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## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God our rock, we look to You for safety in a chaotic world. We are grateful that You hear our prayers, responding to our requests for help.

Be a shield for our Senators, protecting them from dangers seen and unseen. As they put their trust in You, fill them with Your Spirit, giving them confidence in the unfolding of Your powerful providence. Lord, remind them that no weapon formed against them will ultimately prosper. Lead them like a shepherd beside still waters, as You fill their hearts with Your peace.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Utah.

### NOMINATION OF ANDREI IANCU

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Andrei

Iancu to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

USPTO is critically important. It is a critically important agency that stands at the crossroads of innovation, technology, and property rights. It is tasked with ensuring that our laws properly compensate ingenuity and invention, while at the same time stopping bad actors who seek to game the system.

Intellectual property has been a focus of mine throughout my entire Senate service. Early in my tenure, I authored the Hatch-Waxman Act, which made possible the rise of the modern generic drug industry. More recently, I played a key role in the America Invents Act, which rebalanced our patent system to ensure high-quality patents and reduce abusive litigation. Just last Congress, I authored the Defend Trade Secrets Act, a landmark piece of legislation that created a federal private cause of action to prevent trade secret theft and other nefarious activity.

I have also led the charge against patent trolling—the practice of buying up patents solely for the purpose of bringing lawsuits—and argued forcefully that forum shopping in patent cases must not be allowed. I was gratified to see the Supreme Court last year strike a blow against abusive forum shopping in its TC Heartland decision.

In my remaining months here in this body, I intend to continue ahead full-bore on intellectual property reform. Digital music licensing, royalties for visual artists, and online filtering are just a few of my intellectual property priorities for this year.

Given my focus on intellectual property, I take a keen interest in the Patent and Trademark Office and in the individual selected to run the office. I have to say that I couldn't be more pleased by President Trump's nomination of Andrei Iancu to be the next USPTO Director.

Andrei has an extensive background in patent litigation. He is a partner at Irell & Manella, one of the Nation's leading intellectual property law firms. For 6 years, he was the firm's managing partner. Andrei has represented clients across the spectrum, from tech companies to drug manufacturers to aerospace firms. He understands all sides of patent law because he has litigated all sides.

In an area fraught with allegiances to particular industries or groups, Andrei can bring a neutral, unbiased perspective because he has already had to approach issues from so many different angles.

Andrei has been named a leader in intellectual property and patent law by Chambers USA every year for the last 11 years. He has been named attorney of the year by California Lawyer and lawyer of the year by the Los Angeles Business Journal. His bona fides are top notch. I have full confidence that Andrei will make an outstanding USPTO Director.

Subject-matter eligibility, PTAB reform, and continued controversies over forum shopping are just a handful of the issues that will soon be coming across his desk. There will also be questions about fee setting, fee diversion, and IT modernization. As I move forward on my intellectual property priorities this year, I look forward to working with Andrei and his future colleagues at USPTO to make our patent and trademark system the best it can possibly be.

We owe it to the American people to ensure that our intellectual property laws keep pace with our rapidly changing world. That has always been one of my chief focuses here in this body, and it will continue to be so throughout the rest of my term.

### DATA PRIVACY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would also like to take a couple of minutes to

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



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discuss a bill that I will be introducing with Senators COONS, GRAHAM, and WHITEHOUSE called the Clarify Lawful Overseas Use of Data Act, or the CLOUD Act. It is a tremendously important bill that will help to solve the problems that have arisen in recent years with cross-border law enforcement requests.

The rise of email and cloud computing has put our data privacy laws on a collision course with the privacy laws of other countries. Information in emails or in the cloud can be stored on servers virtually anywhere in the world. This means that when law enforcement seeks access to such information, the information may be located in another country.

This state of affairs causes problems both for law enforcement and for email and cloud computing providers. It causes problems for law enforcement because warrants traditionally stop at the water's edge and because laws in other countries may prohibit disclosure to foreign law enforcement, and it causes problems for email and cloud computing providers because they find themselves caught between orders by U.S. law enforcement to disclose data in other countries and laws in those other countries that may forbid such disclosure.

The question of whether warrants issued to U.S.-based providers may require providers to disclose data stored in other countries is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court in the United States v. Microsoft case. Oral argument in the case will be heard later this month.

No matter how the Court rules, however, problems will remain. Either law enforcement will lack the ability to obtain in a timely manner email and documents in the cloud that are stored overseas or providers will find themselves caught between conflicting domestic and foreign laws.

The CLOUD Act creates a clear, workable framework to resolve these problems. The bill has four key components.

First, it authorizes the United States to enter into bilateral data-sharing agreements with qualifying countries under which the United States agrees to lift its bar on disclosure to law enforcement in a qualifying country if that country similarly agrees to lift any bar it has on disclosure to U.S. law enforcement. The CLOUD Act sets forth stringent requirements for such agreements in order to ensure privacy and data security. In particular, it provides that any requests by foreign law enforcement to U.S. providers under such an agreement cannot target or request information on U.S. persons.

Second, the CLOUD Act clarifies that a warrant served on a U.S. provider may reach data stored overseas provided the data is within the provider's possession, custody, or control. This will enable U.S. law enforcement investigating crimes to obtain information stored overseas without having to re-

sort to cumbersome diplomatic channels.

Third, the CLOUD Act gives email and cloud computing providers the ability to challenge a warrant issued for data stored overseas if complying with the warrant would cause the provider to violate the laws of a foreign country. The court hearing such a challenge determines whether, in the interests of international comity, the warrant should be modified or quashed.

Finally, the CLOUD Act authorizes providers to disclose to a foreign government the fact that the provider has received a warrant for information stored in that country, provided the foreign government has entered into a bilateral data-sharing agreement, as previously described. This will enable the foreign government to assess compliance with the terms of the agreement and intervene diplomatically if it believes the request is inappropriate.

The CLOUD Act has broad support in both the tech community and among law enforcement. It bridges the divide that sometimes we see between these two groups.

The bill is an outgrowth of my International Communications Privacy Act, or ICPA, coupled with the United States-United Kingdom bilateral agreement framework that many of my colleagues are familiar with. Indeed, the United States-United Kingdom bilateral agreement framework outlined in the CLOUD Act is intended as a model for future agreements between the United States and other countries that are committed to privacy, human rights, and international law enforcement cooperation.

Expediently implementing similar agreements with the European Union and other allies is critical to protecting consumers around the world and facilitating legitimate law enforcement investigations.

I am pleased to be introducing this very important landmark legislation with my friends from Delaware, South Carolina, and Rhode Island, and intend to push hard to see it enacted in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, it is always a pleasure to hear from my friend, the Senator from Utah, when I agree with him and even when I don't.

Mr. HATCH. I thank my colleague.

Mr. SCHUMER. It is serious stuff.

#### FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we must pass another extension of government funding by this Thursday. There isn't much time to waste, and yet Speaker RYAN is again considering a CRomnibus—a short-term extension of funding for urgent domestic priorities

but a long-term extension and a large increase in funding for defense—to placate the ultraconservatives in his caucus.

Of course, a CRomnibus is merely a ruse designed to slash funding for education, healthcare, infrastructure, and scientific research—all the things that many in the Freedom Caucus don't want the government to support. That is why 44 Senate Democrats warned our Republican colleagues in a letter last year that we wouldn't support a CRomnibus and that it could never pass the Senate.

We want to fund defense, absolutely, but we also want to fund programs that help the middle class, like education, like infrastructure, like scientific research. We are standing up and saying we must do both. That is how this body works. Different people have different views, and we compromise. Maybe there are some on my side who don't want to spend as much on defense as the Republican side does, but it is a compromise. I, for one, appreciate that we need robust defense spending.

Sending a CRomnibus to the Senate—one that just funded defense and cut programs crucial to the middle class—would be barreling head-first into a dead end. Speaker RYAN needs to do what is best for the country and work in a bipartisan way to fund the government, even if not every faction of his caucus will go along. If he lets the Freedom Caucus be the tail that wags the dog, there is no way we will reach an agreement that can pass the Senate, and it would jeopardize the positive discussions going on right now about the budget, disaster aid, immigration, and more.

#### REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, for a word on the Republican tax bill, even as corporations plow tens of billions of dollars into share-buybacks and stock-repurchasing programs, instead of raising wages or hiring more workers, President Trump and congressional Republicans are doing their best to portray their \$1.5 trillion corporate giveaway as a boost to working Americans.

I am sure that President Trump's address in Ohio today will focus on the few companies that have given bonuses, but I wonder how many of those bonuses delivered around Christmas were annual and would have been given anyway. I wonder how many of those bonuses were linked to the tax bill in corporate press releases to curry favor with the President, even though they would have been given anyway.

I bet President Trump will not mention a thing about the slew of layoffs and stock buybacks in the wake of the bill. I bet he will not dare mention that 80 percent of the benefits of this bill went to the top 1 percent and that the middle class should have gotten a lot more than they are getting. We all know that corporations have spent billions enriching their shareholders,

while the middle class is waiting for the trickle-down effects that may never come.

Imagine if all the money that went into tax breaks for corporations and the superrich went to the middle class instead. If that were the case, then President Trump would actually have something to boast about in Ohio today.

This weekend Speaker RYAN showed just how far Republicans will strain credulity to claim their tax bill helps working Americans. He tweeted: “A secretary at a public high school in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, said she was pleasantly surprised her pay went up \$1.50 a week . . . she said [that] will more than cover her Costco membership for the year.”

Someone must have told him how out of touch that was because Speaker RYAN soon deleted the tweet. As high school secretaries get \$1.50 a week in savings, the wealthiest 0.1 percent of Americans are getting an average of about \$3,000 a week—high school secretary, \$1.50; top 0.1 percent, \$3,000 a week. Because of the tax bill, the Lancaster secretary may well be able to afford a membership to a big-box store, but the top 0.1 percent can now afford a new Bentley. Is that fair? Is that right? Is that what the American people wanted? No way. No way.

All the propaganda and millions of dollars of ads from the Koch brothers and all these other rich people—the handful of rich people who have so much say on the Republican side—all the ads they will pay for will not make up for that fact, and the American people see it.

The fundamental unfairness at the center of the Republican tax bill is this. Corporations and the superrich are having a bonanza while American workers are left with paltry savings. Considering the Republicans spent \$1.5 trillion in Federal resources to pass their tax bill, the middle class should have gotten a whole lot more—a lot more than \$1.50 a week.

When President Trump takes the stump in Ohio, we can expect to hear a lot of talk about how his tax bill is helping American workers, but every American should know that the reality is different.

#### RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Friday, the Trump administration declassified and released the contents of the deceptive Nunes memo. It is the latest distraction concocted by Republicans to protect the President of their party from the conclusions of a truly independent investigation. Shamefully, it is the latest abuse in a long line of partisan broadsides against the FBI, the Nation’s premier law enforcement agency. These attacks erode faith in the rule of law.

At least the American people can now see the Nunes memo for what it truly is: an impotent document of GOP

talking points. Far from being the smoking gun that many Republicans, rightwing media outlets, and Russia-linked bots claimed it would be, the Nunes memo just blows smoke. It is full of misleading conclusions based on innuendo.

What it does confirm does not vindicate the President or prove bias at the Department of Justice. It confirms that the Steele dossier was not the catalyst for the Russia investigation, debunking a favorite rightwing talking point. Let that sink in. The FBI was concerned about Trump campaign advisers linked to Putin’s spy services before—let me repeat, before—the Steele dossier existed. This idea that the Steele dossier created all this is just plain wrong, and even their own memo admits it.

The Nunes memo also confirms that a three-judge panel, on multiple occasions, thought it was in the best interest of our national security to monitor a Trump campaign adviser for his troubling links with the Kremlin.

Seeing as House Republicans saw fit to release the contents of their partisan memo, they should certainly support the release of the memo prepared by Ranking Member SCHIFF. If House Republicans had any semblance of fairness, they would vote to release the Schiff memo. It is based on the same underlying documents. If it was all right to release the Republican memo on these documents, it should be all right to release a Democratic memo based on the same documents.

Meanwhile, President Trump still refuses to implement the sanctions that passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress. I have to say, if President Trump and his allies spent half the time standing up to Putin as they do attacking our own FBI, we might actually get somewhere with Putin. But the administration seems to fear doing anything to upset him. The American people ask: Why? Why is Donald Trump so afraid to upset Mr. Putin?

What are they so afraid of? It is inexplicable to me that the President of the United States and his allies are far more concerned with attacking American law enforcement agencies than standing up to Russia. President Putin interfered with our sacred democratic process. The very process we exalt—correctly so—in our schools and teach our children is so wonderful, Putin is trying to make a sham of. He is trying to interfere with it. We hardly hear a peep out of President Trump and so many Republicans on this side of the aisle who used to go after Putin, to their credit, regularly.

We have an investigation into the matter of Putin’s engagement in our elections by one of the most trusted and nonpartisan civil servants in Washington, but because that investigation might include some wrongdoing by the President or his close associates, too many Republicans in Congress and, of course, the conservative media have

turned on the FBI rather than on Putin.

It is far more than disquieting. It is the worst place that partisan politics can go. The vital interests of our Nation are being subverted to the benefit of a foreign hostile power. A Congressman says that we are witnessing a “coup” on the House floor. A Senator floats the possibility of “secret societies.” The Speaker of the House suggests a “cleanse” of the FBI.

For partisan reasons, the President and his allies in Congress are systematically trying to weaken America’s faith in the rule of law, and to a large extent, sadly, the leaders of the Republican Party have been silent.

A few notable exceptions, including my dear friend Senator JOHN MCCAIN, are speaking out about the real threat here—not the FBI, not our career law enforcement officials, not Special Counsel Mueller but President Putin and his war on democratic societies and democracy in general.

We desperately need more of our Republican friends to stand up and speak out, particularly the Republican leadership, because their silence is rapidly becoming complicit in the denigration of our Republic—something that is happening, unfortunately, before our very eyes.

I yield the floor.

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. LEAHY. 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.

#### FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, we are now 128 days into the fiscal year. For 128 days, we have failed to fulfill our basic responsibility of funding the government. Congress has not reached a bipartisan budget deal, even though, in past years, we always would have by this time. So the government is on autopilot.

Across America, just as I find in Vermont, around families’ kitchen tables, people are asking how to address the opioid crisis. Veterans are asking us why it takes months to get a doctor’s appointment at the VA. People are worrying about having to stop working if they can’t get quality and affordable childcare. So many have stopped me in the street to talk about how they are struggling to pay off college loans.

Well, it has been 128 days. Instead of saying: We will get to it, the check is in the mail, let’s actually get to it, we have had four continuing resolutions. It is about time we get serious about a bipartisan deal and get the budget going. Let’s, for once, get past the

sound bites and start dealing with substance.

#### RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Mr. LEAHY, Madam President, on another matter, last Friday, DEVIN NUNES, the House Intelligence Committee chairman, received approval to release a classified memo that purports to show that a FISA application to conduct surveillance of a Trump campaign aide was politically motivated. Over the weekend, the President, speaking in the third person, told us this memo “totally vindicates ‘Trump’” in the Russia investigation. Following a pattern that has become all too familiar, the President also viciously attacked the FBI in a series of tweets, something we have never seen by any President, either Republican or Democratic—certainly not in my memory.

There are more than a few problems with this, the most disturbing of which go well beyond this highly flawed and misleading memo. In case anyone believes this memo represents a serious attempt to address serious problems within the FBI or within our FISA surveillance authorities, I want to raise a few points they might consider because if they think it actually addresses serious problems, they either haven’t read it or they don’t understand the serious problems.

For years, I have been leading calls in the Senate to protect our civil liberties and reform our surveillance authorities under FISA. I am appreciative of the number of Republicans and Democrats who have joined me in that cause. This memo, however, has absolutely nothing to do with improving FISA. Nor does this partisan memo have anything to do with serious oversight of FISA authorities more broadly.

Instead, whether intentional or not, this memo represents a direct attack on rank-and-file professionals in both our law enforcement and our national security agencies. The memo deliberately distorts a multilayered process that is required to obtain and renew a judicial warrant for a suspected foreign agent. This meticulous process to obtain or renew a judicial warrant is conducted by career, nonpartisan professionals. In this case, the process led to a warrant, approved by a Federal judge and was renewed three times, for Trump campaign adviser Carter Page.

Carter Page is an individual who bragged about his ties to Russia. He even claimed at one point publicly to be an adviser to the Kremlin. He was also targeted for recruitment by known Russian spies beginning in 2013. Both of these facts are conveniently left out of the Nunes memo.

But the Nunes memo was not about capturing relevant facts or conducting actual oversight. If it were, the House Intelligence Committee Chairman would have read the underlying intelligence that purported to form the

basis of the memo. He did not. If it were about actual oversight, he would have granted the FBI Director’s request to brief his Committee prior to releasing the memo. He did not. If it were about transparency, he would have allowed the Democratic response memo to be released at the same time. He did not.

Instead, his Committee voted along party lines last week to block the Democratic response. We will learn later this evening if they are going to change course and allow its release.

I have been here since the beginning of both the House and the Senate Intelligence Committees. I have never seen anything as partisan as this.

Proponents of this memo claim it proves that the FISA warrant of Carter Page was politically motivated. They claim that the so-called Steele dossier was the reason why a FISA warrant was granted and that the dossier could not be relied on because it was indirectly funded by Democratic interests. What it ignores is that this document was only one part of the lengthy FISA application establishing probable cause. The judge had to look at all of it.

Never mind that the judge was explicitly informed of the likelihood of a political motivation behind the dossier. The Republican memo conveniently leaves that out. By leaving it out, it undermines its central claim that the FBI hid the ball on the dossier’s political origins. And never mind that the dossier was originally funded by a conservative newspaper, or that its author had previously been assessed by the FBI to be a reliable source.

One can disregard all of those facts and still see the memo for what it is: a complete and utter dud. The memo itself just disproves its own premise. Because of its reference to the controversial Steele dossier, President Trump and his allies paint this FISA application as the Russia investigation’s original sin. They ignore the fact that the memo also reveals that an entirely separate source unrelated to the Steele dossier provided information to the FBI that triggered the opening of the FBI’s counterintelligence investigation into the individuals associated with the Trump campaign. Oddly enough, that is something we did not see in President Trump’s tweets over the weekend.

What we knew about the memo leads to one and only one conclusion: The FBI did its job. Rank-and-file professionals within the FBI and DOJ acted appropriately when obtaining a FISA warrant of Carter Page. Frankly, the President’s attacks on these career professionals for obtaining the FISA warrant are entirely without merit.

I have been here with Republican Presidents and Democratic Presidents, eight Presidents in all, and I have never seen anybody make such unwarranted attacks on career professionals. These professionals, I suppose, if we really look, are Republicans, Demo-

crats, and some are apolitical. All of them are professional. What the Republican memo from the House reveals is nothing about abuses in the FISA process, but it does reveal a lot about both the President and the House Republicans who released it. It represents yet another desperate, hyperpartisan attempt to smear key Justice Department officials and undermine the Russia investigation.

Again, in my 40-some-odd years in the Senate, I have never seen this under either Republican or Democratic leadership or either a Republican or Democratic President.

Let’s remember what is at stake. This is not about a Republican memo, which is nothing more than a sloppy, bad-faith attempt to distract from the special counsel’s Russia investigation, nor is it about the Steele dossier. That represents an almost irrelevant side story. The only thing that matters here is that a foreign adversary attacked our democracy in 2016, suffered no consequences, and is poised to do it again. The President is not willing to address this threat. He is not even willing to implement sanctions on Russia that were overwhelmingly approved by the vast majority of both Republicans and Democrats in the Congress. The only thing this President has done in response to this threat is disparage the very people who defend our country from such foreign attacks—our dedicated law enforcement and intelligence professionals. I am afraid that for the President, it is Trump first and America second.

The fact is, we are under constant attacks on our political system by Russia. Which countries did the President single out in the State of the Union Address as countries that pose grave threats to the United States? Venezuela and Cuba. No. It is the second largest nuclear power in the world that is a threat, a power that has shown, by anybody’s analysis or efforts—many of them successful—to undermine the electoral system not only of our country but of others.

It is more important than ever that the Special Counsel be able to complete his investigation without interference from either the President or any misguided allies in Congress. We need to know first how Russia interfered in our election, and whether anyone in the President’s circle aided that effort or tried to cover it up.

I have been in the Senate for more than 43 years. I have never been as concerned as I am today for the institutions in our country and for our ability to stay united in the face of a true, unprecedented threat. I don’t say this lightly.

Madam President, I have walked back and forth the dirt road in front of my home in Vermont. I have paced the floor and thought about it. I have gone back through notes I have taken through Presidents going back to Gerald Ford when I first came here, notes I took as a young, 34-year-old U.S. Senator. I have never been as concerned as

I am now. I have never been as concerned about this great country having the ability to stay united in the face of a true, unprecedented threat. Russia will be back, and many say Russia has never left. Enough with the partisan distractions. It is past time we faced this threat standing together. The American people deserve that much.

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

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

#### FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT AND IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, here we are again. The clock is ticking. The current funding bill expires on Thursday, and we have to act to keep the lights on. That strikes me as a very modest goal because there is so much more we need to be doing. When our Democratic colleagues shut down the government last month, we knew that this was all we could get at the time, which is a short-term continuing resolution until February 8. Well, this is a miserable way to do business. Continuing resolutions are really an abdication of responsibility on behalf of this body and are not to the benefit of the American people.

It doesn't have to be this way. What we are waiting on is an agreement between the leaders of both the House and the Senate to come up with spending caps for the rest of 2018 and 2019. We could have that agreement today, but our colleagues across the aisle are dragging their feet, to put it mildly. For what? Well, it is the same reason that they shut down the government last month. It is over an unrelated immigration issue, which I will get to in a moment. They appear not to have learned any lesson from the shutdown, which clearly the American people did not want and did not agree with.

We have two distinct issues that need to be handled separately. Funding the government—particularly funding our military—shouldn't be held hostage to an immigration issue, especially when we continue to work together in good faith on border security and on the young adults who are affected by the deferred action on childhood arrivals, or DACA.

I say, let's drop DACA from the funding debate and submit the caps deal right now. As I have said before, short-term continuing resolutions are a terrible way to do business. Governing is not a merry-go-round. We shouldn't have to come back in March and have these same discussions over and over again.

This past February 2 happened to be my birthday, but it is also Groundhog

Day, and we seem to wake up every morning and go through the same motions over and over and over again and never reach a conclusion. This was brought home to me pretty dramatically today when the leadership from Texas for the community health centers told me that they can't plan. They have employees and healthcare providers who are worried about whether they will have a job because government will somehow fail in keeping its doors open and keep their programs funded. And to boot, patients are worried about whether they are going to have continued access to healthcare, the community health centers that serve vast swaths of this country.

Why are people put through all this anxiety—both in terms of planning and in terms of the staff and the patients who depend on these community health centers—just because we can't seem to get our act together here and agree to those spending caps because they are being held hostage to another unrelated issue, which the majority leader has committed to addressing in due course.

Well, our colleagues seem to be content to drive around in circles, and—not to mix metaphors—they are spinning their wheels in the process, and nothing actually gets done. But maybe that is part of the plan too. If you look at 2017, we have had a pretty impressive 2017 in terms of what this Congress has accomplished when it comes to overregulations, when it comes to confirming Federal judges, including the Justice on the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch. And then, of course, there is the big tax bill, which was really something that happens only every 30 years or so. It is very unusual. We are already beginning to see the beneficial results of that tax legislation, and people are learning more about it and will continue to learn more about it as they open their paycheck stubs and see how much more take-home pay they have. I am beginning to think that these short-term continuing resolutions and never reaching an agreement on spending caps are part of the plan to just keep us churning and to keep us not producing on behalf of the American people. I hope I am wrong, but it sure feels like that to me.

I hope our colleagues will change their tactics and learn from their mistakes. Shutdowns don't help anybody. They certainly don't help the party that is responsible for shutting down the government. So let's get this caps deal done in short order.

Here is another thing that has been held hostage to this unrelated immigration issue—disaster relief. It was last September when Hurricane Harvey hit the State of Texas. We had an unprecedented rain event where basically the hurricane parked itself over Houston, TX, and rained down 50 inches of rain in about 5 days, disrupting people's lives, destroying their homes. Some of the winds down along the coast blew businesses and homes away,

and people are working hard to recover from that.

The House passed an \$81 billion disaster relief bill—not just to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey but also the victims of Hurricane Maria in the Virgin Islands, in Florida, and in Puerto Rico as well. And then there are the wildfires and the mudslides out West. Eighty-one billion dollars was appropriated by the House of Representatives, and it has been sitting here since December with no action whatsoever. Why? Well, count that up as another hostage of this unrelated immigration issue or the desire to just force us to spin our wheels and not get things done. I don't understand it, and if I do understand it, I don't like it one bit.

The first rule of holes is, when you find yourself in a hole, quit digging. That is the only way to get a different outcome. But our Democratic colleagues have found themselves in a hole and insist on continuing to dig after the disastrous shutdown, leading us to basically driving in circles.

I would like to speak briefly about the ongoing border security and DACA negotiations. This is an issue that is very important to me, coming from a State with the largest, longest common border with Mexico, where we see firsthand the impact of illegal drugs, trafficking in human beings, and just the failure of the Federal Government to live up to its responsibility when it comes to securing our borders. We learned on 9/11/2001 how important it is to know who is coming into our country and why they are here, because not everybody who comes to the United States wants to do good by us. Some of them want to do us harm. And certainly that is true when it comes to trafficking in the poison that unfortunately comes across our borders and leaves so many lives in tatters as a result of overdoses and drug abuse.

I have talked to a number of my constituents in Texas, including Hispanic leaders, to try to bring them up to date on the discussions that occurred here because they care quite a lot about both of these issues—border security, as well as what we are going to do for these young adults whose only mistake was to come to this country with their parents when they were children.

As I have said before—and I will say it again—we don't hold children responsible for the mistakes their parents make. These young people deserve a clear path forward and some certainty in their lives. I think the vast majority of us would like to try to find some way to give it to them, but we are not going to do that unless we can get concrete progress on border security and other reasons why this problem was created in the first place.

It was good to get the perspective of a number of my constituents who happen to be leaders in the Hispanic community. Many of them live in border communities. All of them have families or friends who are immigrants. Of course, we are a nation of immigrants,

and we need to listen to what they have to say about what is going on. There was general agreement that when it comes to offering a path to citizenship, the President's proposal was surprisingly generous. Nobody expected the President to offer a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young adults. That was extraordinarily generous.

Right now, in the program that was created by President Obama, which will expire March 5, there are 690,000 DACA recipients. They are the people who signed up for this deferred action, not for a path to citizenship, not for legal status, but an agreement by the government that we are not going to try to deport them. They also get work permits during the pendency of their DACA status. This President has offered DACA recipients something President Obama never did—a pathway to citizenship for three times as many as are covered by the deferred action program.

The Hispanic leaders I spoke with also supported, in addition to that pillar of what the President proposed, additional border security measures. One spoke about the "collateral benefits" to border communities of new technology, personnel, and improved infrastructure. Jobs increase, restaurants and hotels benefit, communities are safer for the families and the children who live there.

They stress that when it comes to border security, we need to be thinking about it three-dimensionally. In other words, they said that we need to consider a system. I have heard the Secretary of Homeland Security refer to what the President has proposed as a wall system. It is not just a physical barrier; it is access roads, cameras, sensors, radars, aerostats, and other things to try to make sure our border is secure.

Ultimately, my conversation with these constituents was very constructive, but I had to be honest with them. I had to admit that I have been disappointed so far. I haven't heard much in the way of ideas from our Democratic colleagues, other than old proposals that will not become law. Even though they claim to support these young people, the DACA recipients, and even though they claim to support a pathway to citizenship for them, they have done nothing to respond to President Trump's very generous offer and the four pillars of his proposal. So far, they have indicated that they have little interest in negotiating.

The deadline set for those negotiations is February 8, just a couple of days from now. After that, we will be here on the Senate floor with an open and freewheeling debate and amendment process. But we want to achieve a solution that can become law, and so far, we haven't had a willing dance partner in our Democratic colleagues.

The President has made an extraordinary offer. I don't know whether it is because they don't want this President

to claim any credit for any accomplishment or whether they prefer to have a political issue that they want to take to the election in November or whether they are just willing to toy with the lives of these young people because they deem it politically expedient. Well, none of those are acceptable. And it is really puzzling. There is no reason why they shouldn't support closing loopholes for our illegal immigration problem and increasing security on the border.

I have heard many of our colleagues across the aisle say: Border security? No problem—until you start asking them to be specific about what that means, not only in terms of an authorization or plan, but what does that mean in terms of appropriations or money?

According to published reports, the Democratic leader, the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, offered the President \$25 billion toward border security—\$5 billion upfront and \$20 billion more in appropriations and authorization. Then, after they shut down the government, after the President made his proposal, he took that off the table. So far, we have heard nothing from our Democratic colleagues to respond to the President's generous, good-faith offer.

One thing we need to do for sure is to regain the public's confidence when it comes to immigration. We need to reclaim our legacy not only as a nation of immigrants, which we proudly are, but as a nation of laws. That is why people are so frustrated and emotional and angry about the status quo. That is one reason this President was elected. They thought he would bring an end to the lawlessness of our illegal immigration system. But in order to get this done, we have to be able to negotiate in good faith, and we have to be able to compromise, which leads me to wonder, again, whether our friends across the aisle want an issue they plan to take to the election in November or they actually want a solution.

Are they going to actually use these young DACA recipients as a means to accomplish their goal, which is to regain the majority in the House and the Senate after the November 2018 elections? I hope I am wrong, but I don't see any indication so far that I am.

As the President said in last week's State of the Union Message, the ultimate proposal should be one "where nobody gets everything they want, but where our country gets the critical reforms it needs." That is exactly right.

In my home State of Texas, nearly 124,000 DACA recipients are our neighbors. They are an important thread in the fabric of our communities. All of us feel sympathy for these young adults who are in limbo. I remain committed to finding a solution because, in our country, we don't penalize children for the mistakes their parents made. But as the President said last week, "Americans are dreamers, too," and part of their dream is to live in a coun-

try where the law is enforced and respected.

I support the President in his call for upholding the strong rule of law in this country, but the question for today is, Why hold everything else hostage for this unrelated immigration issue? And why, if our Democratic colleagues are willing to shut down the government over that unrelated immigration issue, aren't they willing to respond to the President's generous, good-faith offer to bring a solution to the problem? We need to know what their plans are. What is their proposal that can become law?

The clock is ticking. We know the ending date for this program is March 5. Ultimately, what we are dealing with is people's lives. What do our colleagues care most about? Do they care about political advantage or trying to preserve an issue that will be to their advantage in the upcoming election? Or do they actually care about these young DACA recipients, 690,000 of them, or the 1.8 million that President Trump has offered—an incredibly generous offer—as long as we can deal with these other issues like border security, chain migration, and the diversity lottery visa?

We are waiting for our Democratic colleagues to come to us with a good-faith proposal, but so far all we hear is crickets.

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

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

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#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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#### REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER FOLEY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I wish to begin this afternoon by offering condolences to the family and friends of Christopher Foley of Louisa County, VA. Mr. Foley was killed last Wednesday when his truck collided with an Amtrak train carrying many of my fellow lawmakers to a conference in West Virginia. He was just 28 years old. He leaves behind his fiancée Adriana and Rylan, their 1-year-old son.

Our thoughts are with them especially, along with Christopher's family, his community, and his colleagues at Time Disposal. They and all those who were injured in the accident are in our prayers.

Our heartfelt thanks are with the first responders who rushed to the scene. It is too easy to take for granted

that our brave law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency personnel will be there for us on our worst days, forgetting that, for them, heroism and service are everyday realities. I would like to recognize some of our own colleagues who immediately sprang into action to assist the wounded. Senator CASSIDY and Congressmen WENSTRUP, BURGESS, ROE, and BUCSHON are all doctors by training, as are Senator CASSIDY's wife Laura and Congressman BUCSHON's wife Kathryn. All of them sprang into action and rushed to aid the victims, alongside our attending physician, Dr. Brian Monahan. Senator FLAKE and several others also hurried to help.

I thank all of them for their efforts when every moment counted, and I am proud to call them colleagues and friends.

#### FRA ADMINISTRATOR NOMINATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on a related matter, in the few days since last week's tragedy, yet another fatal train crash has already taken place. Two lives were lost yesterday when a passenger train and a freight train collided in South Carolina. Last December, three people were killed and scores were injured near Seattle when a passenger train jumped its tracks and crashed into a busy highway.

This worrying spate of accidents offers a sobering reminder that partisan obstruction has kept the Federal Railroad Administration, the top rail regulator, without an Administrator.

The President's nominee, Ronald Batory, has more than 40 years of rail experience. I know of no questions about his qualifications. He was reported out of committee by voice vote on August 2 of last year, meaning that this important safety regulator has now been sitting on the Senate calendar for 6 months—6 months. My Democratic colleagues are holding his nomination over a parochial issue that is completely unrelated to rail safety. This needs to come to an end.

The FRA Administrator is the Nation's top rail safety regulator. There is an urgent need and a highly qualified candidate. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will put a stop to their partisan games on this front. We can and should confirm Mr. Batory today—today.

#### FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, our deadline to fund the Federal Government is this Thursday. Serious bipartisan negotiations continue on long-term spending levels, along with other important issues. I am optimistic that these talks will bear fruit.

In the meantime, as broader discussions continue, we have the opportunity to remove the uncertainty facing our all-volunteer Armed Forces.

Since the passage of the Budget Control Act, it has become increasingly ob-

vious that current funding levels are not sufficient for our Armed Forces to accomplish each of the missions and tasks that our Nation asks of them.

Secretary Mattis's new national defense strategy will require considerable new investment, and he has repeatedly pointed out that short-term continuing resolutions harm the readiness of our forces.

I am pleased that we are making real headway in our negotiations over spending caps and other important issues, but there is no reason why our warfighters need to continue to face uncertainty until all of the other issues are resolved.

Last week, a bipartisan majority in the House passed a bill that would fund our national defense through fiscal year 2018. Democrats and Republicans came together, voting to secure adequate, predictable, annual funding for our Armed Forces while we continue our productive negotiations on all these other subjects. The Senate will soon take up this House-passed bill.

I have recently heard many of my Democratic colleagues detail the harmful effects of short-term funding measures on our servicemembers. Soon, each one of us will have a chance to vote to give them the certainty they deserve while our other work continues.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, in the State of the Union Address last week, President Trump detailed signs that our Nation's economy is thriving under the policies of his administration and this Republican Congress. Evidence keeps piling up that good things happen when the government takes its foot off the brake and gets out of the way of American workers and job creators.

Last week, UPS, the largest private employer in my hometown of Louisville, KY, announced that tax reform will enable them to invest \$12 billion in expanding their smart logistics network, funding employee pensions, and other capital improvements.

Their chairman and CEO had this to say:

We applaud President Trump and Congress for their bold action. . . . Tax reform is a tremendous catalyst.

On Thursday, another major American employer, Lowe's, announced that it will give bonuses of up to \$1,000 to more than a quarter of a million hourly employees and expand family friendly employment benefits, like adoption assistance and paid parental leave.

The very same day, the major pharmaceutical company Amgen, which houses a distribution facility in Louisville, announced that tax reform is causing them to shift more of their planned investments here to the United States, including the construction of a new "next-generation manufacturing plant" right here at home.

Already, our historic tax reform law is giving employers the flexibility to

invest more, expand more, hire more American workers, and give bonuses, pay raises, and new benefits to their employees, and, already, middle-class families across the country are seeing the benefits.

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. JOHNSON. 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.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrei Iancu, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to speak on the nomination of Andrei Iancu to be Under Secretary of Commerce and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Intellectual property is critical to our national economy because it encourages the innovation that improves lives and creates jobs. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office plays a critical role in fostering innovation by protecting intellectual property rights, so it is important that the office have strong and accountable leadership.

Mr. Iancu holds a B.S. and M.S. in engineering from the UCLA School of Engineering and a J.D. from the UCLA School of Law. He currently is the managing partner of the Los Angeles law firm Irell & Manella, where he has practiced intellectual property law since 1996. Mr. Iancu has represented both patent owners and accused infringers, large and small companies, and individuals in a large number of patent cases.

Mr. Iancu possesses strong legal qualifications, has a proven record in the field of intellectual property law, and is well respected in the intellectual property community. Last December, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved Mr. Iancu's nomination by a voice vote. I support Mr. Iancu's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to vote for him.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. JOHNSON. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 28 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Baldwin	Gardner	Nelson
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Paul
Bennet	Graham	Perdue
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Harris	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Capito	Hoeven	Sasse
Cardin	Inhofe	Schatz
Carper	Isakson	Schumer
Casey	Johnson	Scott
Cassidy	Jones	Shaheen
Collins	Kaine	Shelby
Coons	Kennedy	Smith
Corker	King	Stabenow
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Tester
Cotton	Leahy	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Udall
Daines	Markey	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Murphy	
Flake	Murray	

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Heinrich	Peters
Cochran	McCain	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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 JO MARSHALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate my friend Dr. Jo Marshall, president and CEO of the Somerset Community College, SCC, on her upcoming retirement. Taking over the helm of the school in Somerset, KY, in 2000, Jo has led the school through its unprecedented growth. When she leaves SCC at the end of June, she will leave behind a legacy of innovation, achievement, and inspiration.

Originally from Alabama, Jo worked as the vice president and dean at Chattahoochee Valley Community College before moving to Somerset with her husband, Scott, to accept the position as president and CEO of SCC. After he retired from the Alabama college system, Scott taught economics at Eastern Kentucky University until he passed away in 2011.

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System, KCTCS, operates 16 colleges, including SCC, serving nearly 80,000 students throughout Kentucky. Under Jo's leadership, SCC has become one of the preeminent members of KCTCS and one of the fastest growing community colleges in the Nation. Many of the students who graduate from SCC go on to make important contributions to their community and the economy.

The school, founded in 1965, has grown exponentially during Jo's presidency. She oversaw SCC's merger with the Somerset Technical College and the Laurel Technical College in 2003, expanding the number of programs offered to SCC's students. Under Jo's leadership, SCC also saw its largest enrollment in the school's history. To facilitate this growth, Jo oversaw the addition of seven new buildings to the institution. Further, she helped launch a scholarship foundation to help students of diverse economic backgrounds attend SCC to earn degrees or credentials with the goal of preparing them for successful careers. During a time of economic hardship for many Kentuckians, this was an important accomplishment in the region. Today that scholarship foundation is worth nearly \$1 million. These are just a few examples of what will make Jo's legacy at SCC a lasting one. By any measure, each of these notable accomplishments under her leadership improved SCC, its reputation, and its impact on students.

In addition to her commitment to growing SCC as an institution and en-

hancing its impact on its students and the region, Jo has also worked to support SCC students by providing them with the tools they need to succeed upon graduation. For example, working with local business leaders, she has established various programs to help students find good-paying, high-demand jobs by offering short-term certificates and diploma options. For SCC students wishing to continue their education, Jo has also worked with 4-year colleges and universities throughout Kentucky to help expand opportunities for students who wish to complete a bachelor's degree.

Because of her leadership, and the efforts of everyone involved at the school, SCC consistently has won a number of awards. SCC was named a Military Friendly School, and the Chronicle of Higher Education named it a Great College to Work For. In addition, SCC was called a Best Place to Work in Kentucky by the Best Companies Group every year for a decade. Finally, the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program, which "aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership" in an effort to help schools improve student outcomes, has also named SCC a Top 120 Community College in the United States. These national accolades for SCC under Jo's leadership showcase her passion for SCC, its faculty and students, and the community.

It would also come as no surprise to those of us who know Jo and her work that she has been the recipient of many well-earned awards as a result of her time at SCC. In 2011, the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce named her its Business Woman of the Year. She received the Master Musician's Festival Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015, and the Somerset Business and Professional Women's Club named Jo the Business Woman of the Year in 2017.

In addition to her transformational work at SCC, Jo has also dedicated her talents to the Southeastern Kentucky community in other ways. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Center for Rural Development and the Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corporation. Jo is also a former member of the Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital board of trustees.

Her community college peers have recognized her outstanding success at SCC. Phi Theta Kappa, one of the largest and most prestigious honor societies for community colleges, established the Marshall Leadership Award in 2013. Named in Jo's honor, the international award is given to Phi Theta Kappa advisors to boost their professional growth beyond the completion of professional degrees.

On a more personal note, I have always enjoyed being in Somerset and getting to visit with Jo in her position as president of SCC. In 2015, I had the privilege of participating in the school's "John Sherman Cooper Lecture Series," an annual reflection on

the accomplishments and character of my role model, Senator Cooper. Like each of my meetings with Jo during her time leading SCC, I truly enjoyed this experience.

In her retirement, I know that Jo looks forward to spending more time with her children, Kristin and Scott, Jr., both accomplished in their own right, and her five grandchildren. She has certainly earned it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend for her work to help prepare the students of southeastern Kentucky to enter the workforce and thrive. I am sure that SCC will miss her steady hand. However, the wide breath of accomplishments she oversaw throughout the last 18 years has set the school on a course of continued success. I know her community is grateful for her work, and I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in celebrating Jo's stellar career.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-76, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Finland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$622 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,  
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-76

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Finland

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$434 million.

Other \$188 million.

Total \$622 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred (100) RGM-84Q-4 Harpoon Block II Plus (+) Extended Range (ER) Grade B Surface-Launched Missiles.

Twelve (12) RGM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II Grade B Surface-Launched Missiles.

Twelve (12) RGM-84Q-4 Harpoon Block II+ ER Grade B Surface-Launched Upgrade Kits.

Four (4) RTM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II Grade B Exercise Surface-Launched Missiles.

Four (4) RTM-84Q-4 Harpoon Block II+ ER Grade B Exercise Surface-Launched Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, technical assistance, engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (FI-P-LBQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 5, 2018.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Finland—RGM-840-4 Harpoon Block II+ ER Grade B Surface-Launched Missiles and RGM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II Grade B Surface-Launched Missiles

The Government of Finland has requested a possible sale of one hundred (100) RGM-84Q-4 Harpoon Block II Plus (+) Extended Range (ER) Grade B Surface-Launched Missiles, twelve (12) RGM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II Grade B Surface-Launched Missiles, twelve (12) RGM-84Q-4 Harpoon Block II+ ER Grade B Surface-Launched Upgrade Kits, four (4) RTM-84L-4 Harpoon Block II Grade B Exercise Surface-Launched Missiles, and four (4) RTM-84Q-4 Harpoon Block II+ ER Grade B Exercise Surface-Launched Missiles. Also included are containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, technical assistance, engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical support. The estimated total case value is \$622 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner nation that has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

Finland intends to use the missiles on its Hamina class ships, Multirole Corvette ships, and Coastal Batteries. The missiles will provide enhanced capabilities in effective defense of critical sea lanes. The proposed sale of the missiles and support will increase the Finnish Navy's maritime partnership potential and increase regional security capability. Finland has not purchased Harpoon Block II+ ER previously, but will have no difficulty incorporating this capability into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require up to 21 U.S. Government personnel to travel to Finland providing support over a period of ten years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-76

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The RGM-84Q Harpoon Block II+ ER Surface-Launched missile system is classified SECRET. The Harpoon missile is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The RGM-84Q incorporates components, software, and technical design information that is considered sensitive. The following components being conveyed by the proposed sale that are considered sensitive include:

a. Classified CONFIDENTIAL:

(1) Radar Seeker.

(2) GPS/INS System.

(3) Operational Flight Program Software.

(4) Missile operational characteristics and performance data.

b. Classified up to SECRET:

(1) Weapon Data Link (depending on key classification).

(2) Warhead.

These elements are essential to the ability of the Harpoon missile to selectively engage hostile targets under a wide range of operations, tactical and environmental conditions. The Harpoon is a Coastal Target Suppressions land attack weapon.

2. The RGM-84L Harpoon Block II Surface-Launched missile system is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The Harpoon missile is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 29 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The RGM-84L incorporates components, software, and technical design information that are considered sensitive. The following components being conveyed by the proposed sale that are considered sensitive and are classified CONFIDENTIAL are:

Classified CONFIDENTIAL:

(1) Radar Seeker.

(2) GPS/INS System.

(3) Operational Flight Program Software.

(4) Missile operational characteristics and performance data.

3. The RTM-84 Exercise Harpoon Surface-Launched missile is classified up to SECRET. The RTM-84 Exercise Harpoon incorporates components, software, and technical design information that are considered sensitive. The following components being conveyed by the proposed sale that are considered sensitive include:

a. Classified CONFIDENTIAL:

(1) Radar Seeker.

(2) GPS/INS System.

(3) Operational Flight Program Software.

(4) Missile operational characteristics and performance data.

b. Classified up to SECRET:

(1) Weapon Data Link (depending on key classification)

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of specific hardware, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that Finland can provide substantially the same

degree of protection for sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sustainment program is necessary to the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the policy justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Finland.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-77, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Finland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$112.7 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,  
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.  
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-77

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Finland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \* \$92.6 million.  
Other \$20.1 million.  
Total \$112.7 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Sixty-eight (68) Evolved SEASPARROW Missiles (ESSM).

One (1) ESSM inert operational missile.  
Non-MDE: Also included are seventeen (17) MK25 quad pack canisters, eight (8) MK783 shipping containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, training, U.S. Government/Contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services and technical assistance, and other related elements of logistical support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (FI-P-LBP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.  
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 5, 2018.

\* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Finland—Evolved SEASPARROW Missiles (ESSM)

The Government of Finland has requested a possible sale of sixty-eight (68) Evolved SEASPARROW Missiles (ESSM) and one (1) ESSM inert operational missile. Also included are seventeen (17) MK25 quad pack canisters, eight (8) MK783 shipping containers, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, training, U.S. Government/Contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services and technical assistance, and other related elements of logistical support. The estimated total case value is \$112.7 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner nation that has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

Finland intends to use the missiles on its new Squadron 2020 class Corvette ships. The missiles will provide enhanced capabilities in effective defense of critical sea lanes and improve Finland's capability to meet current and future threats of enemy anti-ship weapons. Finland has not purchased ESSM previously, but will have no difficulty incorporating this capability into its naval forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS) Tucson, AZ, for the missiles, and BAE Systems, Aberdeen, SD, for the missile canisters. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require up to 12 U.S. Government personnel to travel to Finland providing support over a period of five years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-77

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Evolved SEASPARROW missiles (ESSM) includes the guidance section, warhead section, transition section, propulsion section, control section, and Thrust Vector Control (TVC) of which the guidance section and transition section are classified CONFIDENTIAL. Standard missile documentation will include:

a. Parametric documents (classified CONFIDENTIAL).

b. Missile Handling/Maintenance Procedures (UNCLASSIFIED).

c. General Performance Data (classified CONFIDENTIAL).

d. Firing Guidance (classified CONFIDENTIAL).

e. Dynamics Information (classified CONFIDENTIAL).

2. The Evolved SEASPARROW Missile (ESSM) contains SENSITIVE technological information and/or RESTRICTED information in the missile guidance section. Certain operating frequencies and performance characteristics are classified SECRET because they could be used to develop tactics and/or countermeasures to reduce or defeat the missile effectiveness.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of specific hardware, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Finland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sustainment program is necessary to the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the policy justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Finland.

and his excellent service as a part of our team. Going into my first term as Senator, I was proud to be the first Maryland Senator in almost 100 years to serve in the Senate Agriculture Committee. Understanding the importance of this role, John hit the ground running as our USDA fellow. With his past experience in both public and private sectors, John leaned into every project, from advocating on behalf of land grant universities to funding nutrition programs, with great enthusiasm that stemmed from his dedication to serve the needs of Marylanders. Besides his vast expertise, we will miss his kindness and dedication. Although we wish we didn't have to give him back to the Department of Agriculture, my whole staff and I know he will continue to achieve great things.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM U. HILL

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Wyoming Supreme Court Justice William U. Hill.

After serving over 19 years on the judicial bench, Justice Hill is retiring from the Wyoming Supreme Court on February 16, 2018. As an outstanding jurist and public servant, he dedicated his life to serving the people of Wyoming. Justice Hill's wisdom and unwavering dedication to the law has had a tremendous impact on our State.

Justice Hill has deep roots in Wyoming. He was raised in Riverton, WY. In 1970, he earned his B.A. in English from the University of Wyoming. Justice Hill graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1974. Throughout his successful career, he held several important positions in the government. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney, an assistant attorney general for Wyoming, and attorney general for Wyoming. In addition, he worked as the chief of staff and chief counsel in Washington, DC, for U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop. Justice Hill also worked in private practice in Cheyenne, WY; Riverton, WY; and Seattle, WA.

On November 3, 1998, Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer appointed Justice Hill to the Wyoming Supreme Court. He was elected as the 44th chief justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court in 2002. During his 4 years as chief justice, he oversaw the administrative responsibilities of the Wyoming court system, as well as ran the scheduling, case assignments, and court proceedings. Justice Hill also served as chairman of the judicial nominating commission and chairman of the board of judicial policy and administration. He demonstrated great leadership and distinction in each of these significant roles.

Supreme Court Justices can have a lasting impact on a State and its future. Justice Hill leaves a legacy of consistency and fidelity to the law. He always strived to uphold justice and ensure a fair judgment in every case.

##### TRIBUTE TO JOHN BREWER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize John Brewer

His decisions and opinions show respect for due process and strict adherence to the law. Justice Hill is a mentor and inspiration to Wyoming's legal community. He enjoys sharing his experiences and his passion for the legal profession with students and individuals just entering the legal field.

Justice Hill earned a reputation for being a hard worker and a thorough decisionmaker. Anyone fortunate enough to work with him speaks highly of his character and his drive. He respects the rule of law and our foundational legal principles. Justice Hill has consistently shown his commitment to justice and upholding the Constitution.

He has also been a recipient of several prestigious honors throughout his successful career. In 2017, he received the Larry L. Lehman Award for Judicial Excellence presented by the Wyoming State Bar. The award is named in honor of Justice Lehman for his efforts to improve the operation of the Wyoming court system and to provide greater access to justice for all Wyoming citizens. Justice Hill was also inducted as an honorary member of the University of Wyoming's Order of the Coif in 2011.

Justice Hill is married to Mary Kay Hill, and they have two children: Brian and Erin. Their son Brian Hill is married to Molly Hill. Their daughter Erin is married to Chase Rutherford. Mary Kay Hill worked for U.S. Senator Al Simpson in Washington, DC, for 10 years before returning to Wyoming as a policy adviser for former Governor Geringer and current Governor Mead.

The law plays such a major role in Justice Hill's life that he even plays guitar in a band called The Law North of Crow Creek. He is a man of many talents and can captivate a room with his stories. He leaves a lasting mark on everyone he meets.

Retirement opens the door to a new world of adventure and happiness. Justice Hill will continue to inspire and touch the lives of the people of Wyoming for years to come.

It is a great honor to recognize this exceptional member of our Wyoming community. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in extending our gratitude and well wishes to Justice Hill on his retirement. ●

#### REMEMBERING ELDER VON G. KEETCH

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I would like to honor the memory of a dear mentor and friend, Elder Von G. Keetch, who passed away suddenly on January 26 at the age of 57.

Elder Keetch was a brilliant attorney who used his gifts in the service of God.

As chief outside counsel and public affairs director to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Elder Keetch had the immense responsibility of representing his faith in the public square.

As an ardent supporter of religious freedom, he also had the privilege of

defending others' ability to worship according to the dictates of their conscience.

"Religious liberty is a God-given right," Elder Keetch said. "It is essential to all men and women exercising their agency and learning to choose between right and wrong."

Elder Keetch had deep respect for our constitutional rights because of his profession, but as a man of faith, he knew that conversions of the heart occur through personal encounters.

Mindful of this truth, Elder Keetch strove to imitate Jesus Christ in all aspects of his life. He encouraged his fellow Christians to do the same, even during contentious public debates.

"Ask yourself how you can best teach and defend the doctrine of the gospel of Jesus Christ while also showing love, kindness, and understanding," he wrote.

Elder Keetch was born in Provo and lived for much of his life in Utah.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and his law degree from BYU's law school.

During this period, he clerked at the Supreme Court for Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice Antonin Scalia, where he worked on pivotal religious liberty cases such as *Employment Division v. Speech*, 1990.

As he came up through the ranks, Elder Keetch caught the attention of prominent legal minds, including my father, Rex Lee, who mentored him during law school.

Years later, Elder Keetch would return the favor by mentoring another young BYU law student—me.

I still remember the enthusiasm that Elder Keetch brought to his class on the First Amendment. He wanted to impress upon his students the importance of these old court decisions to our lives.

At least in my case—and I am sure in countless others—he succeeded.

After Elder Keetch graduated from law school, he could have worked at his choice of law firms in Washington, DC, or New York. Instead, after prayerful consideration, he returned to Utah to work at Kirton McConkie, a law firm that works closely with the LDS Church.

Soon, Elder Keetch was an advocate in some of the highest profile public debates of our time, defending religious liberty against coercion and the institution of marriage against attempts to redefine it.

At the same time, Elder Keetch was called to positions of leadership within the LDS Church. He was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of the Church on April 4, 2015.

So tireless was Elder Keetch that, when he was called to a full-time position in the LDS Church, two attorneys were assigned to take over his work.

In spite of these important and time-consuming responsibilities, Elder Keetch made family his first priority.

Elder Keetch is survived by six children and his wife, Bernice, who has

been his steady companion and sweetheart since she invited him to a dance in high school. His family surrounded him with love as he battled cancer, the illness that eventually took him away from us.

It is hard to grapple with the unexpected death of a mentor, father, husband, and leader like Elder Von Keetch, but we should take heart from words that Elder Keetch himself spoke before a General Conference audience in 2015.

He said that trials were to be expected if we want to follow the One who suffered for us on Calvary.

We represent the love and faith of Christ, Elder Keetch taught, "in situations where we don't fully understand the reason for God's command."

I don't know why my dear friend and mentor was called home so soon, but I can take inspiration from his spectacular life.

I still recall a phone conversation with Elder Keetch many years ago, when I was finishing a clerkship with then-Judge Samuel Alito.

Elder Keetch was by then a prominent attorney. By contrast, I was a kid fresh out of school looking for life advice.

Still, he took my call, listened with great care and attention, and gave wise counsel that served me well down the line. Undoubtedly, Elder Keetch's time could have been spent better elsewhere, yet he chose to spend it on me.

That is what I will remember about Elder Keetch. He brought the same enthusiasm to pivotal court cases and seemingly unimportant phone conversations. He knew that matters large and small can be used for the glory of God.

In all things, Elder Von Keetch modeled the words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain," Philippians 1:21–23, KJV. ●

#### STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY FINALISTS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, last week I entered into the RECORD the winning essays in my office's eighth annual State of the Union Essay Contest. I would like to congratulate the other finalists in this year's contest and likewise ask that their essays be printed in the RECORD. The essays follow, in alphabetical order according to the finalists' names.

The material follows:

BAILEY BLOW, SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, FINALIST

At the beginning of December, a video of a polar bear was posted on Twitter by "National Geographic." When people think of polar bears, they imagine snow and ice; however, in this video, snow and ice were nowhere to be found. There was only green. Polar bears are also known for their massive size. The polar bear from the video did not look massive or strong. This poor bear was weak and dangerously skinny. It could barely walk. Without snow and ice, there wasn't a food source for the bear to eat. The scientists that captured the video believed that

it would be dead within hours if it didn't find food to eat.

When I came across this video, I was heartbroken. It was hard to watch and I found myself struggling to finish it. Watching this animal suffer and barely able to move in a habitat that should be covered in ice opened my eyes more. It was a hard sight to see, but this video is important for everyone to see. This polar bear is what climate change looks like. Climate change is not just something that affects animals and their habitats, it's something that affects all of us around the world.

In the recent years, our Nation and the rest of the world have seen an increase in natural disasters, warmer temperatures, a more acidic ocean, and a greater amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Climate change is not something that we can just ignore anymore. If we keep moving in the direction we are going, we will no longer have a healthy planet to live on. Time has not run out yet and there is still hope. If we begin to move towards healing our planet now, we can begin to reverse climate change.

One of the first steps we should take towards addressing climate change is getting back into the Paris Agreement. It was very concerning to most of the Nation when President Trump decided to pull the United States out of this agreement. This decision was concerning because it gives the impression to the rest of the world that the U.S. doesn't believe that climate change is a big deal. Scientists have proven time and time again that climate change is real and it is happening. By getting back into this agreement, the U.S. can continue to contribute to the fight against climate change.

Another step that could be taken is more environmental laws. These laws could cover a wide range of things, such as using alternative energy to cut back on greenhouse gases in the atmosphere or preventing landfill from getting into the ocean. Our priority should be protecting the planet that gives us a home.

Climate change is more apparent now than it has ever been before. It is the most pressing issue facing not only our country, but the entire world. Something needs to be done about it before our only home is destroyed.

MASON CASTLE, ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY  
JUNIOR, FINALIST

The United States was founded as a democratic republic in 1776. The implication of this system of government is that it is one controlled by the American people through their representatives. The Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments were even added following progressive social movements whose aims were ensuring that democracy was for all Americans and not just for a fraction of our people. However, recent Congressional elections have shed light on the threat of gerrymandering to democracy. While race-based gerrymandering was declared illegal by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, partisan gerrymandering is technically legal. However, it deprives millions of Americans of their full representation, and results in a system where politicians choose their voters, rather than voters electing their representatives. Gerrymandering runs counter to the fundamental values of a democratic republic, and therefore to American values, so it must be addressed if we are to "secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity," as the preamble to the Constitution says.

Gerrymandering occurs when a state legislature draws district lines so that they favor a certain party through "packing and cracking." This is when votes are either condensed into a singular district so surplus victory votes are wasted, or broken up into other

districts so that they are smothered by opposing votes. What results is that the influence of packed or cracked votes become less significant in determining the results of an election. This becomes especially problematic when the victors of gerrymandered elections gain a majority of seats during Census years because they decide where to draw district lines. This leads to one party holding an overwhelming majority that isn't necessarily representative of the American people. While this is a less overt method of voter suppression, it has proven to be far more effective.

In response to this issue, I propose that rather than having politicians draw districts, we use a neutral algorithm that draws fair districts that represent real American communities. This algorithm would eliminate the factor of human bias, and draw the most efficient maps possible.

Wendy K. Tam Cho, a professor of political science at the University of Illinois designed such an algorithm in response to the Supreme Court case *Gill v. Whitford*, in which Wisconsin lawmakers' proposed map eliminated any possibility of opponent victories. This violated the "one person, one vote" principle that came out of *Baker v. Carr* in 1962. So to create a map that would uphold this principle, Tam Cho used the University's supercomputers to draw billions of potential districts. The maps that were decided to be fairest, were the ones with the lowest efficiency gap or "packing and cracking." Using these third party algorithms, States can effectively make sure that every American has a say in politics, and uphold the democratic values this country was founded on.

LILLIAN CAZAYOUX, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

There is no doubt in my mind that the biggest problem in the country, as well as in Vermont, is the opioid epidemic. No matter where you go, it's impossible to find any community that has not been affected by scourge of these drugs. Whether it's an addiction to prescription painkillers, or dangerous street drugs like heroin, we need to dedicate greater resources to fighting them.

Opioid death tolls have been on the rise over the past two decades and began to accelerate rapidly in 2011. Opioid overdose deaths nearly doubled over the last five years, surpassing 42,200 nationwide in 2016. In Vermont the death toll was 100. Opioids don't care where you come from, nor do they discriminate based on socioeconomic status. Twenty of the deaths in Vermont occurred with people who had no high school diploma, however, an equal number occurred with people who had a college degree. No matter who you are, you are just as susceptible to opioid addiction. It's time as Vermonters, as Americans, as citizens who care for one another, that we take a stand.

There are two aspects to this problem that must be addressed and fixed; keeping addicts alive, as well as preventing more people from becoming addicted.

The big dangers with these drugs are how easy it is to overdose on them, and the diseases contracted by injecting with unsterile needles. The first thing we must do is preserve the lives at risk, by preventing fatal overdoses. I believe the best solution to that would be to open supervised injection sites. Popular in Europe, supervised injection sites allow addicts to use drugs with sanitary materials, provide treatment consultation, as well as medical help in the case of an overdose emergency. With newer, more potent drugs on the market such as fentanyl, it's crucial we find a quick way to save these lives before thousands more are lost. These supervised injection sites would provide a

chance to preserve lives until users can make the decision to begin the rehabilitation process. The main goal of implementing these sites would be to reduce the immediate health issues that opioid addiction presents, as well as attempting to refer the addicts into treatment.

The other preemptive part of this plan would be targeting doctors that over-prescribe highly addictive opioids in unnecessary cases. I believe more stringent rules regulating these prescriptions could prevent many people from becoming addicted to these medicines in the first place, before they turn to the cheaper more dangerous cousin, heroin.

Attacking the epidemic from both sides of the problem could be the solution to saving lives from opioid addictions.

VIJAYATA DAHAL, WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL,  
JUNIOR

I was eight years old when I immigrated to the United States with my family from Bhutan and Nepal. With us, we brought hope. Hope for better economic opportunities, better education, and a brighter future. Most importantly, we hoped for a country to call home.

Immigrants built America and it thrives because of them. The opportunity to migrate to the United States should be open to everyone despite their race, religion, and the color of their skin. Today, the President wants to stop immigration, deport 11 million undocumented immigrants, and eliminate the program that protects the children of illegal immigrants. Like my parents, millions of immigrants have migrated to the United States for centuries. Some come to flee violence. Some want religious freedom. Some come to escape poverty. Some come to have a home.

According to Michael Shear of the New York Times, the president banned people from seven predominantly Muslim countries to protect the United States from terror attacks. Ironically, non-Muslims commit more terrorist attacks in the United States. According to Ruiz-Grossman's article in the Huffington Post, white supremacists, militias, and sovereign citizens carried out 115 cases of terrorist attacks on the U.S. soil; Islamist extremists executed 63 terrorist attacks. The President should use his power to find a solution to stop the white supremacists rather than banning thousands of innocent human beings who are in search of a home.

In the United States, there are approximately 11.3 million illegal immigrants, many of whom brought their children along. According to Jenna Moon of The New Yorker, almost 800,000 undocumented immigrants came to the U.S. as children. These children are protected by a federal program—known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. DACA allows the Dreamers the right to live, study, and work in the United States.

In September 2017, the Trump administration announced plans to eliminate DACA and gave Congress six months to come up with a legislative solution. The new development has put the Dreamers at risk. Thousands of Dreamers have worked hard to attend schools, serve the government, and establish their careers. If Congress doesn't pass legislation, innocent children and young adults will be deported.

The U.S. should make background checks more efficient. America should not deport the 11 million undocumented immigrants. Instead, they should get the right to become citizens of the United States so that they receive the same opportunities as legal immigrants. Finally, Congress should create a plan that allows the Dreamers to work, study, and live in the United States and become citizens.

Immigration makes America unique. Our Nation was built and run by immigrants. Even the ones who are born here are all descendants of immigrants who came here fleeing poverty and violence, in search of a brighter future. The doors of America were open then, and they should stay open now to welcome the “tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

PAIGE GREENIA, MISSISSQUOI VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

How do people attain the goods that they want when the government makes them illegal? They turn to the black market. Now more than ever the United States is seeing a push to take certain goods out of the black market system. Right now, the major topic on the federal level is marijuana. Currently, several States have completely legalized the sale and use of marijuana, and several others are in the middle of making their decision. It would be in the best interest of the whole country to move toward legalizing and decriminalizing marijuana.

Actions towards decriminalizing and legalizing marijuana would make the marijuana trade, something that people that are going to do no matter if it's legal or not, much safer. The first way is that the government could set regulations on the growing and production of the substance. The government could establish a few trustworthy growers across the country to grow the marijuana to governmental safety standards and make sure that consumers don't have to worry about their products being laced with harmful substances. According to the American Addiction Centers, marijuana can be laced with dangerous substances such as lead, glass, heroin, PCP, laundry detergent and cocaine. In addition, if the Federal and State governments worked towards making marijuana a non-black market trade, officials would see countless less drug deal-related deaths and injuries. This is significant because according to Bill Conroy of “The Narcosphere”, “the number of people murdered in the drug war inside the United States between 2006 and 2010 exceeds the U.S. troop death toll in the Iraq War.” If marijuana isn't part of the black market, there cannot be drug dealers who are willing to do anything possible to get their money. If users don't have to be secretive about their use, they will be less likely to be hostile and more likely to get help and the amount of drug incidents will decrease. If the government officials take marijuana off the black market, it will make communities safer.

In the interest of saving the government money, the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana can contribute majorly. If the government legalizes marijuana, they can alleviate the cost of making arrests related to marijuana use. After all, “authorities spend more than \$3.6 billion enforcing laws against marijuana possession” according to a frequently cited report by the American Civil Liberties Union. Fifty-two percent of all arrests made in 2010 were due to marijuana related incidents, and a staggering 700,000 marijuana arrests were made in 2014. As a baseline statistic, the average cost to keep an inmate in a New York state prison is around \$60,000 per inmate annually. All the money saved by the State and Federal governments could be more appropriately be dedicated to lessening the country's increasing national debt.

For these reasons, the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana for recreational use, removing it from the black market, would benefit not only our state, but the entire country.

KAITLINN LITTLE, WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

I am afraid to walk down the street. I cannot afford to spend mental energy on how I

present myself in order to remain sexually safe. Instead, I focus on leaving a positive and impactful mark on this world. From a young age, my sex wasn't an obstacle in anything I did. I played with pink and blue toys. Stranger danger applied to all children. I played in the mud with a dress on. Then, I wanted to look like Barbie. I wanted to be rescued by a prince instead of saving myself. Children on the playground told me when a boy was mean, it meant he had a crush. Slowly but surely, we fell into the roles we were taught to follow. Today, women are coming forward and insisting that sexism is still an issue and I find that from the shallow strides I take in the presence of a man, this reality is with me, too.

According to “Psychology Today”, 56% of women in the United States are dissatisfied with their appearance. I've seen that young and old women will change their looks or even who they are so that a man will accept and notice them. Carolyn Coker Ross, MD says that how media portrays female bodies influences how women see themselves. She writes about the physical alterations women started performing during the 1800's. Women have put themselves in danger through plastic surgery to be “beautiful.” Such behavior should not be socially acceptable. Biologically, humans look for traits in a mate that they consider attractive. We were not built to harm ourselves to reach that appearance.

Gender roles in the past assigned women to be meek. Although the roles aren't as black and white today, those mentalities are still common throughout media. People in power make it difficult to move forward. Planned Parenthood explains that gender roles can occur in different forms such as personality traits, domestic behaviors, occupation, and physical appearances. But there are also ways to fight back, such as pointing out stereotyping in media to help people become aware of it. Speaking out about roles that could hurt us will draw attention to the issue. Speaking up for victims of sexism will spread awareness. And finally, not strictly following traditional norms will open people's minds. No drastic measures need to be made in order to prove a point. Simply being yourself, no matter how you act, dress, or look, should be the American norm.

My existence is not to be blanketed by fear but to thrive as a woman who is beneficial to a world that is hurting. If we are silent, power remains in the hands of those who impose silence on us. Listening to the people who witness hate with their own eyes surely will bring some relief to American women who are afraid to stride with the confidence and strength they are meant to have.

DUNCAN MCGRADY, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, SOPHOMORE

Today, the United States faces its greatest threat since the Cold War. It does not have a flag, or an ideology. It is unarmed, but deadly. It is the critical issue of our times. The greatest challenge America faces today comes from climate change and the unwillingness to act to stop it. The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season broke records with 17 storms, hundreds of direct fatalities, and \$292,000,000,000 in damages. It was the first such hurricane season, but it will not be the last. Scientists are still assessing the unprecedented hurricane season of last year, but the Union of Concerned Scientists has made clear that new, unnatural climatic conditions have worsened natural disasters, and will continue to do so. With millions of people living near the Caribbean and the eastern seaboard, including in U.S. states and territories, inaction is unacceptable. Funding must be provided to create, improve, or maintain storm resistant infra-

structure and housing, and to treat the cause: climate change.

New climate threats are not only impacting the East Coast—far from it. The West Coast has been plagued with yet another series of un-natural disasters: wildfires. Wildfires are short but destroy lives nonetheless. In the past year alone, thousands have been displaced, and 46 people have been killed. Experts fear this is merely a harbinger of far worse wildfire seasons to come, and the mass damage, casualties, and displacement that they will bring.

Climate change displacement is not only an American problem, but a global one. Today, 21.5 million people have been forcibly displaced due to directly climate-related events, according to the UNHCR. Many of these refugees have fled to developed states, which have largely failed in their humanitarian obligations. Developed states must do better because millions more climate refugees are expected in the coming years. Directly climate related catastrophes are not the only force behind the greatest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Outright resource conflict has reared its head, with resource scarcity and inequality an amplifier of other conflicts that directly impact U.S. interests, such as the disruption of merchant shipping in vital maritime chokepoints due to piracy, a behavior fundamentally driven by poverty. For pragmatic and moral reasons, the U.S. must address poverty at home and overseas. One way to manage this issue is at the source, by halting climate induced scarcity of resources.

Today, the United States faces a critical threat: climate change. The death and destruction caused by climate change is no longer a hypothetical. It is a current and critical threat to the security of the people of the United States and the globe, today and tomorrow. Climate change has already caused catastrophic environmental and humanitarian crises. The United States must halt climate change by subsidizing the blossoming green energy movement, aiding worker transition to renewable energy careers, correcting an anti-science culture, and re-entering the Paris Climate Accord immediately. We must act now because America's lethargy of today is humanity's calamity of tomorrow.

JAKE MCNEIL, MILTON HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

Vermont is a unique State that is comprised of small, tight-knit communities; these communities have a close relationship with local government. Teachers, a vital component to both the community and in promoting students to be forward-thinkers, help shape Vermont into the innovative and creative state that it is. Lately, however, there has been a lack of consideration in regards to the teachers who are at the heart of Vermont's schools and communities. Scattered across our Facebook feeds and blasted from our car radios are stories of local school districts' strife. For decades, teacher strikes have become commonplace, each with a lasting impact on the Vermont education system. The Vermont-National Education Association, VT-NEA, has recorded over 26 strikes in the state. However, this issue is not just relevant to Vermont, but every State across the country. Teachers are a fundamental part of our school systems and are influential in the development of future generations, which is why I believe it is essential that attention is paid to the underlying issues that spark these strikes. From underfunded schools and issues with employee contracts to unsatisfactory working conditions and hefty workloads, the laundry list of problems is anything but miniscule. We must do two things: open the door to productive communication by letting teachers

air their grievances, and have school boards focus more resources on trying to resolve those issues. This will help teachers attain and deliver the curricula they desire by coordinating cost saving measures, all without breaking the town budgets. The students of America, our future generation, deserve an education without interruption.

We need to have teachers and leadership communicate constantly to get the schools and outcomes we desire. By engaging in productive, civil and persistent dialogue between all parties, teachers serve as models in promoting the behaviors they want to instill in their students, like myself, and the community: standing up against injustice, making difficult decisions, and insisting on being treated with dignity and respect—despite such actions being perceived as very difficult and unpopular. In essence, continual dialogue among all parties is a more productive, and instructive, model for our teachers and leadership to follow. The process of continual dialogue will help all parties involved identify areas in the system that need funding by communicating and pinpointing the specific areas of interest: materials, professional development, and teacher contracts. This allows leadership to make informed choices about budgeting, which is a more effective use of limited funds.

Education is an essential service, and as such we must strive to make it better. As President John F. Kennedy said, “The race between education and erosion, between wisdom and waste has not run its course.” We are still in the race, and by having teachers, state, and national leadership continue to work together, we can place ourselves in the best position to win the race. As Americans, it is critical for citizens to support the educators that shape our communities into the melting pot of growth and creativity that they are today.

LILY MINER, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

During this first year of the Donald Trump presidency, we have witnessed many questionable decisions being made for our country that not only affect us, but also those around the world in a negative way. One particular decision, however, has set our country on a path to continue the horrific damage being done to Earth. President Trump’s adjudication to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement has left us as the only nation in the world to oppose it since Syria signed to join in November. The main objective for this agreement was to restrict levels of CO2 emissions from each country. The consequences of Trump’s withdrawal are grave, as CO2 levels in the atmosphere have risen past 400 parts per million—levels that are already superseding what Earth can handle to support the flora and fauna living on it. Continuing this trend will most likely result in a mass extinction event.

Hearing the White House argue that removing us from the agreement will help boost our economy filled much of the American public as well as climate experts around the globe with a sense of outrage. We have already accumulated a surplus of evidence that manmade climate change is having a drastic negative impact. In the past two decades, sea levels have risen at a rate of .13 inches, which is twice the rate of the past century. From 1992 to 2011, Greenland lost 152 billion tons of ice per year, West Antarctica lost 65 billion per year, and the Antarctic Peninsula lost 20 billion per year. Increased intensity in extreme weather including hurricanes, floods, and snowstorms has been recorded since the 1950’s. These are just a fraction of the plethora of examples. Given the massive amount of damage that has already been done, how can it be justified to place the economy as a higher priority?

This choice is especially irresponsible when considering the fact that the United States produces more excess CO2 than any other country. While there are many factors to blame, one of the largest and least necessary of these is the use of fossil fuels. They provide 81% of the energy in the United States, yet they are both incredibly harmful and incredibly easy to replace. A change needs to be made.

It is imperative that we as a global superpower begin to invest in renewable energy such as wind and solar. Many economists agree that the long term benefits from switching to renewable energy would outweigh the short term costs, improving the economy through more environmentally sound means. Certainly a more competent course of action than removing ourselves from the Paris Agreement. Though the cost of installation for these methods are pricier than more conventional ones, they have no fuel costs once they are functioning and the maintenance costs are cheaper. The United States has not only the resources, but the duty to fight against these issues. We need to combat this now, because we will not be given a second chance later.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4292. An act to reform the living will process under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4292. An act to reform the living will process under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1551. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production from advanced nuclear power facilities.

H.R. 2372. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the rules re-

lating to veteran health insurance and eligibility for the premium tax credit.

H.R. 2579. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the premium tax credit with respect to unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage.

#### 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-4137. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Flonicamid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions” (FRL No. 9971-94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4138. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9971-95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4139. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Calcium Salts of Phosphorous Acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9970-96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4140. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “*Bacillus thuringiensis* Cry51Aa2.834 16; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9972-62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4141. A communication from the Director of Defense Pricing and Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Procurement of Commercial Items” ((RIN0750-AJ01) (DFARS Case 2016-D006)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4142. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4143. A communication from the Director of Defense Pricing and Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: State Sponsor of Terrorism—North Korea” ((RIN0750-AJ68) (DFARS Case 2018-D004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4144. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Certain Entities; Removal of Certain Entities; and Revisions of Entries on the Entity List” (RIN0694-AH43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4145. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4146. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4147. A communication from the Chief Counsel, United States Mint, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exchange of Coin” (31 CFR Part 100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4148. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Annual Update of Filing Fees” ((RIN1902-AF47) (Docket No. RM18-3-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4149. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onshore Oil and Gas; Annual Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments” (RIN1004-AE51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4150. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation for Fiscal Year 2018” ((RIN3150-AJ83) (NRC-2016-0166)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4151. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Off-Site Waste and Recovery Operations” (FRL No. 9972-89-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4152. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Chlorfenapyr; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9970-88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4153. 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; Nonattainment New Source Review Require-

ments for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 9973-37-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4154. 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; Massachusetts; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference” (FRL No. 9972-53-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4155. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan National Priorities List: Deletion of the Hatheway and Patterson Superfund Site” (FRL No. 9973-52-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4156. 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; Nonattainment Plans for the Lemont and Pekin SO2 Nonattainment Areas” (FRL No. 9973-48-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4157. 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; Indiana; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS” (FRL No. 9973-49-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4158. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Sunset Date for Attorney Advisors Program” (RIN0960-AI26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4159. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additional Guidance Under Section 965 and Guidance Under Sections 863 and 6038 in Connection with the Repeal of Section 958(b) (4)” (Notice 2018-13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4160. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure Modifying Revenue Procedure 2018-5” (Rev. Proc. 2018-10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4161. A communication from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting, a report relative to the Annual 2017 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4162. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background state-

ments of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2018-0007—2018-0009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4163. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects: Delay of the Revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects” (34 CFR Part 97) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4164. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, seven (7) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4165. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adjustment of Civil Penalties” (RIN1212-AB33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4166. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits” (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4167. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of the Provision of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 Relating to the Dispensing of Narcotic Drugs for Opioid Use Disorder” ((RIN1117-AB42) (Docket No. DEA-450)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4168. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from April 1, 2017, through September 30, 2017; to the Committees on the Judiciary; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-4169. A communication from the Vice Chairman and Executive Director of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of five recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 68th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4170. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-97; Introduction” (FAC 2005-97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4171. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish

and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments” (RIN1024-AE40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4172. A communication from the Associate Deputy General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-4173. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment” (OAG 159) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4174. A communication from the 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; First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4175. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Trade Agreements Thresholds” (RIN9000-AN60) (FAC 2005-97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4176. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-97; Small Entity Compliance Guide” (FAC 2005-97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4177. 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; Fokker Services B.V.” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1182) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4178. 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; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1183) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4179. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1170) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4180. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1178) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4181. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1177) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4182. 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-2017-0627) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4183. 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-2017-1180) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4184. 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-2017-1181) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4185. 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; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0807) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4186. 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; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0251) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4187. 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; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0519) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4188. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-

ness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0698) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4189. 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; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0500) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4190. 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; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0910) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4191. 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-2017-0660) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4192. 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 Corporation Turbofan Engines” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0750) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4193. 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; Dassault Aviation Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0513) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4194. 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; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1173) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4195. 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; The Enstrom Helicopter Corporation Helicopters” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1191) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4196. 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 (previously Eurocopter France)” (RIN2120-AA64)

(Docket No. FAA-2017-0671) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4197. 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; Truckee, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0565)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4198. 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; Greenwood/Wonder Lake, IL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0459)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4199. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class E Airspace; Eaton Rapids, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0209)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4200. 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; Madras, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0615)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4201. 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; Pueblo, CO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0666)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4202. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 537" (RIN2120-AA63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4203. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (55); Amdt. No. 3777" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4204. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-

off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (30); Amdt. No. 3778" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4205. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (97); Amdt. No. 3779" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4206. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (71); Amdt. No. 3780" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4207. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0973)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4208. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Oregon Inlet, Dare County, NC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0964)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4209. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Spa Creek, Annapolis, MD" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0994)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4210. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Quantuck Canal, Westhampton Beach, NY" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0311)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4211. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Ashley River, Charleston, SC" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0776)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4212. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment to Civil Penalty Amounts" (16 CFR Part 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on Janu-

ary 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4213. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties—2018 Adjustment" (Docket No. EP 716) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4214. A communication from the Paralegal, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform" (RIN2132-AB33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4215. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maritime Security Program" (RIN2133-AB85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4216. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marine Highway Corridor Expansion, Revision of the America's Marine Highway Program Regulations" (RIN2133-AB84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4217. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements to Document U.S.-Flag Fishing Industry Vessels of 100 Feet or Greater in Registered Length" (RIN2133-AB86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4218. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees for the Unified Carrier Registration Plan and Agreement" (RIN2126-AC03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4219. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Orchids in Growing Media From Taiwan" (RIN0579-AE28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4220. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4221. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN0790-AK09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4222. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to assistance provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) for sporting events during calendar year 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4223. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4224. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Strategic Plan for the period of 2018 through 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4225. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects: Delay of the Revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects" (24 CFR Part 60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4226. A communication from the Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restoring Internet Freedom" (WC Docket No. 17-108) (FCC 17-166) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4227. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Commission's Rules; Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties to Reflect Inflation" (DA 18-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4228. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List the Giant Manta Ray as Threatened Under the Endangered Species Act" (RIN0648-XE390) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4229. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Voluntary Consensus Standards Update; Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products" (FRL No. 9972-68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4230. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidate Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance Action Orders, and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits; Procedures for De-

cisionmaking; Correction" (FRL No. 9971-52-OARM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4231. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Right-to-Know; Adopting 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting; Final Rule" ((RIN2070-AK32) (FRL No. 9970-02)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4232. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Approval of Regional Haze State Implementation Plan Revisions for NOx for Electric Generating Units in Arkansas" (FRL No. 9973-30-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4233. 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; Ohio; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS; Multistate Transport" (FRL No. 9973-59-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4234. 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; Indiana; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9973-58-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4235. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2018; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4236. A communication from the General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees" (25 CFR Part 514) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2018; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 118. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-203).

S. 701. A bill to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities (Rept. No. 115-204).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1887. A bill to grant expedited hiring authority to the head of an agency to appoint college graduates and post-secondary students (Rept. No. 115-205).

#### 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. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2366. A bill to provide an adjustment to the discretionary spending limits for appropriations for the 2020 decennial census; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2367. A bill to provide relief from removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States before reaching the age of 18, improve border security, foster United States engagement in Central America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2368. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission fees, reduce the rate of the corporate income tax, provide tax credits to workers, deliver additional benefits to retired and disabled Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2369. A bill to authorize aboriginal subsistence whaling pursuant to the regulations of the International Whaling Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2370. A bill to better support our early childhood educators and elementary school and secondary school teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2371. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of municipal solid waste; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2372. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2373. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2374. A bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay Initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2375. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to allow consumers to prohibit certain consumer reporting agencies from releasing any information in the files of those consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2376. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, as the "First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 391. A resolution calling for the immediate extradition or rendering to the United States of convicted felons William Morales, Joanne Chesimard, and all other fugitives from justice who are receiving safe harbor in Cuba in order to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 337

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 337, a bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Vir-

ginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors 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. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 888

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 888, a bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to add disclosure requirements to the institution financial aid offer form and to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make such form mandatory.

S. 889

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 889, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make technical improvements to the Net Price Calculator system so that prospective students may have a more accurate understanding of the true cost of college.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas.

S. 1286

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1286, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, 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.

S. 1628

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1628, a bill to revise counseling requirements for certain borrowers of student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1774, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1864

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1864, a bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students.

S. 1903

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1903, a bill to assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 2127

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2127, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 2143

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2143, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment, to expand coverage under such Act, to provide a process for achieving initial collective bargaining agreements, and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2173, a bill to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of

the Social Security Act to extend State court funding for child welfare, and for other purposes.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2269

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2269, a bill to reauthorize the Global Food Security Act of 2016 for 5 additional years.

S. 2275

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2275, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents and for other purposes.

S. 2278

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2278, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve health care in rural areas.

S. 2296

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2296, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 2317

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2317, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for additional flexibility with respect to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 2322

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2322, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese.

S. 2353

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2353, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on the estimated total assets under direct or indirect control by certain senior Iranian leaders and other figures, and for other purposes.

S. 2356

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2356, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address staffing and other issues at facilities, including underserved facilities, of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2357

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2357, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to review the processes and requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs for scheduling appointments for health care and conducting consultations under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 368

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 368, a resolution supporting the right of all Iranian citizens to have their voices heard.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

S. RES. 385

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 385, a resolution supporting the observation of "National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month" during the period beginning on January 1, 2018, and ending on February 1, 2018, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 391—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE EXTRADITION OR RENDERING TO THE UNITED STATES OF CONVICTED FELONS WILLIAM MORALES, JOANNE CHESIMARD, AND ALL OTHER FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE WHO ARE RECEIVING SAFE HARBOR IN CUBA IN ORDER TO ESCAPE PROSECUTION OR CONFINEMENT FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES COMMITTED IN THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 391

Whereas William Morales, leader and chief bomb-maker for the terrorist organization Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional, committed numerous terrorist attacks on United States soil, including the bombings of Fraunces Tavern in lower Manhattan in 1975 and the Mobil Oil employment office in New

York in 1977, which killed 5 people and injured over 60 others;

Whereas Joanne Chesimard, one of the most wanted terrorists of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was convicted of murdering New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster;

Whereas more than 70 fugitives from the United States, charged with offenses ranging from hijacking to kidnapping to drug offenses to murder, are believed to be receiving safe harbor in Cuba;

Whereas other fugitives from United States justice who are receiving safe harbor in Cuba include Charles Hill, wanted for the killing of a state trooper in New Mexico, and Victor Manuel Gerena, on the list of the 10 most wanted fugitives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for carrying out a brutal robbery of a Wells Fargo armored car in Connecticut;

Whereas, according to the Treaty Between the United States and Cuba for the Mutual Extradition of Fugitives from Justice, signed at Washington April 6, 1904 (33 Stat. 2265), and the Additional Extradition Treaty Between the United States and Cuba, signed at Havana, January 14, 1926 (44 Stat. 2392), the United States has a bilateral extradition treaty with Cuba;

Whereas, in January 2002, the Government of Cuba deported to the United States Jesse James Bell, a United States fugitive wanted on drug charges;

Whereas, in March 2002, the Government of Cuba extradited drug trafficker Luis Hernando Gomez Bustamante to Colombia, and Gomez Bustamante was subsequently extradited to the United States in July 2007 to face drug trafficking charges; and

Whereas it is imperative that the Government of Cuba abide by its extradition treaty with the United States and immediately extradite or render to the United States those legally indicted or convicted of serious criminal offenses in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the immediate extradition or rendering to the United States of convicted felons William Morales, Joanne Chesimard, and all other fugitives from justice who are receiving safe harbor in Cuba in order to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States;

(2) urges the international community to continue to press for the immediate extradition or rendering of all fugitives from justice that are receiving safe harbor in Cuba; and

(3) calls on the Secretary of State and the Attorney General to continue to press for the immediate extradition or rendering of all fugitives from United States justice so that they may be tried and, if convicted, serve out their sentences.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1921. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 582, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1921. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 582, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-

line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 4, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 5, line 2, and insert the following:

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a multi-line telephone system that is manufactured, imported, offered for first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1551, H.R. 2372, AND H.R. 2579**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1551) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production from advanced nuclear power facilities.

A bill (H.R. 2372) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the rules relating to veteran health insurance and eligibility for the premium tax credit.

A bill (H.R. 2579) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the premium tax credit with respect to unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

**KARI'S LAW ACT OF 2017**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 582 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 582) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, 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 amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 1921) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

Beginning on page 4, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 5, line 2, and insert the following:

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a multi-line telephone system that is manufactured, imported, offered for first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 582), as amended, was passed.

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, Feb-

ruary 6; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein until 12 noon, and that the time be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW**

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.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 10 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION**

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 5, 2018:

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

ANDREI IANCU, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

**WITHDRAWALS**

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on February 5, 2018 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

KATHLEEN HARTNETT WHITE, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, VICE NANCY HELEN SUTLEY, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 8, 2018.

KATHLEEN TROIA MCFARLAND, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 8, 2018.