45Q of the Internal Revenue Code; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, and Energy and Commerce.

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. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 2399.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of, and the Sixteenth Amendment to, the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2400.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 2401.

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

Article One, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, ''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 2402.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 2403.

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

Art. I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2404.

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

Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 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. 60: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 140: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 332: Mr. COOPER and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 367: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 390: Mr. DONOVAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 426: Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 489: Mr. SOTO and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 490: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 632: Mr. KIHUEN.

H.R. 709: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 771: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 785: Mr. BRAT and Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 901: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 931: Mr. SOTO and Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 997: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1017: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1034: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1141: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1164: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1379: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1380: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1467: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1550: Mr. POLIS, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 1554: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.

H.R. 1616: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1730: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1739: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1744: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 1885: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1911: Mr. DONOVAN and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 1924: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1926: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1928: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 2000: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2001: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2052: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2060: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2092: Ms. MOORE, Mr. MARSHALL, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2158: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2186: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 2211: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2289: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2340: Mr. STEWART and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 2351: Mr. KIHUEN.

H.R. 2353: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 2378: Mr. WELCH and Mr. KILMER.

H.J. Res. 31: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.J. Res. 98: Mr. BABIN.

H. Con. Res. 41: Mr. RUSSELL.

H. Res. 250: Ms. BASS.

H. Res. 279: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. MOULTON.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017 No. 79

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TODD YOUNG, a Senator from the State of Indiana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, from the rising of the Sun to the coming of the evening, we lift Your Name in grateful praise.

Surround our lawmakers with the power of Your presence, sustaining them in their challenging world. Lord, strengthen them to do what is right so that our Nation will be exalted by Your love. Empower them to treat one another with respect and honor. Teach them to hate what is evil and to cling to what is good. Remind them of how fleeting are the days of their lives as You give them the wisdom to prepare for eternity.

Eternal Father, we exalt You and praise Your Name, for in perfect faithfulness You continue to expose us to the unfolding of Your loving providence.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TODD YOUNG, a Senator from the State of Indiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Heather Wilson, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 4 hours of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

Who yields time?

If no one yields time, time will be charged equally to both sides.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will move to confirm Heather Wilson as Secretary of the Air Force. Wilson is a Rhodes Scholar, Air Force Academy graduate—part of the third class ever to admit women, by the way—and a dedicated public servant who served several terms in the U.S. House.

I am sure she will work hard in this new role to strengthen the branch of the military she cares so much about. I look forward to approving her nomination on a bipartisan basis later this afternoon.

After that, we will take a cloture vote on the Gottlieb nomination to head the FDA, which I will come to in a moment. I hope to see robust support for his nomination as well.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Mr. President, I would like to recognize two important votes that occurred last Thursday. First, let me commend the House for voting to move beyond the pain of ObamaCare. For years, the American people have suffered under this failed law. They watched their premiums soar. They watched their choices dwindle.

Now they are watching as ObamaCare collapses all around them. More than half of our States have counties with only a single insurance option on the exchanges, and a growing number could have no options at all—like, as we saw reported just last week, in nearly every single county in Iowa. That means thousands more Americans could be left trapped, forced by law to purchase ObamaCare insurance but left without the means to do so. Does that sound like a law that is working to anyone?

To those who would try to defend an indefensible status quo, I ask you to consider what Speaker RYAN said last week:

[T]here is a fundamental and urgent choice at the heart of this debate. We can continue with the status quo under ObamaCare, and we know what that looks like. It means even higher premiums, even fewer choices, even more insurance companies pulling out, even more uncertainty, and even more chaos.

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

Printed on recycled paper.

To those who suffered enough already, my message is this: We hear you. Congress is acting.

I commend the House and the administration for making this important advance last week. Now the Senate will do its work. The administration will also continue doing its part to deliver relief and stabilize the healthcare markets as best it can. This process will not be quick or simple or easy, but it must be done. It is the least Members of both parties owe to the countless of Americans who continue to suffer under Obamacare, and the countless more who will be hurt if we don't act.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION

Mr. President, second, let me commend the Senate for voting last Thursday to pass the funding bill. I mentioned last week some of the many important provisions it contained, all of which the President has now signed into law. The largest border-security funding increase in a decade—now law. The critically needed down payment on restoring our military readiness—now law.

The bill also kept in place an important free speech protection. Yet Democrats are now trying to pressure and intimidate the SEC into ignoring something we just passed on a bipartisan basis. For years, Democrats have pressured the SEC rulemaking process to curb and regulate political speech, despite agreement in our funding bills to prevent the Commission from doing just that.

This is not a new page in their playbook. When we first passed this crucial protection in 2015, Democrats appealed to the SEC to actually ignore the law. This time, however, they have gone in an even more extreme direction. Now the Democrats no longer have the administration to stifle speech through the SEC, the IRS, or HHS. They are trying to intimidate private citizens and public companies by telling those citizens and companies what is in their ''best interest.'' This kind of bullying behavior is part of a broader pattern we have seen repeated by the left time and again in similar circumstances—suppression of the viewpoints with which they disagree and forcing Americans into a choice: Tell us your political ideology or be silent.

I have called the left out for intimidation tactics and speech suppression efforts before. I am warning them again today, and I will continue to stay vigilant and defend the First Amendment moving forward.

For now, I would like to highlight a couple of other important provisions in the funding bill that are now law. One is the miners' health provision I was proud to secure, a critical lifeline that will permanently protect healthcare benefits for thousands of retired coal miners in States like Kentucky.

Another is the provision of significant new resources that can be used to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis. It is the latest of many significant steps we have taken to tackle this terrible epidemic.

Today, we can take another step forward by advancing the nomination of Scott Gottlieb to head the FDA. I will have more to say on Dr. Gottlieb later, but for now, I will note that he is incredibly qualified for this position, and I am sure he will be an ally for States that continue to struggle with the opioid crisis because the FDA has a critical role to play.

Let's be clear, there is a lot more to be done. States like Kentucky have been hit hard by this crisis, especially our rural communities. In fact, there are a lot of struggles that are particularly pressing in rural America, and several provisions in the government funding bill that can help—provisions to, for instance, advance broadband development, promote safe and clean drinking water, and to help reclaim and develop abandoned mine sites in coal country, among other priorities. Those are just a few of the things that can help rural communities.

There are other actions we can take as well. One is of particular importance to our colleagues from Alaska, Senators MURKOWSKI and SULLIVAN. Majority Whip CORNYN and I have been consulting with them about the Secure Rural Schools Program, which helps rural counties and schools whose economies have been hit hard by steeply declining timber revenues from our public lands. Senators HATCH and WYDEN introduced a bill to reauthorize the program just last week, and it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where Senator MURKOWSKI is the chair. This bill is important to Kentucky, as well. I look forward to working with Chairman MURKOWSKI, Senator SULLIVAN, and all the bill's advocates to find a path forward for it this year.

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

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

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first I want to thank the majority leader for speaking about the agreement that the House and Senate came to on the appropriations bills, the spending bills. We may not agree on emphasis and what the most important things are, but we certainly agree that it was a good effort that moved things forward, and I was proud to be part of it.

KENTUCKY DERBY

Mr. President, I note another thing that might tie the majority leader and the minority leader together—pride in Saturday's Kentucky Derby. The majority leader is very proud of the Kentucky Derby. It is one of the leading events in his State. I know he attends religiously.

I am particularly proud because the horse that won was owned and trained and guided by two Brooklynites. I salute them for their success. Vinnie Viola, one of the two, is a close friend of mine. I have known him for a long time, and I know him well. As many of you know, he was being considered for Secretary of the Army. He would have been a good one. He withdrew because of the financial issues that he was too involved in with companies he owned, but he is a good man. He comes from St. Cecilia's Parish on the Greenpoint-Williamsburg border of Brooklyn. We are all proud and hope that his horse goes all the way. Maybe I can be at Belmont and see him win the Triple Crown. Anyway, that is a nice link between the majority leader and the minority leader.

FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. President, yesterday, the people of France took part in a time-honored tradition of a democratic people: the election of a new President. We here in the Senate congratulate Emmanuel Macron on his win and look forward to the continuing deep and longstanding friendship between our two countries.

Unfortunately, the elections in France were victim to a malicious attempt to distort the results through a coordinated cyber attack on one of the candidates, much as Hillary Clinton's campaign was targeted in our elections. In the waning days of the French election, according to reports, Macron's emails were hacked and leaked to the public, potentially with some altered information included, by agents believed to originate in Russia. The hack was then promoted and spread by far-right activists around the globe, some of whom reside here in the United States. It was deja vu all over again. Russia elevated old school propaganda tactics and techniques using new school methods, spreading misinformation with an army of paid ''trolls'' and computer bots, aided and abetted by far-right activists here in the United States.

It seems that Putin and the international far right have formed an unholy alliance. The goal of this alliance is not necessarily to promote one candidate over another, one party over another, though that is part of it. Their true goal is to destabilize and subvert democratic societies, to cast doubt on the outcome of free and fair elections, to hobble democratically elected leaders before they even take office, and to degrade the alliances and international regimes that have created so much stability, strength, and shared prosperity in the post-World War II era.

Despite Macron's win yesterday, we would be foolish to think that this unholy alliance will not use the same tactics again in upcoming European elections and, even more important to those of us in this country, in upcoming American elections.

Make no mistake about it—Mr. Putin has no loyalty to any one person or President. Whatever is good for Russia at the moment, whatever hurts the United States the most, that is what he will pursue. This is an issue that should provoke grave concern in both parties. He may favor one party one day and another party the next. It should compel us, together—Democrats and Republicans—to take action against this new threat.

This afternoon, the Judiciary Committee will hear from former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. Later this week, the Intelligence Committee will hold its annual worldwide threats hearing. I sincerely hope these two committees will cover these issues in their hearings and beyond.

We should begin an extended bipartisan discussion about how to combat foreign information operations campaigns and safeguard the integrity of democratic elections all over the world and, most importantly, in our own country. It is no less serious than this: The integrity of our democracy, which has thrived, blessedly, for over 240 years could well be at stake.

TRUMPCARE

Now, Mr. President, on healthcare, last week House Republicans passed the latest version of TrumpCare after a failed attempt earlier this year. When they see this version, the majority of Americans will think it is even worse than the first version.

This partisan bill will dramatically increase the cost of health insurance for those who need it most, including older Americans, and lower the quality of coverage.

TrumpCare would mean 24 million fewer Americans will be without health insurance.

It would hike premiums by 20 percent in the first few years, and average costs for the middle class could go up by more than $1,500 a year. Middle-class people can't afford that kind of money. If you are struggling to make it into the middle class, TrumpCare could raise your costs by up to $4,000, putting you in an even worse pickle.

It makes it possible for insurers to charge older Americans as much as five times the amount they charge younger people, and States could make this ratio even greater if they wanted. Under the first TrumpCare bill, someone making about $20,000 could have his or her—someone who is 63 years old—premiums go up from something like $1,500 or $2,000 all the way to over $10,000 a year. This will be devastating for senior citizens, those 50 to 65. At 65, they get Medicare. They are in decent shape. But when they are older and not under Medicare, they could get clobbered by this bill after working so hard. And that is the time when you start getting susceptible to so many serious illnesses.

TrumpCare would devastate our rural areas by decimating Medicaid, which rural areas rely on. Limiting subsidies to lower income Americans, many of whom live in rural areas, TrumpCare would put insurance for rural Americans even further out of reach.

Many rural hospitals are the largest employers in their areas. We have many in New York State, in Upstate New York. They would be shortchanged by this bill. These hospitals—often the largest employers in our rural counties and the only providers of healthcare for scores and sometimes hundreds of miles around—might be forced to lay off thousands of workers. Many of these rural hospital leaders say that if TrumpCare passed, they would have to close. There would be hundreds out of work in an area where it is not easy to find work, and for those who don't work in the hospitals, it would be harder to get to the hospitals. We all know how important it is to get there quickly when, God forbid, a stroke or some other serious illness occurs.

Maybe most troubling of all, TrumpCare would now eliminate crucial consumer protections in our healthcare system, including the ones that protect Americans with preexisting conditions. Every family in this country knows someone who has a preexisting condition. That sounds like a fancy word. What does it mean? Diabetes, chronic asthma, cancer, things like that. If you live in a State that opts out of this requirement, you will have to jump through so many hoops to maintain access to care, and even then it likely won't be affordable. It is unimaginable. You are a parent. Let's say you are 40 years old, husband and wife, and your child gets cancer. You can't get the coverage that under present law the insurance company has to give you or keep with you, and you watch your child suffer. That is inhumane.

How, for ideological purposes, the folks in the House could have first eliminated it and now made it almost unattainable for so many millions of Americans—unfathomable. We fixed the problem in our healthcare system because we had heard so many horrible stories. The Republican bill brings it back from the dead.

The way the House bill was put together in such a secretive and slapdash way, it is barely legislation. It well could be a menace to millions of American families. It means that the Senate should not even come close to passing a bill like this. It makes healthcare for working families, rural Americans, older Americans, and veterans much poorer and at the same time gives massive tax breaks to the wealthy. Some say that is the motivation of some in the House. To pay for these tax breaks for people making over $250,000 a year—and they get a big break—cut back healthcare on everybody else or on so many others. That is wrong. That is wrong.

It does, frankly, exactly the opposite of everything President Trump promised he would do on healthcare. He said: Lower costs, better care, insuring everyone. His words. President Trump said he would not cut Medicare or Medicaid. His bill does both. TrumpCare is a giant broken promise for the working people, the hard-working people of this great country of ours.

House Republicans rushed it through without hearings and without much debate or even a final CBO score. The final version was posted 8 hours before Members had to vote on it. Some of the very same Republicans who during the ObamaCare debate chanted ''Read the bill'' didn't even look at the final legislation, let alone study it. That is a breathtakingly irresponsible thing to do on a bill that will affect almost one-fifth of our economy and the healthcare of millions of Americans. I am not surprised our Republican colleagues wanted to rush it through. The more the American people see it, the less they will like it, just like with their first bill, which is why the first bill didn't pass and why the second one is in so much trouble here in the Senate.

To borrow Speaker RYAN's catchphrase, there is a better way to reform our healthcare system. Instead of a partisan process, rushing through bills in the dead of night—no hearings, no debate, no score, no input from the other party—both parties could start working together on improving our healthcare system.

Now that the bill is in the Senate's hands, we hope the Republican majority will pursue a bipartisan approach. If they drop their repeal efforts, which are already causing such uncertainty that insurers are pledging to hike rates on Americans next year, we Democrats are willing to work with our Republican colleagues to improve our healthcare system.

In the last few years, we have made a good deal of progress. We have made major improvements in our healthcare system, expanding coverage for over 20 million Americans, bending the cost curve, and protecting folks with preexisting conditions. Why don't we keep all the good things we have in the system and work on making it even better in a bipartisan way? We want to improve quality, lower costs, reduce the price of prescription drugs, and expand coverage for all Americans. Unfortunately, the House bill does exactly the opposite.

I hope my Republican friends toss this House bill out the window and resist the temptation to follow the same partisan, rushed process. I hope my friends on the other side of aisle drop repeal, which is hurting our healthcare system right now—just the threat of it—and start working with Democrats to make our healthcare better.

PARIS AGREEMENT

Finally, Mr. President, a word on the Paris climate agreement. Reports have indicated that the Trump administration is leaning toward withdrawing the United States from the Paris climate agreement. This would be a historic misstep that would massively disadvantage both American businesses

and diplomats. It would damage our standing on the world stage and allow China to take the high moral ground and the economic upper hand in combatting climate change. Most importantly, a great step forward made by President Obama to get the entire world community to work in a coordinated and concerted effort to reduce carbon pollution so that the United States does not have to bear the burden and so that China would do much more than it has done—all that would be undone in one fell swoop.

Europe and other countries have warned the Trump administration that abandoning the Paris Agreement could lead to carbon tariffs on U.S. goods, stymying access to global markets for our companies and undercutting our trade position. That is why hundreds of American companies, including 28 Fortune 100 CEOs representing 9 million jobs, support the climate agreement.

There is a giant difference between putting America first and making America an international pariah. The latter approach only undermines our power and erodes our standing in the world. Right now, there are only two countries in the world that are not parties to the Paris Agreement—Syria and Nicaragua, the latter of which objects because they feel the agreement is not strong enough.

Climate change is real. It is driven by human activity. It is happening right now. These are facts. They are not in dispute. Our scientists know it, our businesses know it, the world knows it, and the American people who have experienced such changes in weather and climate know it too. The United States needs to have a seat at the table as the world works together to solve this existential challenge.

I strongly encourage the administration to rethink its position and remain in the agreement.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE BILL

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to talk as well about the Republican healthcare plan and point out why it is moving on very treacherous territory when it will affect the funding of Medicaid by lessening the amount of Medicaid money that will be spent in the States, because so much of that Medicaid money is going to address the opioid crisis.

The opioid crisis, we found last year—you know, there was a lot of talk about it being in New Hampshire when the eyes of America were on New Hampshire in the New Hampshire primary. But the fact is, it is in every State now. It is particularly so in my State of Florida. There are something like 2,600 deaths that have occurred in Florida as a result of opioid overdoses. So the seriousness with which we are addressing this issue ought to be of extreme concern, and we ought to be doing something about it. Yet a bill just passed by the House of Representatives is doing exactly the opposite. It is going to cut Medicaid. It is a fancy term, cutting Medicaid with a block grant. What it means is that it is going to be capped. That means a State is not going to get any more Medicaid once that cap has been hit, unless the State responds. So, in essence, it is going to cost the States more money. I don't think you will find many States that are in such a fiscal condition that, in fact, they could do that.

So what are we doing? We are harming poor people and the disabled who get their healthcare from Medicare and Medicaid. In fact, we are not only harming all of them, but addressing the opioid crisis will be particularly hurt.

What I want to talk about today is the Republican healthcare plan that passed out of the House last week. This plan is going to increase costs for older Americans. Remember, it is going to go on a ratio. Instead of 1 to 3, or older Americans being charged three times as much in health insurance as younger Americans, it is going to go up to a ratio of at least 1 to 5, and maybe more. So it is going to increase costs for older Americans. It is going to cut Medicaid, and it is going to take healthcare coverage away from tens of millions of people.

Right now as a result of the ACA, there are 24 million people who have health insurance coverage who did not have it before this law was passed in 2010. It is going to reverse that. Do we want to take away healthcare from people who can now have healthcare through Medicaid and/or health insurance because they can now afford health insurance? Is that really a goal the United States wants to do—to take away healthcare through private health insurance? I don't think that is what we want to do, but that is what the House of Representatives' Republican healthcare bill has done.

If we just look at my State of Florida, there are almost 8 million people who have a so-called preexisting condition. This includes something as common as asthma. That is a preexisting condition. As a former elected insurance commissioner of Florida, I can tell you that some insurance companies would use as an excuse as a preexisting condition something as simple as a rash and say: Because you have a preexisting condition, we are not going to insure you. Under the existing law, the Affordable Care Act, an insurance company cannot deny you with a preexisting condition. Just in my State alone, there are almost 8 million people who have a preexisting condition. Are we going to turn them out on the streets because their insurance company says they are not going to carry them anymore? I don't think that is what we want to do.

The bill allows insurers to charge older Americans at least five times more than what they charge younger adults. Is that what we want to do?

What is the principle of insurance? The principle of insurance is that you spread the risk. You get as many people in the pool as you can—young, old, sick, healthy—and you spread that risk.

If you get fire insurance on your home, you are paying a premium every month and the insurance company has calculated in an actuarial calculation what it is going to cost you to insure, and you are part of hundreds of thousands of people in that pool who are also insuring against fire damaging their house. It is the same principle with health insurance. So you get young and old, sick and well, and some people with preexisting conditions, and you spread that risk over a lot of people. One of the fallacies we hear is that we can create this by creating a high-risk pool. In other words, we are going to set up some money for people who have really sick conditions, and we are going to take care of them. That is the most inefficient way to do it because insurance is about spreading risk, not concentrating risk, which is what a high-risk pool exactly is. So the House of Representatives, which has concocted this thing called the Republican healthcare plan, has come up with exactly the opposite idea of funding—instead of spreading the risk, concentrating the risk, and then saying that they are going out and getting $8 billion and that is going to pay for it. It is not even going to touch it. It is the most inefficient way to approach the subject of spreading risk, because they don't spread the risk. They concentrate the risk.

What this bill does is that over 10 years it cuts over $800 billion out of Medicaid. You start doing that, and you are going to lose what we know of as Medicaid, a healthcare program primarily for the poor and the disabled.

By the way, isn't it interesting that they cut over $800 billion and save it out of Medicaid, and what did they do in the same bill? They give upwards of $600 billion in tax breaks to those who are at the highest income levels. Let me get this right. It is kind of a reversed Robin Hood. I am going to take from the poor by cutting $800 billion, and I am going to give to the rich by tax breaks for the highest income folks. Is that what we want to do? I don't think so.

Medicaid is a program that guarantees healthcare for millions of Americans, including children, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and seniors on long-term care. Think about that. What am I talking about? It is seniors in long-term care, seniors in nursing homes, who don't have enough resources or enough assets in order to pay for their care in their twilight years. Therefore, they are being paid by Medicaid, and that is the only source of income to take care of them. Is that what we want to cut in order to give a tax break for the highest income group? It ought to be the reverse. That is upside-down thinking.

Last week the Florida Medical Examiners Commission released new data

showing that over 2,600 Floridians have died from opioids in just the first half of 2016 alone. Over the entire year before, 2015, fentanyl, an opioid, killed 705 Floridians. Just in the first half of 2016, almost the exact same number, 704, died. We have a problem in the State of Florida, and there are a lot of other States that have the same.

Last month I went to a research institute down in Palm Beach County. They are using NIH grant money to research new nonaddictive opioid drugs. If they can come up with this, that is certainly all for the better to help people with pain and so that they are not being given an addictive drug. But we are not there yet, and we are using NIH money that is going into that research.

Last month I sent a letter to the Republican leadership pushing for more funding for the opioid fight and for the National Institutes of Health, or NIH.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have that letter printed in the RECORD.

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

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2017.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL AND SPEAKER RYAN: As negotiations over the latest stopgap government funding measure continue, we urge you to focus on securing substantial funding in the appropriations legislation currently being negotiated for two of our most essential national priorities: fighting the opioid epidemic and investing in our nation's biomedical research programs.

Every day, 91 Americans die from an opioid overdose, and despite the tireless work of many in our communities, this public health epidemic is only getting worse. Currently, only 10 percent of individuals who need specialty treatment for substance use disorder actually get it—not because we don't know how to help, but in large part because there aren't enough funds to provide these services. We need substantial additional resources to fight this epidemic and fund prevention, treatment, and recovery activities.

It is also essential that we increase our investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), our nation's premier research institution. NIH funding supports innovative, cutting-edge research that plays a critical role in the development of lifesaving cures for diseases. Our ability to fight Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and many other diseases depends on our willingness to invest in science. While investments in the NIH have consistently produced tremendous value, funding for the NIH has failed to keep pace with inflation over the last several decades.

It is essential to provide new funding to fight the opioid epidemic and support biomedical research at the NIH. This new funding should not fill in for cuts made elsewhere to opioid and NIH funding. It is also essential that opioid funding be distributed to the communities that need it must and that have been hardest hit by this terrible public health epidemic.

While past Congresses have made promises about providing states with additional funding to address the ongoing opioid crisis, appropriations legislation like the pending budget deal is where the bill comes due. Americans are counting on Congress to live up to its commitments by supporting funding for the priorities that matter most in their lives. Funding to fight the opioid epidemic and support research into lifesaving cures through the NIH rank at the top of this list, and we urge you to include substantial additional funding for these areas in the appropriations legislation now being negotiated.

Sincerely,

Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Bill Nelson, Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Senator Tom Udall, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Senator Al Franken, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Edward J. Markey, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Senator Margaret Wood Hassan, Senator Christopher Murphy, Senator Joe Manchin III, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Cory A. Booker, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Senator Bernard Sanders.

Mr. NELSON. So what we need to do is to take a comprehensive approach to helping our State and local governments respond to this opioid epidemic.

I was very happy to be an early part of putting together and sponsoring a bill called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 and of the funding included in the 21st Century Cures Act to start putting more resources into our States right away for this opioid epidemic. Those laws have resulted in Florida's receiving more than $27 million to help our State respond to the opioid crisis. Yet a lot more action is needed, as you can see by just the first half of last year alone, with 704 people dying from opioid overdoses.

Last week, in Florida a local paper reported about how the opioid epidemic is affecting our Nation's children. In 2015 alone, 167 babies were born in opioid dependency in just one city—Jacksonville—contributing to Duval County's being tapped as having the second highest number of babies born addicted to opioids in the State. Isn't that sad that children come into this world and they are already addicted?

We are dealing with people's lives here. We are dealing with their health. The last thing in the world we ought to be doing is cutting the resources of funding to help people who are in such dire straits. I would urge our colleagues to think twice about supporting this disastrous Republican healthcare bill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PARIS AGREEMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on December 19, 2015, in Paris, France, diplomats representing more than 190 countries finalized the world's most ambitious, comprehensive, and achievable multilateral agreement to combat climate change at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of Parties, or COP21.

I led a delegation of 10 Senators to COP21 to bolster U.S. leadership and to provide confidence in the U.S. commitment to the global effort to fight the existential threat of climate change. The result was an agreement that has nearly universal support, with every party committed to reducing carbon emissions. The momentum coming out of COP21 felt unstoppable.

That momentum continued through 2016. On Earth Day, an impressive 175 nations signed the Paris Agreement. Six months later, and in less than a year's time, the Paris Agreement reached the threshold for entry into force. Up until recently, the United States has led this global effort. The strength of our commitment and diplomacy spurred global enthusiasm for the Paris Agreement.

Some have said that we are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it. Climate change impacts are apparent in my home State of Maryland. Recently, Annapolis began experiencing routine tidal flooding. Today's generations of Smith Islanders may be the last as a rising Chesapeake Bay encroaches further ashore each year.

Around the world, climate change is expanding the range and duration of regional wildfire seasons, prolonging extreme droughts in the Middle East and Southern Africa, which I have witnessed firsthand, and has caused Bolivia's Lake Poopo to evaporate entirely, and entire island nations are being swallowed up by the South Pacific.

The good news is, acting to prevent the worst effects of climate change holds tremendous economic and job growth opportunities for our Nation. The world looks toward the United States for leadership, not just in terms of domestic emissions reductions but also in our private sector and academia for clean energy solutions to power the world. Maryland is positioned to be at the forefront of U.S. leadership in technology innovation.

For example, the University of Maryland, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and a number of Maryland private sector companies like Redox Energy, are leading the way in developing commercial-scale, in-demand technology that the global energy market is demanding.

In 2015, global investment in renewable energy was nearly $350 billion, which was more than the global investment in fossil fuel energy. The Department of Energy's 2017 U.S. Energy and Employment Report showed that nearly 1 million Americans work in the energy efficiency, solar, wind, and alternative vehicles sectors. This is almost five times the current employment in

the U.S. fossil fuel electric industry, which includes coal, gas, and oil workers. Even though gas and oil have hit record-low prices on the global market, current and projected price per watt for renewables is also low, making clean energy remarkably affordable and competitive in the market.

The United States stands at the crossroads of global clean energy and climate change leadership, and the policy path we take on these issues could not only shape the strength of our economic future but our overall standing in the world. Forward thinking domestic climate change and clean energy policy, including substantial investments in clean energy R&D and clean energy production incentives, have made the United States an incubator for clean energy investment and entrepreneurship.

We see these things in every State of the Nation—new innovators and investors in the clean energy sector.

Creating a robust domestic market helps U.S. companies develop tested records of accomplishment, skilled workforces, and scalable products to export around the world to a global energy market that is hungry for clean energy solutions. This is where domestic policy intersects with U.S. climate diplomacy, which is priming that export market by building good will and faith in U.S. capacity and commitment.

The United States must not squander the considerable time and effort it took to build the world's confidence in the United States when combating climate change.

The rejection of the Kyoto Protocol by the United States severely strained a wide range of diplomacy issues for the Bush administration. That is not just a Senator saying this. Let me quote Secretary of State Colin Powell, when he stated:

> Kyoto—this is not talking out of school—was not handled as well as it should have been, and when the blowback came I think it was a sobering experience that everything the American president does has international repercussions.

That was General Powell warning us about the importance of international diplomacy and that our actions have consequences.

Hindsight on the impact U.S. participation in Kyoto would have had on the protocol's success and on the U.S. economy is another debate entirely—and we will leave that for a different day—but a clear lesson from the episode is that the United States must not underestimate how seriously the world takes the issue of international cooperation to combat climate change.

Should the Trump administration withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, it will be an incredible insult to our global partners and severely tarnish the trust nations have in the United States. That distrust will bleed over into all areas of U.S. diplomacy and cooperation.

While the Paris Agreement does not have enforceable, binding provisions that would punish parties for missing self-determined mitigation targets, nothing precludes other countries from acting outside the confines of the agreement to create uncomfortable conditions for nonmembers. It is worth noting here that if we were to pull out, we would be in a club with Syria and Nicaragua.

For example, in November of last year, immediately after the election and during COP22, the New York Times reported that leaders from other countries—so deeply offended by the President-elect's ill-informed rhetoric on climate change and the Paris Agreement—were contemplating implementing border tariffs on goods imported from nations failing to account for carbon emissions.

Staying in the agreement and continuing to advocate for what is in the best interests of the United States could prevent countries from taking such actions.

Many critics of the Paris Agreement sound as though they are stuck in 1997, echoing concerns about the 20-year-old Kyoto Protocol that are simply untrue about the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement takes a different approach to international climate change cooperation by creating an action model that allows for ambitious action and accountability through peer review.

The agreement takes a radically different approach to pollution mitigation that incorporates many conservative principles our Republican colleagues routinely espouse: increased transparency and universal reporting requirements for all parties. All parties, both developing and developed nations, commit to reducing greenhouse gas pollution. All parties determine their own greenhouse gas pollution mitigation commitments. Nationally determined commitments are nonbinding.

Let me repeat that. The nationally determined commitments are nonbinding. It is up to us, our country, to determine how we will meet our targets and when we will meet our targets, and the enforcement is solely within our own means. No international group can enforce any of these commitments on us. That was at the request of many Members of this body, and that was followed in the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement was forged by the lessons the United States learned from the Kyoto Protocol process. Each addressed commonly criticized elements of the Kyoto Protocol.

I cannot stress enough how seriously committed leaders around the world are to the success of the Paris Agreement. For example, it is the top agenda item for both the upcoming G7 and G20 meetings. As such, we absolutely cannot underestimate how thoroughly insulted our friends and allies around the world will be if the United States retreats from the agreement.

Make no mistake, callously disregarding cooperation and partnership with the global community on a crisis that is literally threatening the very physical existence of countries will have consequences for our foreign policy, diplomacy, national security, and U.S. economic opportunity in an undeniably globalized economy. Retreating from the Paris Agreement puts America alone, not America first, and being alone is tantamount to being last.

The expectation among our partners to the Paris Agreement is that the United States will remain engaged, although a common refrain among foreign delegations is that the world is moving ahead regardless. I take that to mean that if U.S. leadership falters, other countries will jump at the opportunity and fill the void we create and receive the gains which should have been ours.

U.S. energy policy should support the goals of the Paris Agreement. We have already seen hundreds of American corporations make commitments in the agreement's name. There is infinite potential from enhanced U.S. production of scalable and exportable clean energy technology that the world is demanding to power our collective future. If we do the opposite and retreat from the global effort to combat climate change, then we can expect to lose out on this economic growth potential because countries like Germany, China, and India will gladly take our place as the world's leader for clean energy innovation and finance. I will do what I can to protect against this loss.

It is in our national security interests for the United States to remain actively engaged with the world community to fight climate change.

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

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, in December of 2015, nearly 200 nations gathered in Paris in order to reach an agreement that each country would make a commitment to the reduction of dangerous greenhouse gases that were warming the planet and causing more and more havoc across this entire world.

That agreement is something that was hard-won. It took the leadership of the United States because so much of the CO_2 that had been sent up into the atmosphere since the dawn of the industrial age was red, white, and blue. It called upon each nation to make a commitment, and they did. The countries making commitments equaled 80 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emitters.

The Trump administration has many advisers telling the President that he should pull out of this Paris Agreement, that he should cede leadership to

the Germans, to the Chinese, and to other nations rather than having the United States continue to be the leader. That would be very dangerous for our country because we would be ceding leadership in this clean energy revolution to other countries around the planet.

There are still many who do not understand the role this clean energy revolution is already playing inside our country. In 2016, we deployed nearly 24,000 new megawatts of wind and solar on our planet. To put it another way, in 2005, the total amount of solar energy that was deployed in the United States was 79 megawatts—79. In 2016, we deployed 14,000 megawatts of new solar power.

Wind—last year, we deployed another 8,000 megawatts in our country. We are heading toward a point where we have an incredible number of people who are working in these industries. Remember, there are no more than 65 to 75,000 people who are still working as coal miners in the United States. In Massachusetts alone, we now have more than 100,000 people who work in the clean energy sector. In wind and solar alone in our country right now, we have 360,000 people who work in those sectors.

By the year 2020, if we just continue at the pace at which we have been moving over the last several years, there will be 600,000 people working in the wind and solar sector. That is the future. That is where we should be going. Those are the goals we should be trying to reach.

Instead, what President Trump is saying is that the United States is a technological weakling, that the United States cannot do it, that the United States can't find the capacity to be able to meet this challenge, that we have to give up.

The President says he is going to revive the coal industry, a 19th century industry, instead of trying to have the United States be the leader in this world on the production of clean energy technologies.

Last night, I was at the Kennedy Library, and we were celebrating the 100th birthday of President John F. Kennedy. On that occasion last evening, the library presented to Barack Obama his Profile in Courage Award. Amongst other things that were cited was his commitment to dealing with this challenge of climate change that is affecting our planet and the role that the United States can and should play in the solving of that problem.

President Obama promulgated last year a Clean Power Plan. That Clean Power Plan was intended to reduce greenhouse gases in the utilities sector by 32 percent by the year 2030. President Trump has already said: We can't accomplish that. We can't figure that out. We don't know how to reduce those greenhouse gases.

In 1961, President Kennedy said that we were going to put a man on the Moon in 8 years and return those pilots back to Earth safely. We had to invent new metals. We had to invent new propulsion systems. President Kennedy said that we were not going to do it because it was easy but because it was hard.

We were threatened by the Soviet Union for supremacy in outer space. President Kennedy challenged our Nation to respond to the threat of the Soviet Union, and we won.

Here we are, nearly 60 years later, with another challenge, a challenge that threatens this planet. President Trump says that as a nation we are not up to the challenge. As a nation, we can't figure out how to solve this problem, even though the solutions are already out there and being deployed across this Nation.

Another example of solutions like wind and solar: Elon Musk has a new all-electric vehicle that is going to cost $35,000 and is going to be deployed next year; 400,000 of these vehicles are to be sold. That is a game-changing moment in the history of the automobile, going back to its invention. It is a game changer. To a certain extent, for existing industries, it is a game-over moment unless they get into this all-electric vehicle revolution.

What is Elon Musk doing? Elon Musk is creating a Darwinian, paranoia-inducing environment within which all of the rest of these automotive companies are now going to have to operate—go electric or perish economically as a company.

This is how far it has come: Right now, Tesla has a market value that for all intents and purposes is equal to Ford and to General Motors. That is how much the American people have given in terms of confidence in this company, in this man.

We can do it. It should be the President of the United States who is saying we can do it. The rest of the world expects us to do it.

Why do we continue to import oil into our country from Saudi Arabia? Why do we continue to import oil from other countries around this planet? Why can't the President set as a goal that we are going to have 100 percent renewables in our country by the year 2050, that we are going to accept it as a national challenge in the same way that President Kennedy accepted the challenge in 1961 to put a man on the Moon, to control, to dominate in outer space?

This is a letter to President Trump, which is in today's New York Times. The full-page ad says:

> Dear President Trump,
>
> As some of the largest companies based or operating in the United States, we strongly urge you to keep the United States Paris Agreement on climate change.

What are the names of these companies? Adobe, Apple, Danfoss, Facebook, Gap, Google, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Ingersoll Rand, Intel, Johnson Controls, Mars Incorporated, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, National Grid, PG&E Corporation, Salesforce, Schneider Electric, Unilever, VF Corporation.

This isn't the President challenging companies in our country to respond to the challenge. These are the companies in America challenging the President to respond to the challenge. It is the Kennedy era on its head; it is like JFK in reverse. He is saying we can't do it when the private sector is saying we can.

Ultimately, this challenge to our competitiveness globally is something that Donald Trump is going to forfeit for our workers. This opportunity to create jobs and markets and growth is going to be something that we lose.

We need a President who is going to stand up for this stable, practical framework, which is giving an incentive to the private sector to solve this problem. We will be creating jobs while saving all of creation. That is what the winning formula is going to be.

This Paris Agreement is going to lead to increased competitiveness in jobs, in economic growth. By remaining a party to the Paris Agreement, rather than retreating, we will give Americans the opportunity to harness that can-do spirit and technical know-how to create new businesses and jobs. We will give our Nation the opportunity to be a leader in the global effort to address climate change. We will give America the opportunity to lead in this century and into the next.

I urge the United States to remain in the Paris Agreement. We can either be the leader or the laggard internationally in developing the new clean energy technologies that will drive our economy and help combat climate change.

It is a sad day for our Nation when the President of the United States is challenged by the private sector to step up, especially when he calls himself the CEO President of our country. He is turning his back on these innovative companies that want to be able to create jobs here in our country in order to save our planet. I pray for the well-being of our planet and that the President honors this commitment.

I think that the French made a huge statement yesterday in electing their new President, Macron. He was saying to the French people: We must engage the rest of the planet. We must work with the rest of the planet.

The Paris Agreement was signed in France in December of 2015. That election yesterday, I think, should be taken as a signal that we should not be retreating from our global leadership.

I urge this administration to adopt an approach that does unleash further this wind and solar and all-electric vehicle revolution.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last week our colleagues in the House made a first necessary step to delivering on our promise to repeal and replace ObamaCare and to restore individual choice for a health insurance product that people choose that fits their actual needs, rather than one mandated by Washington, DC. They passed the American Health Care Act, a bill that provides relief to Americans all across the country. With the passage of the AHCA in the House, we have a way forward to do away with government mandating one-size-fits-all healthcare.

Now that the House has passed this legislation, it is up to the Senate to do our job and to keep our promises. To be specific, the promise President Obama made when the Affordable Care Act was passed—actually, he made many promises multiple times—proved not to be true. So in many ways, when President Obama promised that if you like what you have, you can keep it; that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor; that if you like your plan, you can keep your plan—none of that was true, we have now learned.

I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that ObamaCare—the Affordable Care Act—was sold under false pretenses. So it is up to us to restore individual choice for healthcare products that people want that fit their needs, not one they buy because the government is holding a gun to their heads or threatens to penalize them unless they observe the government mandate to buy that healthcare.

You know, one of the biggest reasons for passing ObamaCare given at the time, back in 2010, was the number of uninsured in the country. Well, the fact is, there are still 30 million people uninsured under ObamaCare even though it has been the law of the land for the last 7 years.

I believe we can and we must do better to deliver affordable care that people choose, that meets their individual needs, and not healthcare they buy simply because the government is coercing them into doing so. We will work together with all of our colleagues who are willing to work with us. If that means Republicans are going to be working with 52 Republicans to get this bill passed, we will get it done and we will get it passed. Ideally, though, it would be better if our Democratic colleagues work with us. But so far, they have steadfastly refused to work with us even though they know that ObamaCare is in shambles and that people are finding they can't find an insurance company where they live because insurance companies are pulling out of those individual markets because they are simply losing too much money or people who can buy ObamaCare policies in the individual markets are finding that their premiums are going through the roof and that the deductibles are unaffordable, thus effectively leaving them without effective coverage.

Even though our Democratic colleagues know that ObamaCare is melting down and is not serving the public the way they promised it would or, in fact, is a positive harm to them because of unaffordable premiums and deductibles, still, so far they are standing on the sidelines and unwilling to participate in this process. I hope that changes at some point in the near future in the interests of the people we represent all across the country.

IMMIGRATION LAW

Madam President, I want to spend the rest of my time discussing a specific problem that Texans are all too familiar with; that is, people breaking our immigration laws, and not just breaking our immigration laws but then coming into our local communities and committing additional crimes—assault, murder, rape, you name it—in those communities even after they have entered the country illegally.

This is a difficult issue and one that I don't raise lightly, but it is important that when we talk about sanctuary cities and criminal aliens—these are people who have not just violated the immigration laws, these are people who have doubled down and have no respect for our laws, and, frankly, they have no respect for the communities in which they live. They primarily target the minority community in which they live and work.

We do need to be clear-eyed about this, and we need to treat it seriously. We need to remember that our inaction has some real-life consequences. I have been glad to see the new administration focus on enforcing the law and restoring respect for the rule of law generally and taking quick action to help victims of this type of crime in particular.

I want to take a couple of minutes to tell a story about one particular victim who was really an American hero, one of my constituents who lost his life at the hands of a violent illegal immigrant. That would be Houston police officer Rodney Johnson.

By all accounts, Rodney Johnson was larger than life, standing about 6 feet 5 inches tall, with a smile just as big. He was a dedicated family man, a husband to fellow Houston Police Department officer Joslyn Johnson. They had three daughters and two sons. His wife even called Rodney ''the glue that held the family together.''

Rodney was a hero not only to his family but to the local community as well. He was a hero for our country, too, because he was a veteran of the U.S. military police, the U.S. Army. Of course he was a hero for the State of Texas as a former corrections officer with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

A few years ago, Rodney ran into the flames of a burning building and saved the lives of several children. For that act of courage, he was awarded one of the highest honors a law enforcement officer in Texas can receive, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement's Medal of Valor.

Sadly, all of that changed in the fall of 2006. At about 5:30 p.m. on September 21, Officer Johnson pulled over a driver for speeding near Houston Hobby Airport. By all accounts, it appeared to be a routine traffic stop, but when the driver, Juan Quintero, could not provide Officer Johnson with a driver's license, he decided to take him into custody. What Officer Johnson did not know is that Mr. Quintero was a hardened criminal illegal immigrant with an extensive record of offenses, as well as deportations and repeated illegal entries into the United States. Even more tragically, Officer Johnson did not know that this career thug was concealing a 9mm handgun in the waistband of his clothing.

Officer Johnson followed protocol. He handcuffed the criminal suspect, placed him in the back of his squad car, and began writing a police report. But just then, Quintero managed to move his cuffed hands in front of him, reached for his concealed weapon, and opened fire in a cowardly surprise attack, literally killing Rodney Johnson by shooting him in the back.

Quintero was a dangerous career criminal who had no respect for our laws. He had no place in our country and had been deported numerous times by the Federal Government. But somehow he was free and on the streets alongside of our families and heroes like Officer Rodney Johnson. That should be an embarrassment to everyone who believes in the rule of law and believes that it is government's responsibility at the local, State, and Federal level to keep our communities safe.

This issue is not going to go away, as much as some of our colleagues would like to ignore it. There are countless other stories across the country of victims and their families who have suffered from some of the worst tragedies imaginable because of criminal illegal immigrants.

I am not talking just about people who have entered the country in violation of our immigration laws; I am talking about hardened criminals who target people in their communities for profit or for other reasons. I have spoken about a number of them from the floor before.

In addition to Officer Rodney Johnson, I could tell you the story of Javier Vega, a Border Patrol officer killed by two criminal illegal immigrants while fishing with his family. These criminals had been deported numerous times and committed multiple crimes.

I could tell you about Kevin Will, a Houston police officer killed by a drunk driver who had entered and was living in the United States illegally and who had been deported twice before.

I could tell you more about Josh Wilkerson, a teenager brutally killed by a criminal illegal immigrant in 2010,

somebody who had been arrested numerous times before.

I could tell you about Kara Willingham, who was beaten to death by a criminal illegal immigrant; Gustavo Burr or Andres Reyes, kidnapped and held at gunpoint in South Texas; and Neri Garcia, killed by an illegal alien who caused a drunk-driving accident in the Dallas area.

I could tell you story after story after story of the tragedies wrought by a Federal policy that did not enforce our borders or make sure that people, once deported, stayed deported because of the danger they posed to our communities. I believe this really is a matter of political will, and we finally, for the first time in the last 8 years, have an administration and a President who believe in securing our borders and keeping the public safe.

There are larger and other additional discussions we need to have about our flawed immigration system, but the first thing we need to do is regain the public's confidence by securing our borders and enforcing our laws. I am glad President Trump is well on his way to beginning that process under the leadership of GEN John Kelly at the Department of Homeland Security.

The entire point of this is to keep the first commitment that the government makes to American citizens: that we will protect you and keep you safe. That is the government's main job, and that includes protecting all Americans and everyone in the country, literally, from those career criminals who commit offenses and who thumb their noses at our immigration laws. As I said, the Trump administration is finally taking our security seriously, and I am grateful for that. By focusing on violent repeat offenders, we are protecting our citizens and making our communities safer places to live. I don't know how anyone could be against that.

I look forward to doing my part here in the Senate to continue working with this administration to make sure that our laws are enforced and not ignored, such as the one signed into law by Governor Abbott in Texas, making sure that sanctuary cities exist no more and that every local, State, and Federal law enforcement agency cooperates in enforcing the law and making our communities safe and regaining the public's confidence in their own government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, today is a glorious day. It is a great day for this country because we and my colleagues, I believe, will confirm Heather Wilson to be Secretary of the Air Force.

There are many reasons why it is appropriate for Heather Wilson to be Secretary of the Air Force. She has Air Force in her DNA. Her father Doug was an Air Force veteran and commercial pilot. Her grandfather flew for Britain's Royal Flying Corps in World War I before coming to the United States and serving as a courier pilot during World War II.

Heather was to be no different. She was a junior in high school when the Air Force Academy started accepting women. She applied and was appointed there to be part of the Academy's third class with women. She also became the first woman to command basic training and the first woman vice wing commander.

After college she thought she was going to flight school, but those plans changed because she answered the call and was awarded the very prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. It was only the sixth year that women were permitted to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship, and she was a collegiate rower there and earned a master's degree and a doctorate in international relations.

Heather's assignments and accomplishments are many. During her service she was a negotiator and political adviser to the U.S. Air Force in England and a planning officer for NATO in Belgium, where she worked on arms control negotiations.

Heather left the Air Force because she heeded another call to serve as the Director of European Defense Policy and Arms Control on the staff of the National Security Council. I know she worked very closely with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during the Presidency of George H.W. Bush, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

Heather has always been on an upward trajectory. She left government and started her own company advising defense and scientific corporations, but public service has always called Heather back. In 1995 she was asked to be the cabinet secretary of the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, where she oversaw foster care, adoption, early childhood education, children's mental health, and the juvenile justice system. From there, again, public service kept calling her, and she was elected to the House of Representatives in 1998, becoming the first woman to represent New Mexico since the 1940s and the first female veteran elected to a full term in the U.S. Congress.

I met Heather Wilson in the House of Representatives. Her time on the Hill included service on the U.S. House Committee on Armed Services and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I was lucky enough to serve with Heather, to learn from her and from her incredible depth of knowledge, her certainty—Heather is so certain—and her ability to cut through the politics to do what is right for the country. I heard Heather give many speeches on the House floor, and they were always through the frame of what is in the best interests of the United States.

So after she left Congress she founded another company before she was selected as president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and she is there now serving as the school's first female President. My condolences go to the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology because duty is calling Heather Wilson back to Washington to be our Secretary of the Air Force.

There are a lot of firsts in Heather's life. Senator Pete Domenici, to whom Heather felt very close, once called Heather ''the most brilliantly qualified House candidate anywhere in the country.''

I say Heather is a brilliantly qualified designee to be Secretary of the Air Force. She has always been not only an incredible intellectual and a strong leader, but she is also a very warm, welcoming, and kind person. We became good friends and remain so to this day. She is a leader. She is a spouse. She is a mother of two wonderful children, a pilot, and a veteran. So I am excited about the prospect of Heather's returning to Washington to become our Secretary of the Air Force.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, Heather Wilson was one of the first women to graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy and the third generation of her family to serve in the Air Force. She was one of the pioneers of gender integration of the modern Air Force. Even so, her track record in public service and the private sector after her Air Force career raises concerns.

While serving as the Representative from New Mexico's First District, Ms. Wilson admitted to telephoning the U.S. Attorney in Albuquerque to pressure him on an ongoing corruption investigation of State Democrats, in violation of House ethics rules.

Ms. Wilson was paid $450,000 between 2009 and 2013 through a Lockheed Martin subsidiary for consulting work for Sandia National Laboratory. The Government Accountability Office criticized the lab for not having adequate documentation of the work that she performed, and Lockheed Martin ultimately paid $4.7 million to settle charges that it had paid a lobbyist with taxpayer funds. Ethics laws prohibited Ms. Wilson from lobbying within a year of serving in Congress. Ms. Wilson failed to list her business relationship with Sandia Labs in her financial disclosure filings. In spite of this, she claims that she did nothing wrong.

During her unsuccessful run for the Senate, Ms. Wilson claimed that legislation intended to reduce bullying of LGBTQ children was a violation of religious freedom. She argued that the correct response was not to punish bullies, but to ''strengthen our children to be more comfortable with themselves.'' She has steadfastly refused to support Federal nondiscrimination protections for the LGBTQ community.

The core values of the Air Force are, integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. In spite of her career as an Air Force officer, Ms. Wilson has not demonstrated the unflinching commitment to integrity that we

demand of our men and women in uniform. She has compromised ethics rules in Congress, accepted pay for questionable work that was ill-defined and can't be fully documented, and failed to show that she is willing to stand up for all serving in uniform, regardless of their sexual orientation.

For these reasons, I cannot support Ms. Wilson's nomination to be 24th Secretary of the Air Force.

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

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

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use 10 minutes of the Republicans' allotted time because my side has used all of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the nomination of Dr. Heather Wilson to be Secretary of the Air Force.

The Secretary of the Air Force is an important and influential position within our national security structure. As the head of the military Department, the Secretary of the Air Force oversees recruiting, organizing, training, and equipping of the force. The next Air Force Secretary will oversee the Defense Department's most complex and costly acquisition programs in history. The Secretary will also lead 495,000 Active-Duty, Guard, and Reserve members through the challenges of rebuilding long-term sustainable readiness, while contending with ongoing operational demands around the globe.

Dr. Wilson has the knowledge and expertise to serve in that role. She is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a Rhodes scholar. She served in the House of Representatives and on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Currently, Dr. Wilson is president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Without question, Dr. Wilson has notable credentials, but I have significant concerns about certain of her past actions. First, Heather Wilson & Company, LLC, founded by Dr. Wilson following her tenure in Congress, had contracts with four National Nuclear Security Administration, or NNSA, laboratories—Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Nevada National Security Site. From January 2009 through part of 2011, Dr. Wilson's company received $464,000 in payments from these laboratories for consulting services.

However, due to claims of contracting irregularities involving the company, the Department of Energy inspector general conducted two investigations into this matter. As a result, the contractors that operated the laboratories on behalf of the government paid back at least $442,877 to the Department of Energy with respect to payments made to Dr. Wilson's company. The rationale for the repayments was the absence of any appreciable evidence of work product. Furthermore, Lockheed Martin, which operated Sandia National Laboratories, agreed to an overall settlement of $4.7 million for their management failures.

Let me be clear. Dr. Wilson was not found culpable of wrongdoing. Nevertheless, the allegations that were levied are serious and directly involved her company. As such, during her confirmation hearing, I asked Dr. Wilson about these contracts and the allegations of impropriety. Unfortunately, I did not receive a satisfactory response. Dr. Wilson deflected any suggestions that she bore any responsibility for these contracting irregularities.

As concerning as these allegations are, there was another incident that I found even more problematic as we reviewed Dr. Wilson's qualifications to serve as Secretary of the Air Force. In October of 2006, while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives, Dr. Wilson contacted a sitting U.S. attorney, David C. Iglesias, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, regarding the status of Federal corruption cases in New Mexico. This action was highly unusual and contrary to guidance in effect at the time from the House Ethics Committee. In fact, the House Ethics Manual provided that a request for background information or a status report from a U.S. attorney ''may in effect be an indirect or subtle effort to influence the substantive outcome of the proceedings.'' The guidance provided by the manual stated that the best way to communicate any inquiry or question was in writing, in order to make it part of the proceedings.

As a former Member of the House myself, I have deep concerns about this action in terms of House ethics rules and the possibility that a Federal prosecutor may have felt pressured by Congress in an ongoing investigation.

In September of 2008, a joint report by the Department of Justice inspector general and the Department of Justice Office of Professional Responsibility, which investigated the removal of nine U.S. attorneys, including Mr. Iglesias, concluded that ''the evidence we have developed so far shows that Wilson . . . in fact called Iglesias before the election, and that the substance of the call led Iglesias to believe he was being pressured to indict the courthouse case before the upcoming election.''

During her nomination hearing, Dr. Wilson testified that she called Mr. Iglesias because, in her words, ''an individual or constituent with knowledge of ongoing investigations told me that the U.S. Attorney was intentionally delaying corruption prosecutions, and I felt as though I had to address that allegation in some appropriate way.'' However, as I previously mentioned, contacting a U.S. attorney in this manner was clearly contrary to the ethics rules that govern the conduct of Members of the House of Representatives.

Perhaps Dr. Wilson, though, does deserve the benefit of the doubt. Maybe her intention, when she called Mr. Iglesias, was not to pressure him. However, when I asked Dr. Wilson the name of the individual who made the allegation about Mr. Iglesias's intentionally delaying corruption prosecutions, she refused to provide the person's name. Dr. Wilson argued that she had an obligation not to reveal who it was who made a highly politicized and unusual charge against Mr. Iglesias.

I think providing the name of the person is important because it helps us to understand the purpose of Dr. Wilson's call to Mr. Iglesias. It is one thing if a concerned constituent with no ties or interests in corruption cases under investigation innocuously contacted Dr. Wilson. Perhaps her subsequent call to Mr. Iglesias could be excused. But because we do not have the name, we have no way to verify the motive. It remains very possible that the person who contacted Dr. Wilson wanted to pressure Mr. Iglesias to move forward with these pending corruption cases. If that is the case, it casts Dr. Wilson's call to Mr. Iglesias in a much different light. Unfortunately, without further information from Dr. Wilson, I will not be able to resolve my concerns about this incident.

The two issues I have just discussed have reluctantly led me to conclude that while Dr. Wilson has excellent academic and professional qualifications, I must vote against her nomination before the full Senate.

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

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, a month ago, I spoke in strong support of Dr. Heather Wilson to be the 24th Secretary of the Air Force. I am pleased that it appears that her nomination will be confirmed today.

In the many years I have known Dr. Wilson, I have always been impressed by her intellect and especially by her leadership skills. Her qualifications and character are beyond dispute. Throughout her life, she has used her many talents not for personal gain or self-aggrandizement but for the public good.

Dr. Wilson was one of the first female graduates of the Air Force Academy,

which is a pretty impressive accomplishment unto itself, but she set an even higher standard when she earned a Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford University.

Upon being awarded her Ph.D., she went to work for the National Security Council and then ran for Congress. I got to know Dr. Wilson through her insightful work on the House Intelligence and Armed Services Committees. Make no mistake—Dr. Wilson made a difference during her service in the House. As a well-respected member of the Intelligence Committee, she built a reputation as a no-nonsense legislator who was deeply committed to upholding our national security. In all things, she proved herself to be exceptionally competent, and I have to say that she proved herself to be worthy of the highest trust.

After her service in the House, Dr. Wilson became the president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. There, she again set a high bar by leading a school whose alumni, I have been informed, make a higher average starting salary than do Harvard graduates.

For over 20 years, our Nation's Air Force has been involved in conflicts all over the world. Now more than ever, the Air Force needs a proven leader who can modernize the service and lead us to victory. I believe Dr. Wilson will provide that leadership. I have every confidence that she will serve with honor and integrity and make a lasting difference as the next Secretary of the Air Force. I have known her for a long time. I have gone to her State and worked with her and campaigned with her. All I can say is that she is a very top-notch woman leader, one of the best I have seen in all of my time in the U.S. Senate, and I know she is going to do a terrific job. I am going to help her every step of the way, and I am sure everybody else here will.

I hope everybody on this floor will vote for Dr. Heather Wilson for this position. We cannot lose. We are all going to be ahead because she is willing to serve and serve more, and she is willing to leave what really is a very comfortable position in order to take one that is not so comfortable and is very demanding, and I respect her for that and think the world of her.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering the nomination of Heather Wilson to be Secretary of the Air Force.

The time runs out in 37 minutes.

Mr. McCAIN. What is the time of the vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time concludes at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the nomination of Heather Wilson to be the next Secretary of the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Wilson is a proven leader and a dedicated public servant. She is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and Oxford University, where she earned master's and doctorate degrees as a Rhodes Scholar. If confirmed, Dr. Wilson will be the first Air Force Academy graduate in history to serve as Secretary of the Air Force.

Dr. Wilson served 7 years as an Air Force officer. During the Cold War, she served in the United Kingdom and at the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels. As the Cold War came to an end, she served on the National Security Council staff under President George H.W. Bush, working on issues concerning NATO and arms control.

Dr. Wilson later moved west to marry her husband, Jay, who is also an Air Force veteran. After a few years in the private sector, Dr. Wilson once again answered the call to service, first as the head of the New Mexico Child Welfare Department and later as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In Congress, Dr. Wilson was the leading voice on national security. She took on the tough issues, from surveillance programs to sexual assault at the Air Force Academy, and she earned the deepest respect of her colleagues on Capitol Hill, including mine.

For the last 4 years, Dr. Wilson has been the president of the South Dakota School of Mines, enhancing its reputation as a premier engineering, science, and research institution.

Now America's Air Force needs her leadership.

The next Secretary will lead America's Air Force in confronting the most diverse and complex array of global crises since the end of World War II. The world is on fire, and now more than ever our Nation is counting on the global vigilance, global reach, and global power that are the hallmarks of the U.S. Air Force capabilities.

The next Secretary will also inherit the oldest, smallest, and least ready Air Force in its history. Twenty-five years of continuous deployments, troubled acquisition programs, and frequent aircraft divestments have aged and shrunk the Air Force's inventory. The combination of relentless operational tempo and the self-inflicted wounds of the Budget Control Act and sequestration have depleted readiness. Meanwhile, potential adversaries are rapidly shrinking America's technological advantage and holding our aircraft at greater risk over greater distances.

In short, we have asked a lot of our Air Force over the last 25 years, and the demands placed on the service continue to grow. Congress has only added to the problems with the Budget Control Act and sequestration. We are placing an unnecessary and dangerous burden on the backs of our airmen, and we cannot change course soon enough.

We owe our airmen the resources, equipment, and training they need to succeed. We also owe them proven leadership. That is why the Senate should confirm Dr. Wilson to be the next Secretary of the Air Force. From the Air Force Academy to the Air Force, to the National Security Council, to the House of Representatives, Dr. Wilson has proven herself as a leader. She understands the missions of the Air Force and the capabilities it brings to the defense of our Nation. I am confident she will uphold the Air Force's core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all the Air Force does.

Heather Wilson is the right person to lead the Air Force to a stronger future, and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Mr. President, I yield back all time.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wilson nomination?

Mr. McCAIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

YEAS—76

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Baldwin	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Capito	Hoeven	Sasse
Carper	Inhofe	Schatz
Casey	Johnson	Scott
Cassidy	Kaine	Shaheen
Cochran	Kennedy	Shelby
Collins	King	Stabenow
Coons	Klobuchar	Strange
Corker	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	McCain	Tillis
Cruz	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Murphy	
Fischer	Nelson	

NAYS—22

Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Gillibrand
Booker	Duckworth	Harris
Cantwell	Feinstein	Hassan
Cardin	Franken	Hirono

Leahy	Reed	Whitehouse
Markey	Schumer	Wyden
Merkley	Van Hollen	
Murray	Warren	

NOT VOTING—2

Isakson	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Orrin G. Hatch, Bill Cassidy, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, John Thune, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Barrasso	Fischer	Nelson
Bennet	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Carper	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Cochran	Hoeven	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Scott
Coons	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kennedy	Strange
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Young

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Feinstein
Booker	Cortez Masto	Franken
Brown	Donnelly	Gillibrand
Cantwell	Duckworth	Harris
Hassan	Menendez	Stabenow
Heinrich	Merkley	Tester
Hirono	Murphy	Udall
Kaine	Murray	Van Hollen
Klobuchar	Peters	Warner
Leahy	Reed	Warren
Manchin	Schatz	Whitehouse
Markey	Schumer	Wyden
McCaskill	Shaheen	

NOT VOTING—2

Isakson	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

CONFIRMATION OF HEATHER WILSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am honored to speak tonight after casting my vote to confirm Dr. Heather Wilson as Secretary of the Air Force. I have known Heather for nearly 20 years and submit that President Trump could not have selected a more qualified candidate to lead the Air Force in these demanding times. I am pleased that the Senate was finally able to confirm her nomination, and I wish her great success.

As an Air Force veteran, former Member of Congress, and most recently the leader of one of the top science and engineering schools, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Dr. Wilson has repeatedly demonstrated leadership abilities that will serve her and the Air Force well in this next chapter.

Her commitment to duty links back to her time as a cadet at the Air Force Academy, where she was a distinguished graduate. In fact, she will be the Academy's first graduate in history to serve as a Secretary of the Air Force. Dr. Wilson went on to serve as an Air Force officer in Europe during the Cold War, where she was based in the United Kingdom and at the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels. Upon leaving the Air Force, she served on the National Security Council staff of President George H.W. Bush, working on NATO and conventional arms control.

At a time when America's partnerships are being challenged by threats around the world, I am confident that her experience will lend a steady hand to our military decisionmaking.

Dr. Wilson will also bring with her great experience honed in the Halls of Congress. At the start of her decades-long representation of New Mexico's First Congressional District, she quickly became one of the go-to Members on national security issues. Heather took on tough issues not unlike the ones she will surely face as Secretary of the Air Force. Whether on issues of strategic objectives and readiness or personnel matters, such as military sexual assault, she is prepared to have frank discussions on the issues and will contribute insightful proposals on how to best tackle the many challenges facing the Air Force. She understands not only the Air Force's key capabilities but the perilous outcomes we may face as a nation if we do not properly train and fund our military. She knows that rising to meet the challenges of the day must be done with an eye to the future so we may also deter and defeat the threats of tomorrow.

At a time when national security is of foremost concern, Dr. Wilson understands the Air Force's tremendous responsibility in keeping Americans safe and will be guided by the core values of the Force: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all that the Air Force does.

I could not be happier for my friend, Dr. Heather Wilson, and wish her and her husband Jay the best of luck. South Dakota and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology are losing an asset, but I am confident that the new era of excellence Heather helped usher in leaves the school well-positioned to remain a foremost engineering, science, and research institution. We are proud of Heather's continued success and trust she will represent us well as the 24th Secretary of the Air Force.

I would like to thank my colleague, Chairman MCCAIN, for his work to advance Dr. Wilson's nomination through the Senate Armed Services Committee and for granting me the opportunity to introduce Dr. Wilson at her confirmation hearing. It was my honor to endorse her before the committee and to cast my vote in support of her nomination this evening. I am glad the Senate has advanced another of President Trump's nominees and wish Dr. Wilson, our next Secretary of the Air Force, continued wisdom and success as she continues her outstanding leadership in service to our country.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ''MICKEY'' GORAL

Mr. DURBIN. Today, Mr. President, I want to honor my friend Michael ''Mickey'' Goral. For nearly four decades, Mickey has held elected office in

Rockford, the county seat of Winnebago County, IL. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with him to serve Rockford and Winnebago County for many years.

A lifelong resident of Rockford, Mickey Goral grew up on Rockford's west end graduated from Boyland High School and Northern Illinois University with a B.A. in political science. He served on the county board for 18 years before being elected Rockford township supervisor and has held that post for 20 years.

At 63 years young, Mickey decided not to seek reelection, but refuses to use the word ''retirement.'' He said: I hesitate to use the 'R' word because I don't play golf, I don't fish, and I have no other hobbies.'' Public service is all that is in Mickey's blood.

Oftentimes, public service becomes about accolades—not for Mickey. He simply aimed to make a difference in people's lives. Overseeing a $1.6 million general assistance office, Mickey led a nine-person team responsible for providing assistance to the communities most vulnerable: those with no other source of income. His mission was always clear and simple: treat all people with respect, dignity, and compassion in providing basic human needs to families while they are on the road to self-sufficiency, and that is what he did. Mickey's years of service to the people of Rockford show that public service can make a real difference in people's lives. Following the great recession of 2008, his general assistant office dealt with more than 150 open cases every month. Today, that number in a typical month is cut in half. That is the king of progress Mickey delivered for real working folks in Rockford.

Mickey Goral also had the privilege of serving as the president of the Township Officials of Illinois, bringing professionalism and training for township governments throughout my home State of Illinois, but for all his accomplishments, Mickey was most proud to the Rockford township supervisor because his government role was one that was closest to the people, which meant he had the opportunity to help his friends and neighbors. We need more people like Mickey Goral.

I especially want to thank Mickey's wife, Tami, and twin daughters, Karley and Kiley, for sharing so much of their husband and father with the community. I am honored to congratulate him on a job well done and wish him and his family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, the United States is a world leader in innovation, science, and technology; promoting democratic and humanitarian values; and maintaining international security and economic stability. The United States should play no less of a global leadership role combating climate change.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. It is our greatest environmental, political, and moral challenge. History will judge our generation by what we do—or don't do.

I call on this body to pass S. Res. 155, affirming in no uncertain terms the U.S. responsibility to work cooperatively with the international community to aggressively and effectively fight climate change.

There is no need to debate whether manmade climate change is occurring. The scientific evidence is clear. Greenhouse gases emitted through human activity are having a profound effect on Earth's climate, and 2016 was the warmest year on record, beating the record of 2015, which beat 2014's. The international community is no longer debating the science of climate change, and there should be no further debate in the halls of Congress.

Instead we must agree how the United States—as part of the international community—will take all steps necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to preserve our environment and way of life for future generations.

We are seeing species extinction and reduction in record numbers. We are seeing our landscapes changing, especially in the American West and in our colder climates like the Arctic. We are seeing extreme weather events devastate communities.

As a dry, arid State in the Southwest, my home State of New Mexico is right in the bull's eye of climate disruption. New Mexico is the country's sixth-fastest warming State: the annual temperature has increased about 2.7 degree Fahrenheit since 1970. Droughts are becoming more intense. We have decreased snowfall in the winter and decreased runoff in the spring. All this has negative consequences for our land and communities.

Climate change not only threatens our environment, it threatens our economic stability and international security.

More than 1,100 U.S. businesses, corporations, and organizations, many of which operate internationally, are on record supporting the Paris Agreement. The businesses include Arch Coal, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Dow Chemical, and DuPont. Business leaders agree that the Paris Agreement is good for business.

Support for the accord is broad based within private industry, from electricity generators such as PG&E and National Grid, to oil companies such as Exxon Mobil and Shell, to mining companies such as Rio Tinto, and to manufacturers such as General Motors. Even some of the largest coal producers, such as Cloud Peak Energy and Peabody Energy, support remaining in the agreement. This broad support is due to a simple reality: leaders of successful businesses make decisions based on the available science, not ideology.

Business leaders are telling Congress and the President to stay in. Last November, over 360 businesses and investors called on U.S.-elected leaders to support the Paris Agreement and other domestic low-carbon policies. The letter was signed by more than a dozen Fortune 500 companies, as well as small family-owned businesses across more than 35 states. All these businesses want the U.S. economy to be energy efficient and powered by low-carbon energy. They are concerned that a failure to build a low-carbon economy puts American prosperity at risk.

Despite this overwhelming support from the business community, the President has not decided whether the U.S. should continue as a member of the Paris accord. He is undecided despite the fact that his Secretary of State, former CEO of the world's largest oil company, says we should stay in, so we have a ''seat at the table.''

While sufficient resources and attention must be given to carbon-intensive industries and their workforces to ensure that transitions are not disruptive, we must look forward to supporting a new energy economy, that addresses climate change and produces good jobs.

We should not underestimate the threat climate change poses to national security. Secretary of Defense Mattis does not. He has testified before Congress that climate change poses as a national security threat. Indeed, the Pentagon has considered climate change a national security threat for over a decade.

Secretary Mattis wrote to the Senate Armed Services Committee that, ''[c]limate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where our troops are operating today.'' He observed that, ''[c]limate change can be a driver of instability, and the Department of Defense must pay attention to potential adverse impacts generated by this phenomenon.'' To prepare for this threat, Secretary Mattis stated that ''. . . climate change is a challenge that requires a broader, whole-of government response. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department of Defense plays its appropriate role within such a response by addressing national security aspects.''

According to the American Security Project, climate change serves as an ''accelerant of instability''or a ''threat multiplier'' that makes already existing threats worse. ''The threat of global warming for security will manifest through a range of effects: resource scarcity, extreme weather, food scarcity, water insecurity, and sea level rise will all threaten societies around the world. Too many governments are not prepared for these threats, either because they do not have the resources or because they have not planned ahead. How societies and governments respond to the increase in instability will determine whether climate change will lead to war.''

The President should not disregard the advice of his Secretary of Defense and the established position of the Pentagon. The challenge of climate change

requires a broad response from the entirety of the Federal Government. The President should meet this challenge head on.

Across the globe, people are suffering from the effects of climate change. U.S. businesses and the military feel those threatening impacts as well. U.S. elected officials must listen to these businesses and our Armed Forces. The United States should not only have a seat at the international table, we should be leading the global community. I urge passage of S. Res. 155, affirming our commitment to work with the international community to effectively address climate change.

PARIS AGREEMENT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to speak in strong support of the U.N. Paris climate change agreement and in opposition to efforts to undermine this international agreement that is vital to the environmental and economic well-being of New Hampshire, the Nation, and the world.

In 2015, I joined nine of my Senate colleagues in Paris to attend the 21st U.N. Climate Change Conference, also known as COP 21, where the climate agreement was negotiated. What we witnessed at COP 21 was monumental: 195 countries representing more than 95 percent of global carbon emissions worked together to adopt the first universal climate agreement that calls for international cooperation on addressing the causes of global warming and helping poorer nations most affected by it. The following year, on Earth Day, the United States and more than 170 nations signed the international climate agreement in New York; and on November 4, 2016, the Paris Accord entered into force.

I am proud to say that the U.S. was a big part of that effort. That is why I am so disappointed to see that President Trump is currently considering whether to pull the United States from this historic agreement. This would be a huge mistake.

No country is insulated from the increasingly present and escalating effects of climate change. In the United States, we are seeing it throughout the country, and this is certainly true in New Hampshire. Rising temperatures are shortening our fall foliage season, which is so important to our State's tourism economy. Milder winters have led to increases of insect-borne diseases that endanger our wildlife. In New Hampshire, we have already seen a 40 percent decline in our moose population. The changing climate is also putting more stress on sugar maples, and this is already affecting syrup production.

The Paris Agreement establishes a long-term, durable global framework for countries to work together to reduce carbon emissions and keep the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius in order to avoid some of the worst consequences of climate change. For the first time, countries have committed to putting forward ambitious, nationally determined climate targets and reporting on their progress towards those targets using a standardized process of review. The Paris Agreement encourages transparency, accountability, and collaboration among nations not only to meet their climate targets, but to encourage innovation while doing so.

That is why American business leaders are strongly in favor of continued U.S. participation in the Paris accord. From oil giants to tech firms, corporate leaders understand that the transition to clean energy presents one of the biggest economic opportunities of this century to create jobs and build wealth in this country. In fact, the International Energy Agency projects that, over the coming decades, more than $60 trillion will be invested in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies as countries address the threat of climate change. The United States stands in a unique position to be the leader of the clean energy revolution. This would be jeopardized if the President decides to remove the United States from the international climate agreement.

Climate change represents an enormous challenge, but the solutions are within reach if we put into place policies that allow for swift action. The United States must help ensure that the goals of the Paris Agreement are realized. That is why I joined with my colleagues to introduce a resolution stating that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change. We have a responsibility to help protect our children and grandchildren from the most severe consequences of global warming by reducing emissions now. This President must not remove the United States from this important agreement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING FLEWELLING FAMILY FARMS

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Flewelling Farms, who has been designated family farm of the year and McCain's ''Grower of the Year.'' Farms and farm families are essential assets to my home State of Maine—not just for the tremendous economic benefits the agriculture industry has, but also for the rich heritage and work ethic that makes up the communities where generations have plowed the lands. Maine agriculture is more diversified than in many States, and on any given day, you can drive past acres of potatoes, grains, large dairy farms, small truck farms, and even smaller value added farms producing cheese, breads, and maple syrup, as well as conventional farms, organic farms, and even farms raising oysters, seaweed, and salmon.

From now until the farm bill is passed, I want to take the opportunity to talk about Maine farms and farmers, their creativity, ingenuity, perseverance, and ability to grow amazing food and fiber on what can often be hard scrabble land with a solid crop of rocks and trees always watching for the opportunity to creep back on to land that was cleared long ago by hard work.

I want to begin in the agricultural county of Maine, Aroostook County. The potato is king in Aroostook County, ME—the large farms and relatively flat fertile land produce 16 million pounds of seed, chip, and table stock potatoes on nearly 50,000 acres, generating thousands of jobs and infuse millions of dollars into the economy of the State of Maine.

While agriculture is indeed valuable and essential to tables across the Nation and the world, community and farm families are what really makes northern Maine a special place. I am pleased to honor one such family today, the Jerry and Bruce Flewelling family of Easton. The Flewelling family was named the ''2016 Farm Family of the Year'' by the Maine Potato Board and the McCain's ''Champion Grower of 2016'' as well. These recognitions are given for the quality of product and commitment to the industry, but also for the heart and hardiness of the family who, through trials and tribulations of unpredictable weather and markets, keeps their drive for excellence at the forefront of every day. The Flewellings have been doing this for six generations. The first Flewellings arrived in this country from Wales in the late 1800s, entering the United States near where the family farm is today.

They have experienced tremendous change in how potatoes are grown, harvested, and stored, but by being ready to implement best practices, new technologies, and innovation, they have grown the farm and its quality and productivity and are able to carry on the strong tradition of agriculture in Maine.

In addition to being an exceptional small business, the family members are active community members as well. They serve on municipal boards, Maine Pesticide Control Board, Agricultural Bargaining Council, as well as Maine Potato Growers. They are a strong voice for future generations of farmers and are mentors to other farmers, as well always encouraging others and sharing their expertise.

For these reasons and many more not listed here, I offer my congratulations to Jerry and Bruce and their family on the continuation of an exceptional farm and best wishes as they continue to instill a legacy of hard work and exceptional crops for future generations to come.•

REMEMBERING DR. CYNTHIA ''CYNDI'' RAY AND TRIBUTE TO SEAN ENGLISH

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the heroic actions of

Dr. Cynthia ''Cyndi'' Ray and Mr. Sean English. On Sunday, April 2, 2017, Dr. Ray and Mr. English stopped to assist six passengers trapped in an overturned SUV on Interstate 96 near Fullerton, MI, when a second vehicle lost control and struck them. Dr. Ray was on her way to work at Henry Ford Hospital, while Mr. English and his parents were headed to St. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church in downtown Detroit, where he was expected to sing in the choir. The accident left Dr. Ray, Mr. English, and the driver of the second vehicle in critical condition, and, on April 5, 2017, Dr. Ray succumbed to her injuries, tragically passing away. Mr. English suffered a broken pelvis and lost part of his foot.

Dr. Cynthia Ray was born on August 28, 1970, in Kansas City, KS, to parents Floey—Collier—and the late Dr. Fred Ray. Growing up in the State of Oklahoma, Dr. Ray followed her father into the field of medicine. After graduating from Ross University School of Medicine in 1999 and completing her residency at St. Joseph Mercy Health System, Dr. Ray went on to practice interventional pulmonology at Henry Ford Hospital's department of pathology and radiology, in Detroit, MI. Highly regarded as a compassionate colleague and physician, Dr. Ray was part of the Henry Ford family since 2005.

Dr. Ray's talents extended far beyond medicine. As a former Henry Ford Hospital ''Campus Idol'' contestant, Dr. Ray was a gifted singer, as well as a former ballerina and admirable cook. She also cared deeply about rescuing dogs. Dr. Ray will be greatly missed in the city of Detroit, as well as across the State of Michigan.

Mr. Sean English, a junior at University of Detroit Jesuit High School, is admired by his peers and his teachers. An active member of his school community, Mr. English is a star student-athlete on University of Detroit Jesuit's cross country and track team and is the reigning Catholic League champion in the 1-mile run. He is also involved in student government and serves on the student senate selection committee. In stopping to assist others in a time of need, Mr. English exemplified the mission of University of Detroit Jesuit, ''Men for Others.'' In a telling testament to his character and the impact he has made, both on his fellow students and the broader University of Detroit Jesuit community, there has been an incredible outpouring of support to both him and his family. I know the administration, faculty, parents, and students of University of Detroit Jesuit have offered their praise of Mr. English, for serving as an example of faith and perseverance, as well as his great sense of humor.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the incredible selflessness of these two good Samaritans: Dr. Cynthia Ray and Mr. Sean English. Our communities are made stronger by the actions of everyday heroes, like Dr. Ray and Mr. English. I know that Dr. Ray's passion, dedication, and compassion will be deeply missed. I also commend Mr. English for his dedication to helping others, as well as his bravery in the face of adversity, and I wish him a full and speedy recovery. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted by this incident, and I know the actions and sacrifices of both Dr. Ray and Mr. English will continue to inspire others to serve their community and make a difference in the lives of others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 5, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK) had signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 534. An act to require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 66. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill and joint resolution were signed on May 5, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

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–1500. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the report on activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1501. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility (Rouseau County, MN, et al.)'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2017–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1502. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; NH; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9959–68–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1503. 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; 2016 Nitrogen Oxides Averaging Plan Consent Agreement with Raven Power'' (FRL No. 9961–17–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1504. 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; New Regulations for Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings'' (FRL No. 9961–25–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1505. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–50, ''Williams Alley Designation Act of 2017''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1506. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–51, ''Land Disposition Transparency Temporary Act of 2017''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1507. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–52, ''Business License Technology Fee Reauthorization Temporary Amendment Act of 2017''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1508. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–53, ''Interior Design Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2017''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1509. A communication from the Acting Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Access to Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) for Employees of Certain Indian Tribal Employees'' (RIN3206–AM40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2017; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–1510. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of

Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–1511. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1512. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2017''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–1513. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace for the following Idaho towns; Lewiston, ID; Pocatello, ID; and Twin Falls, ID'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0216)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation .

EC–1514. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace: Aspen, CO; Pueblo, CO'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0054)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1515. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Elmira, NY'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2015–8128)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1516. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Moses Lake, WA; Olympia, WA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0217)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1517. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Atlantic City'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2016–9344)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1518. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Denver, CO'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2016–9286)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1519. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E En Route Airspace; Paso Robles, CA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2016–9295)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1520. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Kill Devil Hills, NC'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2016–9266)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1521. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No . FAA–2016–7269)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1522. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No . FAA–2015–7526)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1523. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2016–9167)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1524. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2015–7491)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1525. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1015)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1526. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2010–0755)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1527. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0252)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1528. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; GROB Aircraft AG Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0019)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1529. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Learjet, Inc., Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2016–9505)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1530. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2016–6928)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1531. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; GROB Aircraft AG Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0019)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1532. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2016–4674)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1533. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; CFE Company Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2016–9380)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1534. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0051)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. UDALL (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1064. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1065. A bill to designate Union Station in Washington, DC, as ''Harry S. Truman Union Station''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1066. A bill to provide for the removal of default information from a borrower's credit report with respect to certain rehabilitated education loans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1067. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1068. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for increased investment in clean energy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1069. A bill to establish pilot projects in order to provide timely and reliable information on the safety and effectiveness of cleared or approved devices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1070. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the appropriate, risk-based classification of device accessories based on intended use; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. Res. 159. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 44

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 44, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to improve nonretaliation provisions relating to equal pay requirements.

S. 175

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 175, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 200, a bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress.

S. 352

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick ''Roddie'' Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 374

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 374, 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.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 407, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 527, a bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 534

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 563

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 573

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 573, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.

S. 708

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 708, a bill to improve the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into

the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 722, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iran in relation to Iran's ballistic missile program, support for acts of international terrorism, and violations of human rights, and for other purposes.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to amend the PROTECT Act to make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants.

S. 881

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to reduce risks to the financial system by limiting banks' ability to engage in certain risky activities and limiting conflicts of interest, to reinstate certain Glass-Steagall Act protections that were repealed by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and for other purposes.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 907

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 907, a bill to authorize the modification of the Second Division Memorial, and for other purposes.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program.

S. 992

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 992, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an independent review of the deaths of certain veterans by suicide, and for other purposes.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1008, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude cannabidiol and cannabidiol-rich plants from the definition of marihuana, and for other purposes.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 with respect to the scope of employee pension benefit plans.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. CON. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 12, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have served in the Republic of Vietnam for all purposes under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

S. RES. 106

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 106, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to support the territorial integrity of Georgia.

S. RES. 109

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 109, a resolution encouraging the Government of Pakistan to release Aasiya Noreen, internationally known as Asia Bibi, and reform its religiously intolerant laws regarding blasphemy.

S. RES. 136

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 136, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 155

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 155, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 159—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 159

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, there were an estimated 90,185 rapes reported to law enforcement in 2015, which is a 6.3-percent increase as compared to 2014;

Whereas, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will experience an attempted or completed rape at some point in their lives;

Whereas, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, an individual is sexually assaulted every 98 seconds in the United States, but for every 1000 rapes committed, on average only—

(1) 310 rapes are reported to law enforcement;

(2) 57 reported rape cases lead to an arrest;

(3) 11 rape cases are referred for prosecution;

(4) 7 rape cases lead to a felony conviction; and

(5) 6 convicted rapists are sentenced to some form of incarceration;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than ½ of all female rape victims reported being raped by an intimate partner;

Whereas sexual violence is a burden for many individuals who serve in the United States Armed Forces, and the Department of Defense estimates that in 2015, over 16,000 service members intervened in situations they believed to be at risk for sexual assault;

Whereas sexual assault does not discriminate on any basis and can affect any individual in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault can have numerous adverse consequences for the victim, which may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, which enables many perpetrators to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional complications long after their physical scars have healed;

Whereas advances in deoxyribonucleaic acid (DNA) technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of unsolved sexual assault cases;

Whereas incarceration of sexual assault perpetrators can prevent perpetrators from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

(1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800-656-HOPE and online.rainn.org); and

(2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the DoD Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile app each provide support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at SafeHelpline.org;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no sexual assault victim to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2017 is recognized as ''National Sexual Assault Awareness Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault, and the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues that April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We commemorate it each year to bring public awareness to the staggering problem of sexual violence.

Tens of thousands of people in the United States and hundreds of my fellow Iowans annually fall victim to this heinous crime. Sexual assault occurs at least every minute and a half, according to law enforcement statistics. These same figures reveal an increase in rape cases since 2011, contrary to claims by the former Obama administration that the violent crime rate had declined in recent years. But up to two-thirds of sexual assaults are never reported to police, say crime victim advocates. This means that the average perpetrator strikes multiple times before being brought to justice. Equally as troubling, the incarceration rate is less than one percent of all sexual assaults reported to law enforcement.

The FBI ranks rape as one of the two most violent crimes, second only to murder in its effects. Survivors suffer not only physical consequences, but sometimes life-shattering emotional effects as well. According to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, as well as the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, post-traumatic stress disorder is typical. Depression or even suicide is not uncommon. The healing process is often slow and painstaking.

Today, I introduced a bipartisan resolution to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month and honor the survivors of this heinous crime. I thank Senators FEINSTEIN and ERNST for joining me as cosponsors of the resolution.

During my time as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, we have made crime survivors rights a top priority. Two years ago, we passed, and the President signed, major legislation to benefit the survivors of human trafficking. Last year, the President also signed the House version of a survivors' bill of rights that our committee reported as part of the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act and we approved legislation to extend programs that support the analysis of sexual assault evidence by the Nation's crime labs.

Supporting and protecting survivors of sexual violence will continue to be a focus for our committee in 2017. Last month, I convened a hearing to examine allegations that dozens of young athletes experienced sexual abuse at the hands of coaches, instructors, and others. I recently joined our committee's ranking member, Senator FEINSTEIN, in introducing the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act. The bill's purpose is to ensure that sexual assault allegations by young athletes will be reported and investigated promptly. This year we will also make it a priority to extend and update programs that are authorized under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Mr. President, I will close by reaffirming my support for survivors of sexual violence and expressing my continued commitment to advocate for them. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of the resolution I have introduced today.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND TERRORISM

The Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on May 8, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH–216 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Russian Interference in the 2016 United States Election.''

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Carlisle Clarke:									
Egypt	Pound		627.00						627.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,421.64						1,421.64
Italy	Euro		902.27						902.27
United States	Dollar				7,832.06				7,832.06
Patrick Carroll:									
Egypt	Pound		627.00						627.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,421.64						1,421.64
Italy	Euro		902.27						902.27
United States	Dollar				7,832.06				7,832.06
Rachel Santos:									
Egypt	Pound		627.00						627.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,421.64						1,421.64
Italy	Euro		902.27						902.27
United States	Dollar				7,832.06				7,832.06
Jessica Schulken:									
Egypt	Pound		627.00						627.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,421.64						1,421.64
United States	Dollar				11,516.56				11,516.56
Fitzhugh Elder:									
Jordan	Dinar		627.00						627.00
United States	Dollar				7,900.76				7,900.76
Jason Wheelock:									
China	Renminbi		1,119.18						1,119.18
Taiwan	Dollar		259.96				11.33		271.29
South Korea	Won		1,038.27						1,038.27
United States	Dollar				4,508.16				4,508.16
Laura Friedel:									
Colombia	Peso		1,578.00						1,578.00
United States	Dollar				3,697.16				3,697.16
Adam Sullivan:									
Colombia	Peso		1,578.00						1,578.00
United States	Dollar				3,697.16				3,697.16
Allen Cutler:									
Chile	Peso		1,080.60						1,080.60
United States	Dollar				13,118.00				13,118.00
Michael Bain:									
Jordan	Dinar		810.82						810.82
United States	Dollar				10,581.37				10,581.37
Patrick Magnuson:									
Jordan	Dinar		810.82						810.82
United States	Dollar				10,497.06				10,497.06
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
Cuba	Peso		1,313.50						1,313.50
Colombia	Peso		637.00						637.00
John Dowd:									
Cuba	Peso		1,313.50						1,313.50
Colombia	Peso		637.00						637.00
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Cuba	Peso		1,313.50						1,313.50
Colombia	Peso		637.00						637.00
Paul Grove:									
Cuba	Peso		1,313.50						1,313.50
Colombia	Peso		637.00						637.00
United States	Dollar						35.00		35.00
Tim Rieser:									
Cuba	Peso		1,313.50						1,313.50
Colombia	Peso		637.00						637.00
Kay Webber Cochran:									
Cuba	Peso		333.00						333.00
Colombia	Peso		210.00						210.00
Linda Good:									
Cuba	Peso		1,313.50						1,313.50
Colombia	Peso		637.00						637.00
Adam Yezerski:									
United Kingdom	Pound		449.50						449.50
Germany	Euro		194.00						194.00
France	Euro		269.00						269.00
Senator Jerry Moran:									
United Kingdom	Pound		499.50						499.50
Germany	Euro		194.00						194.00
France	Euro		269.00						269.00
Senator Roy Blunt:									
United Kingdom	Pound		499.50						499.50
Germany	Euro		194.00						194.00
France	Euro		269.00						269.00
Senator Richard Durbin:									
Poland	Zloty		549.84						549.84
Lithuania	Euro		233.00						233.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		241.00						241.00
United States	Dollar				12,741.06				12,741.06
Chris Homan:									
Poland	Zloty		272.50						272.50
Lithuania	Euro		236.00						236.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		324.05						324.05
United States	Dollar				10,256.66				10,256.66
Delegation Expenses:*									
Colombia	Peso						1,794.10		1,794.10
Cuba	Peso						4,055.87		4,055.87
Delegation Expenses:*									
Jordan	Dinar				147.61		157.04		304.65
Delegation Expenses:*									
Chile	Peso				668.65		21.00		689.65
Delegation Expenses:*									
Colombia	Peso						3,784.00		3,784.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
South Korea	Won						450.48		450.48
China	Renminbi						385.34		385.34
Taiwan	Dollar						11.33		11.33
Delegation Expenses:*									
Italy	Euro						299.97		299.97
Egypt	Pound						2,310.62		2,310.62
Jordan	Dinar				546.64		331.75		878.39
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound						516.00		516.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
France	Euro						2,586.99		2,586.99
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						256.61		256.61
Lithuania	Euro						297.62		297.62
Ukraine	Hryvnia						637.84		637.84
Total			36,743.91		113,373.03		17,942.89		168,059.83

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR THAD COCHRAN,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, May 3, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				12,376.16				12,376.16
Estonia	Euro		127.67						127.67
Latvia	Euro		166.57						166.57
Lithuania	Euro		281.29						281.29
Ukraine	Hryvnia		484.19						484.19
Georgia	Lari		288.39						288.39
James B. Hickey:									
United States	Dollar				12,376.16				12,376.16
Estonia	Euro		127.67						127.67
Latvia	Euro		120.41						120.41
Lithuania	Euro		401.07						401.07
Ukraine	Hryvnia		483.45						483.45
Georgia	Lari		354.05						354.05
ThucMinh Nguyen:									
United States	Dollar				12,375.56				12,375.56
Estonia	Euro		147.67						147.67
Latvia	Euro		286.02						286.02
Lithuania	Euro		321.31						321.31
Ukraine	Hryvnia		431.65						431.65
Georgia	Lari		274.05						274.05
Mikayla Mowzoon:									
United States	Dollar				12,376.16				12,376.16
Estonia	Euro		137.67						137.67
Latvia	Euro		155.41						155.41
Lithuania	Euro		301.29						301.29
Ukraine	Hryvnia		527.13						527.13
Georgia	Lari		279.05						279.05
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				12,376.16				12,376.16
Estonia	Euro		162.75						162.75
Latvia	Euro		173.05						173.05
Lithuania	Euro		281.29						281.29
Ukraine	Hryvnia		349.27						349.27
Georgia	Lari		254.40						254.40
Matt Rimkunas:									
United States	Dollar				12,376.16				12,376.16
Estonia	Euro		128.17						128.17
Latvia	Euro		262.02						262.02
Lithuania	Euro		277.85						277.85
Ukraine	Hryvnia		549.01						549.01
Georgia	Lari		329.06						329.06
Delegation Expenses:*									
Estonia	Euro				417.54		688.94		1,106.48
Latvia	Euro				388.66		415.39		804.05
Lithuania	Euro						729.54		729.54
Ukraine	Hryvnia				5,979.91		750.54		6,730.45
Georgia	Lari				870.00		640.70		1,510.70
Denmark	Krone				1,520.82				1,520.82
William Greenwalt:									
United States	Dollar				4,895.59				4,895.59
Canada	Dollar		698.04						698.04
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		330.02						330.02
Israel	New Shekel		561.27						561.27
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.96						345.96
Ethiopia	Birr		715.04						715.04
Uganda	Shilling		333.25						333.25
Benin	Franc		214.54						214.54
Ghana	Cedi		274.60						274.60
Spain	Euro		298.11						298.11
Anthony Lazarski:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		307.69						307.69
Israel	New Shekel		553.88						553.88
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.96						345.96
Ethiopia	Birr		662.56						662.56
Uganda	Shilling		324.25						324.25
Benin	Franc		169.76						169.76
Ghana	Cedi		264.60						264.60
Spain	Euro		256.38						256.38
Mark Powers:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		286.49						286.49
Israel	New Shekel		515.49						515.49
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		378.61						378.61
Ethiopia	Birr		663.76						663.76
Uganda	Shilling		321.25						321.25
Benin	Franc		189.43						189.43
Ghana	Cedi		244.60						244.60
Spain	Euro		256.38						256.38
Luke Holland:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		251,25						251.25

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Israel	New Shekel		544.03						544.03
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		435.61						435.61
Ethiopia	Birr		666.44						666.44
Uganda	Shilling		321.25						321.25
Benin	Franc		160.02						160.02
Ghana	Cedi		244.60						244.60
Spain	Euro		256.38						256.38
Senator Mike Rounds:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		282.69						282.69
Israel	New Shekel		521.46						521.46
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.96						345.96
Ethiopia	Birr		663.22						663.22
Uganda	Shilling		354.72						354.72
Benin	Franc		209.04						209.04
Ghana	Cedi		274.60						274.60
Spain	Euro		318.15						318.15
Gregg Rickman:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		272.69						272.69
Israel	New Shekel		521.46						521.46
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.96						345.96
Ethiopia	Birr		659.23						659.23
Uganda	Shilling		301.30						301.30
Benin	Franc		165.40						165.40
Ghana	Cedi		244.60						244.60
Spain	Euro		242.74						242.74
Delegation Expenses: *									
Czech Republic	Koruna						108.92		108.92
Israel	New Shekel				1,125.00		8,816.90		9,941.90
United Arab Emirates	Dirham						809.20		809.20
Ethiopia	Birr				732.83				732.83
Benin	Franc						822.90		822.90
Ghana	Cedi				1,297.00		3,514.00		4,811.00
Spain	Euro				532.04				532.04
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				14,979.36				14,979.36
Turkey	Lira		274.58						274.58
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		408.48						408.48
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		27.20						27.20
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
United States	Dollar				14,642.07				14,642.07
Turkey	Lira		316.58						316.58
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		470.48						470.48
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		27.20						27.20
Mikayla Mowzoon:									
United States	Dollar				14,601.06				14,601.06
Turkey	Lira		147.20						147.20
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		310.33						310.33
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		421.83						421.83
Christian Brose:									
United States	Dollar				14,642.07				14,642.07
Turkey	Lira		316.58						316.58
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		470.48						470.48
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		27.20						27.20
Delegation Expenses: *									
Turkey	Lira				412.45				412.45
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						646.01		646.01
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				309.16				309.16
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Italy	Euro		572.38						572.38
Jordan	Dinar		564.41						564.41
Israel	New Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Hall Carter:									
Italy	Euro		572.38						572.38
Jordan	Dinar		564.41						564.41
Israel	New Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Austria	Euro		1,702.17						1,702.17
Delegation Expenses: *									
Italy	Euro						136.83		136.83
Jordan	Dinar				257.12		505.82		762.94
Israel	New Shekel				824.75		6,287.00		7,111.75
Austria	Euro				1,890.58		2,383.35		4,273.93
Ozge Guzelsu:									
United States	Dollar				4,859.39				4,859.39
Guatemala	Quetzal		498.22						498.22
Honduras	Lempira		411.00						411.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Guatemala	Quetzal						912.00		912.00
Jason Potter:									
United States	Dollar				12,644.56				12,644.56
United Kingdom	Pound		1,197.38						1,197.38
Spain	Euro		124.54						124.54
Delegation Expenses: *									
United Kingdom	Pound				2,000.00				2,000.00
Spain	Euro				245.55				245.55
Cord Sterling:									
United States	Dollar				10,446.06				10,446.06
Jordan	Dinar		852.43						852.43
Delegation Expenses: *									
Jordan	Dinar				101.55				101.55
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
United States	Dollar				10,939.00				10,939.00
Germany	Euro		187.10						187.10
Anthony Lazarski:									
United States	Dollar				2,285.36				2,285.36
Germany	Euro		195.51						195.51
Matt Donovan:									
United States	Dollar				12,212.16				12,212.16
Germany	Euro		189.39						189.39
Qatar	Riyal		66.17						66.17
Samantha Clark:									
United States	Dollar				12,216.16				12,216.16
Germany	Euro		188.39						188.39
Qatar	Riyal		66.17						66.17
Delegation Expenses: *									
Qatar	Riyal		84.51						84.51

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John McCain:									
Germany	Euro		830.20						830.20
Christian Brose:									
Germany	Euro		898.55						898.55
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
Germany	Euro		898.55						898.55
Mikayla Mowzoon:									
Germany	Euro		922.20						922.20
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Germany	Euro		1,506.19						1,506.19
Alice James:									
Germany	Euro		751.78						751.78
Matt Rimkunas:									
Germany	Euro		830.32						830.32
Senator Ben Sasse:									
Germany	Euro		756.20						756.20
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
Germany	Euro		732.20						732.20
Senator Dan Sullivan:									
Germany	Euro		148.32						148.32
Senator Gary Peters:									
Germany	Euro		131.25						131.25
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro				11,483.00		20,804.53		32,287.53
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
France	Euro		379.18						379.18
United Kingdom	Pound		460.61						460.61
Alice James:									
France	Euro		454.10						454.10
United Kingdom	Pound		424.68						424.68
Matt Rimkunas:									
France	Euro		437.53						437.53
United Kingdom	Pound		410.34						410.34
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro				720.88		1,003.77		1,724.65
United Kingdom	Pound						442.28		442.28
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
United States	Dollar				5,184.26				5,184.26
Poland	Zloty		249.92						249.92
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						244.14		244.14
Thomas Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				14,376.66				14,376.66
Cyprus	Euro		279.04						279.04
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		754.67						754.67
Qatar	Riyal		387.45						387.45
Jordan	Dinar		880.84						880.84
Lebanon	Pound		165.00						165.00
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar				15,321.96				15,321.96
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		753.45						753.45
Qatar	Riyal		361.76						361.76
Jordan	Dinar		820.20						820.20
Lebanon	Pound		136.64						136.64
Mariah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar				13,472.96				13,472.96
Cyprus	Euro		296.49						296.49
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		864.85						864.85
Qatar	Riyal		385.62						385.62
Jordan	Dinar		844.73						844.73
Lebanon	Pound		71.92						71.92
Delegation Expenses:*									
Cyprus	Euro						173.08		173.08
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				381.16				381.16
Qatar	Riyal						31.25		31.25
Jordan	Dinar				125.01		40.56		165.57
Lebanon	Pound						6,722.76		6,722.76
ThucMinh Nguyen:									
United States	Dollar				11,107.55				11,107.55
South Korea	Won		503.02						503.02
Japan	Yen		743.71						743.71
Delegation Expenses:*									
South Korea	Won				544.74				544.74
Japan	Yen				1,182.00		174.00		1,356.00
Total			61,277.98		296,424.34		57,804.41		415,506.73

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN McCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, May 2, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES AMENDED FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2015

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joe Donnelly:									
United States	Dollar				10,332.50				10,332.50
Kuwait	Dinar		340.97						340.97
Iraq	Dinar		70.00						70.00
South Korea	Won		469.91						469.91
China	Renminbi		245.59						245.59
Rachel Lipsey:									
United States	Dollar				10,332.50				10,332.50
Kuwait	Dinar		332.97						332.97
South Korea	Won		599.91						599.91
China	Renminbi		241.77						241.77

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES AMENDED FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2015—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total			2,301.12		20,665.00				22,966.12

SENATOR JOHN McCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services May 2, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES AMENDED FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joe Donnelly:									
United States	Dollar				13,115.16				13,115.16
Israel	New Shekel		436.00						436.00
Pakistan	Rupee		21.69						21.69
Afghanistan	Afghani		23.26						23.26
Total			480.95		13,115.16				13,596.11

SENATOR JOHN McCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, May 2, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES AMENDED FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joe Donnelly:									
United States	Dollar				13,200.96				13,200.96
Georgia	Lari		380.70						380.70
Slovakia	Euro		403.70						403.70
Rachel Lipsey:									
United States	Dollar				13,024.56				13,024.56
Georgia	Lari		380.70						380.70
Slovakia	Euro		403.71						403.71
Total			1,568.81		26,225.52				27,794.33

SENATOR JOHN McCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, May 2, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Thune:									
Germany	Euro		269.00						269.00
France	Euro		315.00						315.00
United Kingdom	Pound		499.50						499.50
Senator Roy Blunt:									
Canada	Dollar		312.00						312.00
Sean Farrell:									
United States	Dollar				814.81				814.81
Canada	Dollar		200.00						200.00
Melissa Brickell:									
United States	Dollar				4,434.90				4,434.90
Colombia	Peso		843.22						843.22
Chile	Peso		288.00						288.00
Peru	Sol		924.34						924.34
Bryan Gulley:									
United States	Dollar				4,894.90				4,894.90
Colombia	Peso		865.57						865.57
Chile	Peso		288.00						288.00
Peru	Sol		1,029.75						1,029.75
Delegation Expenses: *									
France	Euro						705.54		705.54
United Kingdom	Pound						526.51		526.51
Canada	Dollar						330.81		330.81
Colombia	Peso						457.20		457.20
Chile	Peso						622.70		622.70
Peru	Sol						981.12		981.12
Total			5,834.38		10,144.61		3,623.88		19,602.87

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, May 1, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael Bennet:									
Cuba	Peso		1,162.17						1,162.17
Colombia	Peso		544.02						544.02
Maria Mahler-Haug:									
Cuba	Peso		1,156.67						1,156.67
Colombia	Peso		544.02						544.02
Douglas Petersen:									
Chile	Peso		417.80						417.80
United States	Dollar				11,580.16				11,580.16
Anderson Heiman:									
Chile	Peso		417.80						417.80
United States	Dollar				8,947.16				8,947.16
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						11.49		11.49
Everett Eissenstat:									
Ireland	Euro		1,463.39						1,463.39
United States	Dollar				9,995.96				9,995.96
Shane Warren:									
Ireland	Euro		1,467.87						1,467.87
United States	Dollar				10,332.26				10,332.26
Anmol Khosla:									
Ireland	Euro		1,355.42						1,355.42
United States	Dollar				9,995.96				9,995.96
John Coughlan:									
Ireland	Euro		1,332.99						1,332.99
United States	Dollar				10,332.26				10,332.26
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						5,362.00		5,362.00
Christopher Campbell:									
United Kingdom	Pound		864.00						864.00
United States	Dollar				6,874.60				6,874.60
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						420.00		420.00
Tyler Brace:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,607.15						1,607.15
United States	Dollar				9,341.46				9,341.46
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						1,002.71		1,002.71
Total			12,333.30		77,399.82		6,796.20		96,529.32

* Delegation Expenses include Embassy overtime, transportation, as well as official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, May 3, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Ben Cardin:									
Mexico	Peso		857.93						857.93
Debbie Yamada:									
Mexico	Peso		984.22						984.22
Sean Bartlett:									
Mexico	Peso		896.67						896.67
Brandon Yoder:									
Mexico	Peso		958.00						958.00
Senator Edward Markey:									
Mexico	Peso		846.37						846.37
Mark Gallagher:									
Mexico	Peso		815.92						815.92
Senator Jeff Merkley:									
Mexico	Peso		858.05						858.05
Jeremiah Baumann:									
Mexico	Peso		874.81						874.81
Delegation Expenses: *									
Mexico	Peso						3,298.00		3,298.00
Senator Bob Corker:									
Kuwait	Dinar		291.46						291.46
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound		171.13						171.13
Italy	Euro		307.91						307.91
United States	Dollar				12,910.56				12,910.56
Todd Womack:									
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound		153.00						153.00
Italy	Euro		403.53						403.53
United States	Dollar				9,416.06				9,416.06
David Kinzler:									
Kuwait	Dinar		465.56						465.56
Iraq	Dollar		36.00						36.00
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound		705.00						705.00
Italy	Euro		453.53						453.53
United States	Dollar				12,942.76				12,942.76
Delegation Expenses: *									
Kuwait	Dinar						281.06		281.06
Iraq	Dollar						4,150.00		4,150.00
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound						15,224.10		15,224.10
Senator Tim Kaine:									
Italy	Euro		478.77						478.77
United States	Dollar				574.40				574.40
Nicole Porreca:									
Italy	Euro		645.51						645.51
England	Pound		523.00						523.00
United States	Dollar				2,213.86				2,213.86
Delegation Expenses: *									
Italy	Euro						110.22		110.22
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Germany	Euro		748.30						748.30
United States	Dollar				5,521.56				5,521.56

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jessica Elledge:									
Germany	Euro		890.30						890.30
United States	Dollar				7,346.66				7,346.66
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro						7,044.75		7,044.75
Senator Tom Udall:									
Cuba	CUC		1,365.50						1,365.50
Colombia	Peso		716.00						716.00
Matthew Padilla:									
Cuba	CUC		1,365.50						1,365.50
Colombia	Peso		671.00						671.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Cuba	CUC						1,158.83		1,158.83
Colombia	Peso						512.60		512.60
Brooke Eisele:									
Norway	Krone		619.00						619.00
United States	Dollar				1,684.26				1,684.26
Heather Flynn:									
Kenya	Shilling		819.86						819.86
Tanzania	Shilling		1,027.00						1,027.00
United States	Dollar				6,943.56				6,943.56
Delegation Expenses:*									
Tanzania	Shilling						288.00		288.00
Damian Murphy:									
Romania	Romanian New Lev		526.03						526.03
Bulgaria	Lev		734.03						734.03
United States	Dollar				1,942.96				1,942.96
Delegation Expenses:*									
Romania	Romanian New Lev						265.00		265.00
Bulgaria	Lev						65.89		65.89
David Andrew Olson:									
Ireland	Euro		384.00						384.00
United Kingdom	British Pound		855.58						855.58
Belgium	Euro		782.21						782.21
United States	Dollar				3,330.46				3,330.46
Ben Purser:									
Ireland	Euro		384.00						384.00
United Kingdom	British Pound		855.58						855.58
Belgium	Euro		824.21						824.21
United States	Dollar				3,330.46				3,330.46
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ireland	Euro						1,062.00		1,062.00
United Kingdom	British Pound						872.55		872.55
Belgium	Euro						1,978.03		1,978.03
Michael Phelan:									
Uganda	Shilling		730.00						730.00
Kenya	Shilling		1,149.99						1,149.99
United States	Dollar				3,703.00				3,703.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Kenya	Shilling						1,050.00		1,050.00
Sarah Ramig:									
Colombia	Peso		787.02						787.02
Chile	Peso		251.50						251.50
Peru	Sol		251.50						251.50
United States	Dollar				4,398.90				4,398.90
Delegation Expenses:*									
Colombia	Peso						228.60		228.60
Chile	Peso						306.03		306.03
Peru	Sol						424.00		424.00
Total			28,464.48		76,259.46		38,319.66		143,043.60

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Apr. 26, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lamar Alexander:									
Italy	Euro		976.06						976.06
Jordan	Dinar		405.41						405.41
Israel	Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Austria	Euro		1,720.81						1,720.81
Sarah Fairchild:									
Italy	Euro		581.46						581.46
Jordan	Dinar		405.41						405.41
Israel	Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Austria	Euro		1,720.81						1,720.81
Delegation Expenses:*									
Italy	Euro						136.83		136.83
Jordan	Dinar						763.09		763.09
Israel	Shekel						7,016.65		7,016.65
Austria	Euro						3,799.04		3,799.04
Total			8,081.96				11,715.61		19,797.57

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384 and S. Res. 179, agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Apr. 13, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Joske Bautista:									
United States	Dollar				4,894.90				4,894.90
Peru	Sol		1,094.00						1,094.00
Chile	Peso		288.00						288.00
Colombia	Peso		884.00						884.00
Lydia Westlake:									
United States	Dollar				4,533.90				4,533.90
Peru	Sol		352.56						352.56
Chile	Peso		311.74						311.74
Colombia	Peso		865.57						865.57
Delegation Expenses: *									
Peru	Sol						2,120.00		2,120.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Chile	Peso						1,530.19		1,530.19
Delegation Expenses: *									
Colombia	Peso						1,143.00		1,143.00
Senator Ron Johnson:									
United States	Dollar				13,018.66				13,018.66
Belgium	Euro		705.67						705.67
Lydia Westlake:									
United States	Dollar				13,018.66				13,018.66
Belgium	Euro		705.67						705.67
Total			5,207.21		35,466.12		4,793.19		45,466.52

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs,
Apr. 24, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Amy Klobuchar:									
United States	Dollar				12,375.56				12,375.56
Estonia	Euro		243.83						243.83
Latvia	Euro		220.93						220.93
Ukraine	Hryvnia		851.63						851.63
Georgia	Lari		226.35						226.35
Lithuania	Euro		281.29						281.29
Lindsey Kerr:									
United States	Dollar				12,375.56				12,375.56
Estonia	Euro		243.83						243.83
Latvia	Euro		220.93						220.93
Ukraine	Hryvnia		851.63						851.63
Georgia	Lari		226.35						226.35
Lithuania	Euro		349.13						349.13
Delegation Expenses: *									
Estonia	Euro						276.62		276.62
Latvia	Euro						760.04		760.04
Ukraine	Hryvnia						1,682.62		1,682.62
Georgia	Lari						419.03		419.03
Denmark	Krone						380.20		380.20
Lithuania	Euro						33.04		33.04
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Germany	Euro		740.30						740.30
Senator Amy Klobuchar:									
Germany	Euro		740.30						740.30
Christopher Mewett:									
Germany	Euro		779.30						779.30
Delegation Expenses: *									
Germany	Euro						10,567.14		10,567.14
Total			5,975.80		24,751.12		14,118.69		44,845.61

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, May 3, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Meridith West:									
United States	Dollar				23,729.02				23,729.02
South Africa	Rand		1,576.56						1,576.56
John Sandy:									
United States	Dollar				24,731.22				24,731.22
South Africa	Rand		1,576.55						1,576.55
Delegation Expenses: *									
South Africa	Rand						331.82		331.82
Total			3,153.11		48,460.24		331.82		51,945.17

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
Apr. 26, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Burr:									
			530.00						530.00
					4,320.06				4,320.06
Chris Joyner:									
			530.00						530.00
					4,320.06				4,320.06
Christian Cook:									
			530.00						530.00
					4,320.06				4,320.06
Delegation Expenses:*									
							500.00		500.00
Hayden Milberg:									
			1,051.00						1,051.00
			708.65						708.65
					13,568.36				13,568.36
Jon Rosenwasser:									
			1,051.00						1,051.00
			708.65						708.65
					13,533.36				13,533.36
Ryan Tully:									
			1,051.00						1,051.00
					13,568.36				13,568.36
Delegation Expenses:*									
							1,847.03		1,847.03
Senator Richard Burr:									
			407.00						407.00
			499.50						499.50
Senator Marco Rubio:									
			407.00						407.00
					4,042.56				4,042.56
							600.00		600.00
Senator Mark Warner:									
							600.00		600.00
Matt Pollard:									
			407.00						407.00
			499.50						499.50
Senator Mark Warner:									
			2,067.01						2,067.01
					15,606.66				15,606.66
Mike Pevzner:									
			1,978.00						1,978.00
					15,235.06				15,235.06
Delegation Expenses:*									
							204.95		204.95
Tara McFeely:									
			298.19						298.19
			327.00						327.00
			472.00						472.00
					18,297.26				18,297.26
Ryan White:									
			295.19						295.19
			327.00						327.00
			472.00						472.00
					17,805.76				17,805.76
Randy Bookout:									
			350.19						350.19
			327.00						327.00
					17,787.66				17,787.66
Delegation Expenses:*									
							13,287.88		13,287.88
John Matchison:									
			296.00						296.00
			526.10						526.10
					24,361.82				24,361.82
Nate Adler:									
			396.00						396.00
			626.00						626.00
					23,265.48				23,265.48
Nick Basciano:									
			289.10						289.10
			370.50						370.50
					8,053.86				8,053.86
Ryan Kaldahl:									
			285.60						285.60
			368.00						368.00
					8,053.86				8,053.86
Delegation Expenses:*									
							614.85		614.85
Senator Richard Burr:									
			405.41						405.41
			125.00						125.00
			568.00						568.00
					2,993.80				2,993.80
Senator Tom Cotton:									
			305.41						305.41
			25.00						25.00
			564.70						564.70
					2,993.80				2,993.80
Senator James Lankford:									
			405.41						405.41
			125.00						125.00
			568.00						568.00
					2,993.80				2,993.80
Senator Marco Rubio:									
			405.41						405.41
			125.00						125.00
			380.00						380.00
					6,594.38				6,594.38
Senator John Cornyn:									
			405.41						405.41
			125.00						125.00
					7,028.26				7,028.26
Christian Cook:									
			405.41						405.41
			125.00						125.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
			568.00						568.00
					2,993.80				2,993.80
David Hanke:									
			315.41						315.41
			125.00						125.00
			559.20						559.20
					2,993.80				2,993.80
Ryan Tully:									
			405.41						405.41
			220.00						220.00
			568.00						568.00
					2,904.00				2,904.00
Brian Walsh:									
			405.41						405.41
			220.00						220.00
			568.00						568.00
					2,993.80				2,993.80
Emily Harding:									
			381.61						381.61
			160.00						160.00
			568.00						568.00
					2,904.00				2,904.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
							20,456.75		20,456.75
Total			28,578.38		243,533.68		38,111.46		310,223.52

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD BURR,
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, May 3, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Italy	Euro		976.00						976.00
Jordan	Dinar		440.00						440.00
Israel	Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Austria	Euro		1,720.81						1,720.81
Ambassdor David Killion:									
Italy	Euro		1,094.82						1,094.82
Jordan	Dinar		440.00						440.00
Israel	Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Austria	Euro		2,294.71						2,294.71
United States	Dollar				11,656.46				11,656.46
Paul Massaro:									
Italy	Euro		581.46						581.46
Jordan	Dinar		440.00						440.00
Israel	Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Austria	Euro		1,720.81						1,720.81
Alex Tiersky:									
Italy	Euro		964.01						964.01
Austria	Euro		2,868.00						2,868.00
Everett Price:									
Jordan	Dinar		1,216.23						1,216.23
Israel	Shekel		1,136.00						1,136.00
Austria	Euro		1,720.81						1,720.81
United States	Dollar				2,781.08				2,781.08
Robert Hand:									
Austria	Euro		2,703.00						2,703.00
United States	Dollar				1,746.16				1,746.16
Delegation Expenses: *									
Italy									
Jordan	Dinar						1,770.37		1,770.37
Israel	Shekel						24,895.78		24,895.78
Austria	Euro						17,095.70		17,095.70
Erika Schlager:									
Austria	Euro		1,230.30		12,227.06				13,457.36
Delegation Expenses: *									
Austria	Euro						80.25		80.25
Mischa Thompson:									
Belgium	Euro		2,312.00		2,058.06				4,370.06
The Netherlands	Euro		351.00						351.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Belgium	Euro						235.80		235.80
Total			27,618.02		19,977.82		44,077.90		91,673.74

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER F. WICKER,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Apr. 18, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States	Dollar				18,652.26				18,652.26

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Egypt	Pound		222.00						222.00
Jordan	Dinar		810.82						810.82
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		473.00						473.00
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States	Dollar				2,993.80				2,993.80
Lebanon	Pound		212.90						212.90
Jordan	Dinar		358.31						358.31
Israel	New Shekel		520.90						520.90
Total			2,597.93		21,646.06				24,243.99

SENATOR MITCH McCONNELL,
Majority Leader, May 4, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
Cuba	Peso		1,252.40						1,252.40
Colombia	Peso		637.00						637.00
Total			1,889.40						1,889.40

SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, Apr. 12, 2017.

AMENDING THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS QUANTIFICATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 20, S. 140.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 140) to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 140) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 140

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. USE OF FUNDS IN WMAT SETTLEMENT FUND FOR WMAT RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF WMAT RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—Section 307(a) of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3080) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ‘‘, (b)(2),’’ after ‘‘subsections (a)’’.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 312(b)(2)(C)(i)(III) of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3093) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ‘‘, including the planning, design, and construction of the WMAT rural water system, in accordance with section 307(a).’’.

PROVIDING THAT THE PUEBLO OF SANTA CLARA MAY LEASE FOR 99 YEARS CERTAIN RESTRICTED LAND

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 22, S. 249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 249) to provide that the pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 249) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 249

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF PUEBLO OF SANTA CLARA LAND ELIGIBLE FOR 99-YEAR LEASE.

Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the ‘‘Long-Term Leasing Act’’) (25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘Indians,,’’ and inserting ‘‘Indians,’’;

(2) by inserting ‘‘Ohkay Owingeh pueblo,’’ after ‘‘Cochiti,’’;

(3) by inserting ‘‘the pueblo of Santa Clara,’’ after ‘‘Pojoaque,’’;

(4) by striking ‘‘the the lands’’ and inserting ‘‘the land’’;

(5) by striking ‘‘lands held in trust for the Pueblo of Santa Clara,’’; and

(6) by striking ‘‘lands held in trust for Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo’’.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 159, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 159) recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 159) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Gottlieb nomination, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Gottlieb nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators Thune and Sullivan.

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

The Senator from South Dakota.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been said that nothing is certain but death and taxes. To that, nowadays, we might add bad news about ObamaCare because if there is one thing we can count on, it is bad news about this fatally flawed law—high premium costs, huge deductibles, customers losing health plans, customers losing doctors, fewer choices, failed co-ops, unraveling exchanges, and I could go on.

There is no question that our healthcare system had problems before ObamaCare was passed. Clearly reforms were needed. But as the past 7 years have made clear, ObamaCare was not the answer, and this law is rapidly collapsing under its own weight.

Here is a sampling of recent ObamaCare headlines.

This is from Bloomberg: ''Thousands of ObamaCare Customers Left Without Options as Insurers Bolt.''

This is from CNBC: ''Aetna will exit ObamaCare markets in Virginia in 2018, citing expected losses on individual plans this year.''

From the Arizona Republic: ''Consumers seek relief as 'ObamaCare' rates rise.''

From USA TODAY: ''Iowa may be without individual health plans if insurer pulls out.''

In February of this year, Mark Bertolini, the CEO of health insurance company Aetna, asserted that ObamaCare is in a death spiral. There is good reason to think he is right in that significant losses are driving health insurers out of the exchanges. Last year, Aetna announced that it would withdraw from 11 of the 15 States in which it offered exchange plans, Humana said it would exit several exchanges, and mega-insurer UnitedHealthcare announced that it was pulling out of most of the 34 States in which it offered exchange plans.

Roughly one-third of U.S. counties have just one choice of health insurer on their exchanges for 2017, and the situation looks likely to get much worse next year. In February, health insurer Humana announced its decision to completely withdraw from the ObamaCare exchanges for 2018. Aetna is pulling out of two of the four States in which it will still offer plans in 2018, and it has indicated it may pull back even further. Wellmark is leaving Iowa. UnitedHealthcare is leaving Virginia. Other insurers are contemplating similar exits.

The New York Times reported in March that ''ObamaCare Choices Could Go from One to Zero in Some Areas.''

''Parts of the country,'' the Times notes, ''are in jeopardy of not having an insurer offering ObamaCare plans next year.'' The quote goes on: ''Many counties already have just one insurer offering health plans in the ObamaCare marketplaces, and some of those solo insurers are showing signs that they are eyeing the exits.'' That is from the New York Times.

What that means is that tens of thousands of Americans may have ObamaCare subsidies next year without insurance plans to spend them on. As my colleague Senator ALEXANDER, who does so much good work on healthcare as the chairman of the HELP Committee, has said, it is like having a bus ticket in a town with no buses running.

While Americans' health insurance options dwindle, their premiums are rising. Midlevel ObamaCare plans saw an average 25 percent premium increase for 2017—a 25-percent increase for just 1 year, which is on top of years of premium increases under ObamaCare. And what are Americans with those plans paying for? The odds are good that they are paying for plans with limited choices of doctors and hospitals. A 2016 study of 18 States and Washington, DC, found that 75 percent of their exchange plans for 2017 would likely be health maintenance organizations or exclusive provider organizations—two types of plans that tend to offer narrow provider networks.

In his joint address to Congress at the end of February, the President said of ObamaCare: ''Action is not a choice—it is a necessity.'' He is exactly right. ObamaCare is collapsing, and the status quo is not sustainable. Unless we want millions of Americans to face healthcare disaster, we have to repeal and replace this law.

Last week, the House passed an ObamaCare repeal and replacement bill. This legislation repeals ObamaCare's tax increases, penalties, and mandates and starts the process of restoring control of healthcare to States and individuals.

The House has made a good start, and I am looking forward to getting to build on their bill here in the Senate. I want to make sure we amend the House tax credit to ensure that assistance is better targeted to those who need it the most. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues—Chairman ALEXANDER, Chairman HATCH on the Finance Committee, Policy Committee Chairman BARRASSO, and many others—to make sure we have a bill that will provide the American people with real relief.

ObamaCare was founded on the premise that government knows best when it comes to individuals' healthcare and that a one-size-fits-all solution is somehow the best solution, but we know now that is not the case. Individuals know best, and their doctors know best. Government does not know best. It is absurd to think that a massive Federal bureaucracy can hand down one comprehensive solution that will somehow meet the needs of hundreds of millions of individuals in this country. We need to move control from Washington and give it back to the States so they can embrace healthcare innovations and solutions that work for the individuals and the particular needs in their States.

Republicans are working to implement the kind of healthcare reform the American people are looking for—more affordable, more personal, more flexible, and less bureaucratic. Americans have had enough of ObamaCare's problems. They are ready for healthcare reform that actually works, and we are committed to giving it to them.

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

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

MINISTERIAL OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak on a couple of important foreign policy issues.

I begin by talking about what is going to be happening in Alaska in just a few days. Really, the eyes of the world are going to be on Fairbanks, AK—the Golden Heart City in the middle of Alaska's interior—for a major foreign policy event. The United States will be hosting the Ministerial of the Arctic Council and will be passing the chairmanship of that Council over to Finland.

The Arctic Council is an important foreign policy body. It consists of the

Arctic countries of the world—the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Russia. In just a few days, all of the Foreign Ministers of all of those countries will be in Fairbanks, AK.

This is not the first time in recent memory that the Golden Heart City of Fairbanks has been on the world stage in its hosting of a critical foreign policy meeting of world leaders. In fact, almost exactly 33 years ago to this very day in 1984, on May 2, in Fairbanks, AK, Pope John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan met in Fairbanks. It was a great meeting. You could see the chemistry between these two great world leaders. Right now, some historians believe that it was at the Fairbanks meeting of these two great leaders when the Pope and the great President Ronald Reagan laid out their vision and plans to vanquish global communism.

America is an Arctic nation because of Alaska, and we have very significant, strategic interests in the Arctic—economic opportunity, transportation routes, sea routes that are now beginning to open because of receding sea ice, responsible natural resource development—enormous natural resources of all types, including oil and gas—protecting the environment, and respecting the culture and way of life of the peoples in the Arctic, particularly of the indigenous peoples, including their subsistence hunting rights. After a substantial discussion I had just a couple of days ago with Secretary of State Tillerson about the upcoming ministerial, I am confident this ministerial will focus on these important issues.

In going forward, it is important to remember that right now in the Arctic, there are real people with real lives, real families, and real needs who live in this part of the world. They are my constituents. These are the people I represent. They are resilient, tough, hard-working, and very generous. The world is going to see them this week in their hosting of the Ministerial of the Arctic Council in Fairbanks. I thank all of them for their hard work in preparing for this event, and I thank Secretary Tillerson for rallying all of the world's Arctic Foreign Ministers to Alaska in the next few days. I will be there to support this very important event.

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, in addition to the Ministerial of the Arctic Council, as I mentioned, the eyes of the world are on this—clearly on the important issue of U.S.-China relations.

We had the recent President Trump and President Xi meeting in Mar-a-Lago, and this week Madam Fu Ying, who is one of the top Chinese Foreign Minister officials, is going to be in Washington to meet with a number of us. It is something I believe this body needs to focus on more, this important issue of U.S.-China relations.

Our country faces a lot of significant national security challenges around the world. In my view, however, the most significant long-term, geostrategic challenge we face is not ISIS, not al-Qaida, not Iran, Russia, or even North Korea. Those are very serious and immediate concerns, but the most significant long-term challenge we face as a country is the rise of China and the threat it poses to the post-World War II international order, led by the United States.

This has been made clear in a series of writings by the well-known and respected Harvard professor, Graham Allison, beginning 2 years ago in 2015. In an article in The Atlantic magazine, he started to write about what he called the Thucydides Trap. Professor Allison is set to publish a book this month on the same topic. In the book, he writes that the defining question of global order for this generation is whether China and the United States can escape the Thucydides Trap.

I have had the privilege over the last few weeks to review the book, and I believe it will be a ''must read'' for those who care about the long-term security and economic interests of the United States.

What is he talking about? What is this issue, the Thucydides Trap? Why has Professor Allison been so focused on writing about it and addressing it?

Thucydides is the famed Greek historian. Many actually view him as the father of all history, who wrote an epic historical work about the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. In that 30-year war, which devastated both of those Greek city states, the rising power, Athens, challenged the established order of the ruling power, Sparta.

The ''Thucydides Trap'' is the term Professor Allison describes when he talks about the strategic dilemma and danger that occurs when a rising power threatens a ruling power in the international system. As his new book explores, in the last 500 years when this has happened—because it does happen a lot in history, and he reviews the last 500 years—of the 16 times this has happened in the last 500 years, 12 of those times ended up having extensive war between the two countries. That is not good. Those are not great odds. Indeed, in his Atlantic article just 2 years ago, he concludes by saying that because of the seismic shifts and friction that is occurring between China and the United States, war between these two countries is more likely than is recognized at the moment. That is not good news.

There is some good news on this because it is not just Harvard professors who are talking about this, such as Professor Allison, who is talking about the Thucydides Trap; so, too, are the Chinese.

I, with a number of Senators, had the opportunity a few years ago, when President Xi Jinping visited the Senate, to meet with him. I went down to the Senate floor to talk about some of the issues, some of the ways in which we need to think about the long-term challenges with regard to the United States and China. The article in the Atlantic had just come out, so I talked about it, the Thucydides Trap, and how we need to avoid it. Then I literally walked into a meeting with the President of China and some other U.S. Senators. In his opening remarks, he talked about the Thucydides Trap and how China and the United States need to avoid it. So that is the good news. At least on that issue, we are on the same sheet of paper.

There is other good news, and that is that this body—the U.S. Senate—in many ways, is the ideal place where we should be discussing, debating, developing, and, yes, implementing the kind of long-term strategic policies we need to address as a country and develop with regard to the rise of China.

In ''The Federalist Papers,'' Madison talks about one of the important roles of the Senate, with its Members having 6-year terms and having significant powers in foreign policy, is to be able to ensure stable and lasting relations between the United States and other nations. Indeed, perhaps more than any other part of the Federal Government, this institution—the U.S. Senate—has the opportunity to act and think and debate and implement policies—strategic policies—for the long-term interests of our Nation.

Contrary to some conventional wisdom, where we only hear about American ''short-termism,'' in terms of long-term foreign policy issues, our country actually has a history of developing long-term strategic frameworks that address significant challenges to America's security and economic interests. Just think of the Monroe Doctrine in the 19th century or George Kennan's strategy of containment in the 20th century, dealing with the threat posed by the rise of the Soviet Union and global communism. These were long-term, successful strategies for the United States in response to significant challenges facing our Nation, in part developed here in the U.S. Senate and implemented here, and we can do it with regard to the challenges we are facing now with China.

So as we work with the executive branch on developing an American strategy to address the rise of China and to avoid the Thucydides Trap, how should we be thinking about it? What principles should we be focused on? Let me suggest four that we should be focused on as a nation.

First, we must recognize and emphasize that the United States is an Asia-Pacific power; second, we must strengthen, deepen, and expand our comprehensive alliances with the Asia-Pacific region; third, we must engage with, not try to contain, China; and fourth—and perhaps most importantly—we must renew America's strength, particularly the economic power and vitality of this great Nation.

I will turn to each of these principles in a bit more detail. As I mentioned first, America is an Asia-Pacific power, and we must push back on narratives or counterstrategies being developed in the region that talk about Asia for Asians, which are veiled attempts to try to exclude the United States from this dynamic region in the future, in the orders being developed in the Asia-Pacific.

Just look at this map. Geographically, we clearly are an Asia-Pacific nation. A few of us, about a month and a half ago, had the opportunity, when Prime Minister Abe was visiting, to have breakfast with him, and I reminded the Prime Minister at the breakfast that not only are they a key ally of ours in the Asia-Pacific, but for me, as an Alaskan, they are also a neighbor. Just look at this map. I reminded the Prime Minister that my hometown of Anchorage is actually closer to Tokyo than it is to Washington, DC, and having just gotten off the plane from Anchorage, I can tell you it is a lot closer.

When we think of our forces, whether in Alaska or Guam or Hawaii, we look at this map, and on U.S. territory, Alaska forces, based in my great State, are, for the most part, closer to the Korean Peninsula than forces based in Australia. So, clearly, geographically, we are an Asia-Pacific country.

Of course, American history has been embedded in the Asia-Pacific for centuries. During World War II, the United States led the effort to win the war in the Pacific after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the bombing of Alaska, which was bombed, invaded, and occupied by the forces of Imperial Japan. Many Americans are not familiar with that history of the war.

It is not just geographic proximity and the battles we fought to win World War II in the Asia-Pacific, just as important, in terms of our heritage as an Asia-Pacific nation, are the policies we implemented after World War II because it is now clear the United States has underwritten the peace, prosperity, and security of this entire region through our continued military presence, our alliances, and our economic engagement and power in the region.

No country has done more than the United States to make the Asia-Pacific the world's most dynamic and economically vibrant region, and it has been the policies of our great Nation over 70 years that have led to that. By the way, no country has benefited more from the established order that we put forward and established in this region than China, with the rise of China, in many ways, helped, encouraged, and moved forward by the peace and prosperity we brought to the region.

Let me provide just one example of how the U.S. military forces in the region have played the key role in helping keep the relative peace. Our enduring naval presence has helped to keep the sealanes, where all of this transportation and commerce and economic growth has occurred, in the Asia-Pacific. That has been the U.S. Navy, for decades, doing that. As I mentioned, all nations of the region—ours included—have benefited from this order, and from our policies, and our commitment and our sacrifice. All nations—including and particularly true, China has.

So we must flatly and completely reject policies being developed in the region or in Washington that forget our geography and our history. The United States is an Asia-Pacific power. The United States is the preeminent Asia-Pacific power, but many of America's core national interests are at stake in the region, and we will be an enduring presence in this part of the world for decades and centuries to come.

Second, with regard to how to address the rise of China and the principles we need to think about, we must continue to strengthen, deepen, and expand our comprehensive set of alliances in the Asia-Pacific region that have been built over decades. Now, the United States faces many global challenges, but one of the most critical strategic advantages that we have as a nation, in terms of security, is that we are an ally-rich nation and our adversaries and potential adversaries and competitors are ally-poor. Just think about it. Look at this map. Look through and think through all of the countries that are either treaty allies of the United States or wanting to get closer, and then think of other countries, including China, Russia, North Korea, Iran—all ally-poor. This is particularly the case in Europe and the Asia-Pacific. As I mentioned, these alliance systems have been built over decades by Democratic and Republican administrations, and what we need to emphasize now is we should not squander them.

It is also the case—and we are seeing and hearing about it literally almost every day, whether it is countries like Russia or, yes, China that are constantly looking for opportunities to create schisms and tensions between the United States and its longstanding allies. We need to resist that, we need to be aware of that, and we need to focus on our allies. As Winston Churchill famously said, the only thing worse than going to war with allies is doing so without them. With regard to the Asia-Pacific, we have an opportunity to not just deepen existing alliances with critical countries like Japan and Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand, we also have a unique opportunity to expand our alliances in the region of the Asia-Pacific with countries like Vietnam and India.

In my first couple of years in the Senate, I have had the opportunity to travel in the region several times—in fact, every time I go home, I travel in the region—and meet with many of the leaders in the Asia-Pacific when they come to Washington or when we are in the region. It is clear to me there is a deep interest in many countries to strengthen their economic and security relationships with the United States. This is driven, in part, by the role we have played over decades as the force in the region that has kept the peace and promoted prosperity, but this is also driven by concerns of almost every country in the region about China's increasingly aggressive actions, particularly in the South China Sea, where, despite pledges from senior Chinese leaders not to militarize that part of the world—not to militarize that critical crossroads of commerce for the entire world—they clearly are doing it. For a country that in many ways is renowned for taking the long view—for having the ability to see around the corners of history—China's actions are having the effect of driving more and more countries into the American sphere. We should seize this opportunity, while recognizing that the productive work, the hard work of maintaining our alliances in the region takes time, takes patience, perseverance, respect, and consistency.

To be honest, I was a bit concerned—and I gave some speeches last year about this—that given some of last year's campaign rhetoric, the Trump administration would not emphasize the importance of our allies and not undertake the hard but necessary work of deepening and expanding key strategic relationships, but I think, to the contrary, they are off to a very good start. The Secretary of Defense, General Mattis, in his first trip overseas as the new Secretary of Defense, could have gone anywhere, including NATO, the Middle East, where we have critical strategic interests, but he chose to go to Japan and Korea to cement these critical alliances. The Vice President just got back from a 10-day trip to Japan, to Korea, to Australia, and to Indonesia, with stops in the States representing the Asia-Pacific, including my home State of Alaska and Hawaii, along the way.

I had a good discussion with the Vice President recently over dinner. We talked mostly about this and how focused he and the administration were on maintaining and deepening our alliances in the region, but still we can always improve, especially in terms of making sure we are coordinating closely with all of our allies on critical decisions and that we keep surprises, especially on sensitive strategic issues, to a minimum with regard to our allies. In this regard, President Trump's recent statement that South Korea would have to pay for the THAAD missile system that we are deploying in South Korea, after the U.S. had previously stated we would pay, was an unforced error that I hope the administration will be learning from.

Of course, this body, the U.S. Senate, also has an important role to play, not only in emphasizing and helping maintain our alliances by meeting with leaders around the world and working with them but also in bolstering the capabilities of our partners in the region, economically and militarily.

Right now, there are initiatives that are doing just that, coming out of the Armed Services Committee on which I sit. One is the Asia-Pacific Stability Initiative, led by Senator MCCAIN, which would do that—increase our capabilities with our partners in the region to deepen our alliances.

Our alliances clearly matter. They matter in our long-term strategy to address the rise of China. But, of course, so does our relationship with China. That is the third principle I would like to discuss.

We must continue to engage with China, not seek to contain it, as some have argued. In fact, when we look at the U.S. relationship with China, ever since Secretary of State Kissinger and President Nixon in the early 1970s began having discussions with China's leadership, America's policy toward China has always been about engaging. It has never been about containing, as our strategy was with regard to the Soviet Union.

Of course, it has taken different forms. We had the One China policy, which we are still focused on, and the Taiwan Relations Act, which was developed by this body in the U.S. Senate in the late 1970s. We had recently initiated by President Bush and continued by President Obama the strategic economic dialogue where senior leaders in the United States and China met every 6 months. I had the opportunity to participate in that as an Assistant Secretary of State under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

There are all kinds of different approaches to our engagement. In my view, the most strategic concept since the One China policy was the policy developed during the Bush administration by former Deputy Secretary of State Bob Zoellick, who went on to be the president of the World Bank. What he called the responsible stakeholder model was very well-received initially in 2006. He laid it out in a big speech, then went to China and focused on this.

Essentially, the essence of that strategy was that China has greatly benefited from the U.S.-led international order, from the U.S.-led international system; therefore, it is in China's interest to become a responsible stakeholder in that system, to strengthen the international system that has so greatly enabled its own economic success.

In the early days of the strategy, when it was launched, there was a lot of promise. I remember having the opportunity to go to China with Secretary Paulson when he was leading the strategic economic dialogue in the Bush administration. We would meet with all the leadership of China, from the President on down. At that time, every leader in these meetings used the term ''responsible stakeholder.'' They talked about it; they talked about this American concept as a framework for our relationship.

Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to be working out so well now. Chinese officials no longer talk about being a responsible stakeholder. In fact, on many military and economic issues, they seem focused on undermining the US-led international order. Professor Allison's book mentions this specifically, where he says an increasingly powerful China is unraveling the American-led order, throwing into question the peace that generations in the region have taken for granted.

When we look at the long arch of history with regard to China, this notion that maybe they wouldn't accept this idea of becoming a responsible stakeholder in our system that we created—that might not happen. Indeed, this was foretold by one of the wisest men in Asia, Lee Kuan Yew, who was the father of Singapore. Decade after decade as he built that country into an economic powerhouse, American leaders—military leaders, political leaders, Presidents, Democrats, Republicans—would meet with Lee Kuan Yew to get his advice and wisdom.

I had the opportunity as a young National Security Council staffer to be invited to a meeting with Lee Kuan Yew when I was in Singapore—one of the most interesting meetings of my career—with Deputy Secretary Bob Zoellick and our Ambassador. Lee Kuan Yew talked about Asia and about America's role for 2 hours.

But in another book about Lee Kuan Yew by Professor Allison, he was asked about whether China would accept this idea of being a responsible stakeholder in the American-led international order. His answer was: Of course not.

Why not? How could they aspire not to be No. 1 in Asia and in time No. 1 in the world?

When asked about this concept of being a responsible stakeholder in this system which has benefited them, Lee Kuan Yew was complimentary of the concept that the Americans were trying to lay out, but he said: China wants to be China and, as such, not an honorary member of the West and their international system.

So even though it is clear that the responsible stakeholder framework is not working with China, we still need to stay engaged at all levels—senior leaders, economic officials, military leaders. I want to compliment the President on how he started the relationship with President Xi Jinping. They seem to be off to a good start.

At the same time, we need to continue to look at different concepts, different frameworks of how we continue to engage with China. Let me suggest one idea that I have termed ''true reciprocity.''

As China has rejected the responsible stakeholder model, it is also clear they are increasingly rejecting the idea of a reciprocal relationship with the United States across a number of sectors. Let me give a couple examples.

We look at issues like intellectual property theft. The United States has been raising this issue for decades. As a matter of fact, I had the opportunity to sit in a meeting with former President Bush, Condoleezza Rice, and senior Chinese officials in the Oval Office. We talked about this issue. The President pounded the table on this issue. The Chinese committed not to steal our intellectual property. Yet that continues unabated, now often through cyber attacks.

We look at foreign direct investment, how Chinese companies invest in Europe and the United States, how they are buying companies such as advanced robotics, biotech, media, high-tech companies, internet companies. But if an American company or a Western European company wanted to do the same in China, we know what the answer would be. It would be no.

This lack of economic reciprocity extends beyond the trading relationship. I attended a briefing a few weeks ago in the Senate by the Asia Society, which is putting out an important strategy document with regard to China—ideas for the Trump administration, a very thoughtful policy recommendation piece.

One thing they noted in terms of diplomacy: Right now in Beijing, our U.S. Ambassador is typically getting only deputy minister-level access, deputy minister-level meetings, while back here we give much higher access to ministers to the Secretary of State. This was essentially confirmed by former President Obama's own Ambassador, former Senator Max Baucus, who, in a remarkable exit interview about his time as Ambassador to China—a job he loved—talked about how, in many ways, in terms of reciprocity, we were too weak, not firm enough, pushed around. These are his quotes. It was an interview that actually didn't make a lot of news but was quite remarkable—how we had no strategy to deal with this, how we needed to draw our own redlines.

As we develop a long-term strategy toward China to avoid the Thucydides Trap, we need to institute an engagement policy which looks at true reciprocity. I will be speaking about this more in the coming weeks, and I am going to be offering legislation with regard to reciprocity in the economic and trade relationship. But I will say, diplomatically speaking, this should be a no-brainer. If our Ambassador in Beijing gets only deputy minister-level access to Chinese officials in China's capital, then that is what we should provide China's Ambassador here. It is simple, easy.

The final principle we need to focus on in developing our long-term strategy to address the rise of China is the imperative to renew America's strength, particularly the economic power and vitality of the United States. We have to be strong at home again, and we haven't been.

I have a chart here that says it all. Over the last, really, 10 to 15 years, we have a lost decade of economic growth. We have not been able to hit 3 percent GDP growth in almost 15 years. Some

have called this the new normal; this is what we should expect. But in many ways, when we look at this chart—Republican, Democratic administrations—the 3-percent line here is not a great number. It is an OK number. The traditional numbers of economic growth are closer to 4 percent for our country. But literally, in almost 15 years, we haven't hit it—not once. President Obama was the first President who never hit 3 percent GDP growth in a year, ever.

This is not a healthy economy, and in many ways people are starting to question the American dream, the idea that each generation will be better. We have to get back to a strong economy. I certainly hope the Trump administration will be focusing on this. I know that many Members of this body are focused on this issue.

Last quarter we didn't have a good start with the new administration—0.7 percent GDP growth, less than 1 percent growth. Economic growth, even more than military might, in many ways is the coin of the realm in Asia. We must get back to a robust economy.

Many experts at home and abroad say we can't do it. They say our demographic challenges are too great, but I disagree. If we look at U.S. history, every time we are dismissed, every time someone talks about the decline of the great American engine of growth, whether in the 1930s or in the 1970s or beginning in the 1980s when Japan was going to overtake us—every time that has happened and the naysayers are out there, the U.S. economy comes roaring back. It is critical that we do this now.

We have so many strategic advantages, even relative to China, with regard to our economy. So many of our challenges, in my view, are self-inflicted problems that we can solve.

Strong economic growth—at least about 3 percent—will more closely bind our allies to the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.

Strong economic growth will help us rebuild our military, which has been drastically cut over the last 8 years. Strong economic growth will be critical to tackling our challenges at home, such as skyrocketing deficits and debt levels and crumbling infrastructure. Perhaps, most importantly, strong economic growth will enable us to view the future, including the rise of China, with confidence and not fear.

Our great Nation succeeds when we look to the future with opportunity, not with trepidation. In Professor Allison's upcoming book, currently titled ''Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap,'' he notes that fear was the driving force that propelled Athens and Sparta into the Peloponnesian War. ''What made war inevitable,'' Thucydides tells us, was the rise of Athens and the fear this instilled in Sparta.

In the 12 of 16 cases he reviews in his book where a rising power challenged an established power leading to war, fear was a key driving force that often precipitated war. The more our policies at home can renew America's strength, vitality, and confidence, the more likely in my view it is that we will develop clear, long-term foreign policies that can help us avoid the Thucydides Trap.

I have had the opportunity in my career to view the U.S.-China relationship over the past two decades from a variety of different lenses and perspectives. Over 20 years ago, I was deployed as a young marine infantry officer as part of an amphibious task force to what later became known as the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis, defending U.S. interests in the region and those of our ally Taiwan.

Later, I was an NSC staffer and an Assistant Secretary of State under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and I spent a lot of time in China working on these issues. I became a State of Alaska official, traveling for my State as the commissioner of natural resources and energy. I have traveled to China to pursue the promise of better economic relations. China is now the No. 1 market for my very export-oriented State, for Alaska exports. Now, as a U.S. Senator, I am focused on this issue and cochairing the U.S.-China working group with my good friend Senator DAINES and getting out to the region as often as possible.

I have seen the promise, opportunity, and challenges of the U.S.-China relationship as it has matured over the last 20 years, and I have deep respect for China, its history, and all that it has recently accomplished. I know some of the leaders there and consider them colleagues.

This body, the Senate, and our country need to do more to focus on how to make sure that the rise of China is compatible with U.S. economic and national security interests and, most importantly, with the interests of the people we represent.

I have laid out some core principles this evening on how we might begin to develop a coherent, long-term strategy and address the challenges and opportunities of China's rise. I hope my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—will work together over the years on this incredibly important issue. There is so much at stake and a lot of work to do by many in the governments, the private sector, and the military—both in the United States and in China and in the countries of the region.

The gravitational pull of history might be working against us. There is a lot riding on how we address this preeminent geostrategic issue.

Let me conclude by reading how Professor Allison, in his book, sums up the challenge. He states:

The return to prominence of a 5,000-year-old civilization with 1.4 billion people is not a problem to be fixed. It is a condition—a chronic condition that will have to be managed over a generation. Success will require not just a new slogan, more frequent presidential summits, or additional meetings of departmental working groups. Managing this relationship without war will demand sustained attention, week by week, at the highest levels in both governments. It will require a depth of mutual understanding not seen since the Henry Kissinger-Zhou Enlai conversations that reestablished US-China relations in the 1970s. Most significant, it will mean more radical changes in attitudes and actions by leaders and the public alike than anyone yet has undertaken. To escape Thucydides's Trap, we must be willing to think the unthinkable—and imagine the unimaginable. Avoiding Thucydides's Trap in this case will require nothing less than bending the arc of history.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MATTHEW BASSETT, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE JIM R. ESQUEA.

THE JUDICIARY

AMY CONEY BARRETT, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JOHN DANIEL TINDER, RETIRED.

JOHN KENNETH BUSH, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE DANNY J. BOGGS, RETIRED.

JOAN LOUISE LARSEN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE DAVID W. MCKEAGUE, RETIRED.

KEVIN CHRISTOPHER NEWSOM, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JOEL F. DUBINA, RETIRED.

DAVID C. NYE, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO, VICE EDWARD J. LODGE, RETIRED.

SCOTT L. PALK, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA, VICE STEPHEN P. FRIOT, RETIRED.

DAMIEN MICHAEL SCHIFF, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE GEORGE W. MILLER, RETIRED.

DAVID RYAN STRAS, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT, VICE DIANA E. MURPHY, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, 3037, AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. SUSAN K. ARNOLD
COL. JOSEPH B. BERGER III
COL. ROBERT P. HUSTON

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. RICHARD J. LEBEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. TODD W. LEWIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. GEORGE N. APPENZELLER
COL. TELITA CROSLAND

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEVEN R. RUDDER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

JAMES E. THOMPSON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

PABLO F. DIAZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CRAIG A. NAZARETH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

BRIAN C. MCLEAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

RAYMOND C. CASTELINE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DANIEL J. SHANK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS A CHAPLAIN UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER W. DEGN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JASON T. KIDDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

TITO M. VILLANUEVA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 4333(B) AND 4336(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

PHILIP J. DACUNTO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

STEPHEN R. NOVEMBER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

LUISA SANTIAGO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT J. BONNER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JUANITO F. BOYDON, JR.
MICHAEL J. MONAGHAN
DANA M. MUCHOW
MICHAEL S. RICHMAN
ELMER L. ROMAN
SURESH K. THADHANI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ANTHONY L. BAYUNGAN
TASYA Y. LACY
MICHAEL A. LEACHMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

TODD M. BOLAND
DEWUAN L. BOOKER
TODD M. BRUEMER
JOHN S. CHRISTENSEN
JOHN P. V. COLLINS
MARK E. CROWE
GEORGE F. GLAZE
JEFFREY T. GRANT
MICHAEL J. HANSON
JAMES A. HAYES
WILLIAM J. MCCABE
REINALDO J. MORILLO
KANAN C. OTT
BARRY R. PARKER
BRIAN J. SHEAKLEY
JASON W. STICHT
KAIL C. SWINDLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JAMES G. ADAMS
ROBERT E. ASMANN
FRANK J. BANTELL
PAUL A. BARNETT
JEFFREY T. BEARDEN
STUART H. BLANCHETTE
LANE A. BOLAND
DAVID E. BOWEN
ROBERT C. BURDEAUX
RANDY J. BURLESON II
ISEL CARO
MICHAEL CHIN
PETER J. DALVE
MICHAEL J. DARCY
ZACHARY J. EVANS
STEPHEN A. EVERAGE
PATRICK W. FINNEY
SCOTT P. FITZSIMMONS
MATTHEW I. GERMANN
ROBERT C. GERSTEMEIER
BRIAN J. GIRACCA
STEVEN C. GOFF
ABIGAIL D. GOSS
ELIZABETH L. GREENWOOD
JONATHAN D. GRUEN
MARK A. HAMMOND
JARED M. HANNUM
WALLACE T. HARRISON
MATTHEW A. HAWKINS
TRAVIS W. HAYES
RUSSELL A. HERRELL
WILLIAM HOLMGREN
BRYAN M. HOOKS
POUL H. JENSEN
JEREMY M. KOMASZ
CORDELL R. KOOPMAN
SUZANNE J. KRAUSS
CHARLES D. KUBA
TREVER L. LANGE
DAVID M. LANGLIE
MICHAEL P. LOHAN
DAVID C. LUNDAHL, JR.
REGINALD L. MACKEY
STEPHEN R. MELVIN
PERRY D. MEYER
JOHN E. OUELLETTE
SCOTT M. PATTERSON
GREGORY K. PAVLYAK
MAURICIO PEREZ
ERIC R. PIHL
CHRISTOPHER A. RAKOV
MATTHEW R. RITCHEY
BRAD W. ROCKWELL
JARRET L. ROTH
PAUL M. SCHALLER
ARCHIBLE W. SHERMAN
DANIEL M. SHIN
ADRIAN SIEBENHAAR
CHRISTOPHER T. SLAYMAN
DAVID J. SMITH
WILLIAM M. SULLIVAN
WILLIAM L. WALTON, JR.
THOMAS J. WILEY IV
CHARLES C. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

SHAWN G. DENIHAN
CHAD A. RUNYON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KELVIN J. ASKEW
ERIKA L. BERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KATHLEEN A. ALLEN
CHRISTOPHER FRYE

CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by the Senate May 8, 2017:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HEATHER WILSON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RAISING AWARENESS OF MARINES UNITED OFFENSIVE FACEBOOK PAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I want to thank my colleagues, Rep. LOIS FRANKEL, Rep. BRENDA LAWRENCE, Rep. BARBARA LEE, Rep. ANN KUSTER, Rep. NORMA TORRES, Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Rep. DON BACON, and Rep. MARTHA MCSALLY, who spoke out during the May 2nd Special Order Hour on nonconsensual pornography in the military. It is critical that we continue to raise awareness about this topic and I am grateful to see Members from both parties coming together to fight this predatory and humiliating practice taking place in our military. I would also like to specifically thank Reps. FRANKEL and LAWRENCE for hosting the Special Order Hour on behalf of the Democratic Women's Working Group.

I am deeply passionate about stopping nonconsensual pornography in the armed services, and was disappointed to miss the Special Order Hour. I had an unavoidable conflict, since at the same time I was serving as the Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee Military Personnel Hearing on the Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies. During the hearing, I listened to brave testimony from military survivors of sexual assault and harassment who also suffered retaliation after they came forward. All members of the military deserve protection from sexual violence on the internet, in the academies, and every place else.

Marines United, and other incidents of nonconsensual pornography in the military, are examples of degrading behaviors that destroy careers and lives.

When these horrific incidents occur, it is not about sex or social media policy; it is evidence of a culture of rot that is allowed to spread by military leadership.

I am concerned that NCIS and military leadership is not taking this seriously—my staff found scores of nonconsensual pornography images on Tumblr in under 5 minutes with the search term "Tumblr Army naked." These attacks go well beyond just the posting of the pictures. They are widespread and involve every branch of the military and all levels of command, as shown by the charge against Master Sgt. Theophilus Thomas.

Why is it that other crimes are punished with a zero tolerance policy and the individual is removed from service, while stalking, harassment, and the destruction of your colleague's career fails to warrant the same punishment from the military? These crimes pose a serious threat to troop readiness and morale and must be treated as such.

I am proud to be a co-lead with Congresswoman MCSALLY on the PRIVATE Act, which would make posting consensually taken, but nonconsensually distributed intimate photos illegal under the UCMJ. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join together and support the PRIVATE Act and the brave men and women who put their lives on the line in service to our country.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the American Health Care Act. My colleagues across the aisle tried and failed once before to consider this bill, but they pulled it from the House floor because they didn't have the votes. Today, they seek to pass this. amended bill, but it's just as flawed as the first.

The changes will hurt seniors, veterans, the sick, and middle and low-income individuals. Essential health benefits guaranteed in the Affordable Care Act can now be waived, comprising quality health care for those with preexisting conditions, expectant mothers, and individuals seeking mental health and substance abuse treatment. Ultimately, millions of Americans will be harmed by this bill.

This second attempt to rush a vote on our nation's health care, without a revised Congressional Budget Office score, was quickly and carelessly crafted to meet arbitrary, deadlines and ill-conceived campaign promises.

Protecting the central coast of California's health care, particularly for the most vulnerable among us, is one of my top priorities. I urge my colleagues in the Majority party to focus not on partisan interests but serve the people. I will be voting no on this bill. I urge my colleagues across the aisle to do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. ROSE-MCCARTHY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my alma mater, St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School on its 100th anniversary.

In 1911, the school's founder, Father Philip Scher, became pastor of St. Brigid Church, with hopes of eventually expanding to build a hospital and a Catholic parochial school near the church. The hospital was established two years later in 1913 and was staffed by Dominican Sisters of Kenosha. Four years later, on August 31, 1917, St. Rose Catholic School, named after St. Rose of Lima, the first American Dominican saint, was established and was staffed by three teaching sisters.

The first location of the school was in a Holy Names Society hall behind the church. The school consisted of three classrooms, separated by folding partitions where seventy-five eager students came to learn. By 1919, the teaching staff increased to five sisters and a porch was enclosed to create more classrooms and a garage was used as a kindergarten. In 1921, Father Peter H. McNellis improved the school aesthetically, added two more class rooms, and added a kitchen. Enrollment then doubled and in the following years more improvements were made to the school.

In 1941, Thomas McCarthy, a parishioner, donated a generous gift to the parish in his will with the purpose of constructing a new parochial school. The new school was constructed and renamed Thomas McCarthy School in his honor. Enrollment continued to increase to 450 students, leaving the teaching sisters with their hands full.

In 1997 the school was renamed from Thomas McCarthy School to a combination of its former name and its current name to create St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School. Currently, there are 135 students in grades preschool through 8th grade. The school remains an excellent educational institution in the Central Valley; it was built by, and continues to be successful due to, faithful volunteers, generous donors, and the Dominican Sisters of Kenosha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating St. Rose-McCarthy Catholic School on their 100th anniversary, and wish them continued success for many years to come.

HONORING MAJOR EFRAIN REYNA, JR.

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Efrain Reyna Jr. of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the Nation. After four years of faithful service in the nation's capital, Major Reyna will transition from his present assignment as a Budget Liaison at Department of the Army Headquarters to civilian life back in the Great State of Texas.

Major Reyna has demonstrated the invaluable service that Army Congressional Liaisons provide Congress. He enabled countless Members and staff in developing a better understanding of Army policies, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition were of tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. Prior to service as a Liaison, Major Reyna was assigned to my office as a Military Fellow

where he quickly became an indispensable asset to my team. His performance was superb and he earned my utmost respect. His ability to build relationships and create opportunities aided me greatly in securing legislative language in support of the 2009 Fort Hood shooting victims, an effort that had been a priority of mine for 5 years.

A native Texan from the Rio Grande Valley, Major Reyna is a distinguished military graduate from Saint Mary's University where he earned a commission in the Army Aviation branch. He served with the 101st Airborne Division as a Chinook helicopter pilot and platoon leader. From here, he deployed on his first combat tour to Afghanistan as a flight platoon leader in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Efrain also served with the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, ''the Great Place.'' While there, he served in various leadership positions to include Chinook company commander and support battalion operations officer. Efrain conducted his second combat deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade as a company commander.

His dedication to excellence has not gone unnoticed. Major Reyna's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous others. He has earned the Senior Aviator Badge, Ranger Tab, Airborne Wings, and Air Assault Wings. Efrain is a graduate of the Marine Expeditionary Warfare School. He also completed a Master's Degree from George Washington University during his time here, demonstrating his commitment as a Warrior and a Scholar.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Efrain Reyna and the support and dedication of his wife Kelly Ann and their two sons, Isaac Lee Reyna and Zachary Miers. I wish them the very best as they complete over twelve years of honorable service to our great nation and proceed to the next chapter in their lives.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA NALEPA

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2017

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Nalepa, an outstanding member of my staff who is transitioning out of my office after seven years to share her talents with the administration.

A Virginia native, Jessi interned in my office while she was in school at George Mason University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Government & International Politics and Communications, graduating cum Laude. Despite her East Coast upbringing, Jessi soon became an honorary Texan through and through.

Her outstanding work as an intern swiftly led her to become a permanent part of my team as the Director of Scheduling. Continuing to demonstrate her talents and work ethic, she moved through the ranks of my office fast: first from Scheduler to Deputy Chief of Staff and then ending her service to me as my Chief of Staff

Jessi has been an integral part of my team and has served dutifully as a public servant to Texas–10 and the entire state. She also played an instrumental role in my personal growth here in Congress when she helped me in my campaign to become Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee during the 113th Congress.

Possibly the toughest part of Jessi's job was balancing my duties to serve Texans through my personal office and simultaneously ensure the safety of all Americans through my work on the committee. Despite the challenges this posed on a daily basis, Jessi always went above and beyond. She managed these dynamics with professionalism, integrity, and a high degree of respect for the people who we serve. And, I'll add she accomplished all of this while earning a Master's Degree in Public Policy Analysis from George Mason University.

Jessi's dedication to Texas' 10th Congressional District and the U.S. House of Representatives is an extraordinary example of her strong commitment to her country and fellow citizens. Even though she is departing my office, Jessi will always be part of Team McCaul and I will be forever grateful for her work.

Jessi is possibly the hardest worker I have had the honor to know, and she will be sorely missed by all.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Jessi for her service to the great state of Texas and our nation, and wish her the very best of luck as she sets forth on the next chapter of her life.

HONORING MR. TED HALL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ted Hall, who is being honored as the 2017 Napa Valley Grower of the Year at the Napa Valley Grapegrowers' 42nd annual dinner.

Mr. Hall has a long and successful history of management and leadership within the wine industry in California and throughout the nation. A native of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, Mr. Hall received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and went on to earn his MBA from Stanford University.

Before coming to Napa Valley, Mr. Hall developed his true love of the land while living on his family's farm in the township of Potter, Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is an active jazz trombonist and piano player.

Mr. Hall exemplifies the values of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers. He is dedicated, shows good judgement, and pays attention to the details that matter. He has served as President & CEO of Long Meadow Ranch since 1989. Additionally, Mr. Hall serves on the board of directors for numerous educational, charitable, and arts organizations. Drawing on his knowledge and success in the vineyard industry, Mr. Hall represents and advocates on behalf of growers as Chairman of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers and as a member of the Industry Issues Committee.

As someone who shares his great community pride for Napa Valley, Mr. Hall looks to the region's future by sharing his expertise with the next generation of growers and farmers. He is the current Chairman of the St. Helena High School Agriculture Education Committee and the Napa County Agriculture Protection Advisory Committee (APAC). Mr. Hall supports multiple conservation easements in Napa County and is a member of a variety of public and private organizations involved in food and agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, Ted Hall has had a remarkable career as a business leader in our Napa Valley community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM THE FAILED OBAMACARE EXPERIMENT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I promised the people of the Thirty-Sixth District of Texas that I would repeal Obamacare and replace it with conservative solutions. President Donald J. Trump was elected on this same platform.

Last week we came together to fulfill that promise.

After years of speeches, debates, elections and ''show votes'' that we knew would be vetoed or go nowhere in the Senate, last week's vote was the real deal.

This was perhaps the most important and consequential domestic policy legislation any of us will ever see.

To begin with, it serves as the largest entitlement reform of the Medicaid program in the program's history and eliminates the individual and employer mandate penalties. It also stops mandatory spending on large abortion businesses, such as Planned Parenthood, for one year.

It isn't the exact bill I would have written, but I am proud to say that I voted YES on the AHCA. While Republicans alone provided the votes to pass this bill, it was still the product of finding common ground to provide the American people with relief from Obamacare.

Members of our conference from every ideological stripe and every type of district came together to improve the bill and to secure its passage.

While we could certainly write a better one that allows for insurance sales across state lines, gives consumers better choices about the plans and benefits they want, and tears down the anti-trust exemption for insurers—the absurd tightrope we must walk to comply with the Senate's reconciliation rules has forced us to write this bill with one hand tied behind our back.

Like their colleagues here, Senate Democrats have made clear that preserving the failed experiment of Obamacare matters more than anything else, and that they would launch a fake, phony Filibuster if anything came to the Senate that did not comply with the Senate procedure known as the ''Byrd Rule.''

I was extremely pleased to be part of House passage of AHCA last week and now look to the Senate to move the road blocks that continue to threaten our conservative agenda.

IN HONOR OF PATRICK LEONARD

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2017

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Patrick Leonard of Dubuque, Iowa for his year of service as President of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association.

A fellow graduate of my own alma mater, Loras College, Mr. Leonard has successfully owned and operated his funeral home in Dubuque since 1990. His year as President of the Association has been marked by faithful leadership of the IFDA Board of Governors as they pursued IFDA's mission of promoting and supporting funeral service excellence.

Since coming to Congress in 2014, I have seen firsthand the dedication, enthusiasm, and passion that Mr. Leonard brings to his profession every day. Last summer, we were honored to have Mr. Leonard represent the IFDA at my congressional office's Dubuque Senior Wellness Fair. He understands that leadership is about stepping up and getting involved personally in service of the mission.

Mr. Leonard also finds time to give back to his community. Just last year, after months of preparation and coordination with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Leonard oversaw the return of a WWII veteran's remains back to Iowa. Mr. Leonard expressed to me how much of an honor this was for him, and how this project signified the importance of funeral services to those who pass, and their loved ones.

On behalf of the nearly 700 licensed funeral directors in Iowa, I want to again thank and recognize Mr. Leonard for his exemplary service as President of the IFDA.

HONORING THE TREFETHEN FAMILY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Trefethen family, John, Janet, Lorenzo, Hailey and, posthumously, Eugene and Catherine, for their hard work, dogged perseverance and community involvement.

The Trefethen family first restored their historic McIntyre Winery, which is on the National Register for Historic Places, in 1973. In August of 2014 the largest earthquake in the Bay Area since 1989 caused significant damage to the winery. Rather than scrapping their winemaking operations and moving elsewhere, they stayed and rebuilt the winery and will hold a celebratory re-opening this week.

Led largely by Hailey, the McIntyre building has been resurrected and now includes a new base that is earthquake resistant. The McIntyre building today contains 85 percent of the original building material and will use the same 19th century pipes to distill the famous Trefthen family wine.

When Gene moved to the Napa Valley 50 years ago, the Trefethen family began a long tradition of community involvement. The family donates wine to many community events annually to be auctioned for charitable causes including children at risk and the environment, two of the family's passions.

The Wine Community is integral to our way of life in my district. The Trefethen family has done more than their part to support our community. John was the founding President of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers and has served multiple terms on the Napa Valley Vinters Board. Janet served on the Board of Directors for the Queen of the Valley Foundation and founded the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley, where she lead the effort to have it recognized as an American Viticulture Area in 2004. Hailey recently finished serving terms on the Board of California Institute and the Napa Valley Vintners.

Mr. Speaker, on May 7, the Trefethen's will host their winery's grand re-opening. True to their love of community, it will feature local high school choirs, vocalists and a barbershop quartet. They have worked hard to preserve their winery. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here 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, May 9, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To receive a closed briefing on United States special operations capabilities to counter Russian influence and unconventional warfare operations in the ''Grey Zone''.

SVC–217

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance

To hold hearings to examine secondary sanctions against Chinese institutions, focusing on assessing their utility for constraining North Korea.

SD–538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine state views on the need to modernize the Endangered Species Act.

SD–406

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues

To hold hearings to examine emerging external influences in the Western Hemisphere.

SD–419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 934, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and S. 1028, to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy.

SD–G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine cyber threats facing America, focusing on an overview of the cybersecurity threat landscape.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, and Makan Delrahim, of California, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, and Noel J. Francisco, of the District of Columbia, to be Solicitor General of the United States, all of the Department of Justice.

SD–226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine growth policies for the new Administration.

SD–608

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine S. 440, to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota, S. 677, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to designate the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing, S. 685, to authorize the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System and the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System in the States of Montana and North Dakota, S. 930, to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, S. 1012, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1029, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to exempt certain small hydroelectric power projects that are applying for relicensing under the Federal Power Act from the licensing requirements of that Act, and S. 1030, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to submit to Congress a report on certain hydropower projects.

SD–366

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 458, to support the education of Indian children, and S. 691, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian

Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 772, to amend the PROTECT Act to make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants, and S. 825, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska.

SD–628

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
To hold hearings to examine law enforcement access to data stored across borders, focusing on facilitating cooperation and protecting rights.

SD–226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Veterans Choice Program and the future of care in the community.

SR–418

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine aging with community, focusing on building connections that last a lifetime.

SD–562

3 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Althea Coetzee, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR–428A

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine pesticide registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodentcide Act, focusing on providing stakeholders with certainty through the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act.

SR–328A

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine cyber policy, strategy, and organization.

SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the status of the housing finance system after nine years of conservatorship.

SD–538

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 139, to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, S. 534, to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, S. 583, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and S. 867, to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers.

SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine worldwide threats.

SH–216

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine the Choice 2.0 veterans program, focusing on what worked, what didn't, and what needs to happen next.

SD–124

1:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine worldwide threats.

SH–219

MAY 17

9:30 a.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine the growing Russian military threat in Europe, focusing on assessing and addressing the challenge.

SVC–208

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's high risk list for Indian programs.

SD–628

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine United States military small arms requirements.

SR–232A

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2785—S2820

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1064–1070, and S. Res. 159. **Pages S2800–01**

Measures Passed:

Amending the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act: Senate passed S. 140, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund. **Page S2814**

Pueblo of Santa Clara Land Lease: Senate passed S. 249, to provide that the pueblo of Santa Clara may lease for 99 years certain restricted land. **Page S2814**

National Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 159, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. **Page S2814**

Gottlieb Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. **Page S2796**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 123), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2796**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S2815**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 76 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. EX. 122), Heather Wilson, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of the Air Force. **Pages S2785–96**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Matthew Bassett, of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Amy Coney Barrett, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

John Kenneth Bush, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Joan Louise Larsen, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Kevin Christopher Newsom, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

David C. Nye, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

Scott L. Palk, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Damien Michael Schiff, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

David Ryan Stras, of Minnesota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

7 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Pages S2819–20**

Messages from the House: **Page S2799**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2799–S2800**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2801–02**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2802–03**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2798–99**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2803**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—123) **Pages S2795–96**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:31 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2815.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN THE 2016 ELECTION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism concluded a hearing to examine Russian interference in the 2016 United States election, after receiving testimony from Sally Quillian Yates, former Acting Attorney General, Atlanta, Georgia; and James R. Clapper, former Director of National Intelligence, Fairfax, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 6 public bills, H.R. 2399–2404; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 318 were introduced. **Pages H4185–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H4186**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 1039, to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties (H. Rept. 115–112). **Page H4185**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Aderholt to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4183**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4183.

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 9:07 a.m. and adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D473)*

H.R. 244, making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017. Signed on May 5, 2017. (Public Law 115–31)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine United States democracy assistance, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Cyber Command; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217, following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary (Comptroller), Robert Daigle, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, and Elaine McCusker, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold hearings to examine maritime transportation, focusing on opportunities and challenges for the Maritime Administration and Federal Maritime Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine water resources, focusing on the role of the public and private sectors, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nominations of Terry Branstad, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Tulinabo Salama Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Todd Philip Haskell, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, and routine lists in the Foreign Service, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 9 through May 12, 2017

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, post-cloture.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: May 11, to hold hearings to examine pesticide registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodentcide Act, focusing on providing stakeholders with certainty through the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: May 9, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine United States democracy assistance, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

May 11, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the Choice 2.0 veterans program, focusing on what worked, what didn't, and what needs to happen next, 10:30 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: May 9, to hold hearings to examine United States Cyber Command; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217, following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

May 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary (Comptroller), Robert Daigle, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, and Elaine McCusker, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

May 10, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to receive a closed briefing on United States special operations capabilities to counter Russian influence and unconventional warfare operations in the ''Grey Zone'', 10 a.m., SVC–217.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine cyber policy, strategy, and organization, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 10, Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance, to hold hearings to examine secondary sanctions against Chinese institutions, focusing on assessing their utility for constraining North Korea, 10 a.m., SD–538.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the status of the housing finance system after nine years of conservatorship, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: May 10, to hold hearings to examine growth policies for the new Administration, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 9, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, to hold hearings to examine maritime transportation, focusing on opportunities and challenges for the Maritime Administration and Federal Maritime Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 10, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine S. 440, to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota, S. 677, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to designate the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing, S. 685, to authorize the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System and the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System in the States of Montana and North Dakota, S. 930, to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, S. 1012, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1029, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to exempt certain small hydroelectric power projects that are applying for relicensing under the Federal Power Act from the licensing requirements of that Act, and S. 1030, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to submit to Congress a report on certain hydropower projects, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: May 9, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine water resources, focusing on the role of the public and private sectors, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

May 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine state views on the need to modernize the Endangered Species Act, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 9, business meeting to consider the nominations of Terry Branstad, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Tulinabo Salama Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Todd Philip Haskell, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, and routine lists in the Foreign Service, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

May 10, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy,

Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine emerging external influences in the Western Hemisphere, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 10, business meeting to consider S. 934, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and S. 1028, to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 10, to hold hearings to examine cyber threats facing America, focusing on an overview of the cybersecurity threat landscape, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 10, business meeting to consider S. 458, to support the education of Indian children, and S. 691, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 772, to amend the PROTECT Act to make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants, and S. 825, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, and Makan Delrahim, of California, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, and Noel J. Francisco, of the District of Columbia, to be Solicitor General of the United States, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 10, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine law enforcement access to data stored across borders, focusing on facilitating cooperation and protecting rights, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 139, to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, S. 534, to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, S. 583, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and S. 867, to provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Althea Coetzee, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 3 p.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the Veterans Choice Program and the future of care in the community, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 9, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine worldwide threats, 10 a.m., SH–216.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine worldwide threats, 1:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: May 10, to hold hearings to examine aging with community, focusing on building connections that last a lifetime, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

House Committees

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, post-cloture.

(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

2 p.m., Thursday, May 11

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in a Pro Forma session at 2 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Babin, Brian, Tex., E616
Blum, Rod, Iowa, E617
Carter, John R., Tex., E615
McCaul, Michael T., Tex., E616
Panetta, Jimmy, Calif., E615
Speier, Jackie, Calif., E615
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E616, E617
Valadao, David G., Calif., E615

Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at *www.govinfo.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.