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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God, our hope for years to come, we offer You our thanksgiving. Thank You for Your steadfast love that sustains us every hour. Thank You for Your faithfulness that allows us to dwell in peace.

Lord, we are grateful for the joy we receive by observing the works of Your hands, finding pleasure in the beauty of the sunrise and the glory of the sunset.

Today, use our Senators for the glory of Your Name. Guide and direct them, that they may mount up with wings like eagles, running without weariness, and walking without fainting. Guide them with the light of Your truth.

Lord of all, to You we raise this our prayer of grateful praise.

We pray in Your bountiful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOM TILLIS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to talk this morning about the President's qualified nominee for the Supreme Court. A number of us have already met with Judge Kavanaugh. Four Senators from both sides of the aisle have meetings scheduled. By all accounts, including my own, he is a fair and thoughtful jurist with a brilliant legal mind, but some Senators have a different view than their colleagues and different from the experts.

Here is how the junior Senator from New Jersey characterized this nomination with the senior Senator from Massachusetts right beside him. Here is what he said:

We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death.

You are either complicit in the evil, you are either contributing to the wrong, or you are fighting against it.

This is from a member of the Judiciary Committee. He hasn't even met with Judge Kavanaugh. He hasn't heard a word of testimony, and he is citing Scripture. He is proclaiming that this nominee is pure evil of Bib-

lical proportions. He is claiming that the Senators and the American people who have an open mind on this nomination are complicit in the evil. This is truly outrageous.

Not a single Democrat has come forward to condemn what he had to say. Our friends on the left are locked in this bizarre competition to wear out the volume knob and outdo each other with this angry nonsense.

Before the President even selected Judge Kavanaugh, the junior Senator from California, another member of the Judiciary Committee, declared that whoever he nominated would bring about "the destruction of the Constitution of the United States." She made up her mind before any hearings or any testimony and before there was even a nominee, in fact.

Less than 24 hours after Judge Kavanaugh was announced, the senior Senator from Connecticut followed suit. He said: "Judge Kavanaugh is your worst nightmare." This is another member of the Judiciary Committee.

So for those keeping score at home, Democrats want you to believe that Judge Kavanaugh is your worst nightmare, who will put the American people in the valley of the shadow of death and destroy the Constitution all by himself. Oh, and don't forget that anyone who doesn't agree with them is "complicit in evil."

Whom do they expect to believe this stuff?

Here is another quote: "This is a nominee who wants to pave the path to tyranny." That was our colleague, the junior Senator from Oregon, at a rally with far-left special interests.

Here is another quote: "The nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh will threaten the lives of millions of Americans for decades to come." That was a quote of the former Democratic Governor of Virginia, who actually used to chair the Democratic National Committee.

It is hard to keep a straight face when you hear this hysteria. Really,

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



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you can't keep a straight face at all when our Democratic colleagues say these things and then turn around and insist they need extra time, extra information, and extra documents in order to make up their minds.

Do the people making these comments sound like they are openminded? Do they sound persuadable?

The Democratic leader has insisted that Judge Kavanaugh's long and extensive judicial record isn't enough and that Democrats need to see practically every scrap of paper from the Bush White House before they can decide. But about 2 weeks ago, when the ink was barely dry on Judge Kavanaugh's nomination, he himself told a national television audience—this is the Democratic leader—that he will “oppose him with everything I've got.” That doesn't sound undecided to me. It doesn't sound like a guy who needs documents to make up his mind.

Let's be clear about what this is all about. Judge Kavanaugh has been a judge for over a decade. He has written over 300 opinions. He just produced over 6,000 pages of documents as part of his questionnaire, and many more documents will be produced in the coming weeks. In fact, it is likely that more documents will be produced with respect to his nomination than for any Supreme Court nomination in our entire history.

But it is becoming pretty clear that none of this will really matter. I am sorry to say that for most Senate Democrats, I am afraid it would not matter if there were a million pages of documents or 10 million or 100 million. It wouldn't make any difference. No matter how many documents are produced, many of our Democratic colleagues are making it abundantly clear that they are never going to support this nominee.

The complaint about documents is not about assessing his record in an openminded, fair, and dispassionate way. It is all about the desire to obstruct and delay. The American people will give this demagoguery and these delaying tactics the short shrift they deserve.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, later today Vice President PENCE will visit Wheeling, WV, to discuss Republicans' pro-growth agenda. For the better part of a decade, the people of West Virginia heard a lot of talk from Washington.

During the 2008 Presidential campaign, then-Senator Biden told a crowd in Charleston, WV, that he supported the coal industry and that the Democrats' policies would help West Virginia's economy. “This is about jobs,” he said.

But the Obama-Biden administration turned out to be a crash course in the difference between rhetoric and results. Across the entire private sector, fewer Virginians were employed the day

President Obama left office than on the day he was sworn in. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the State's manufacturing workforce shrunk by more than 13 percent from 2009 through 2016, and its mining and logging workforce collapsed by 37 percent.

Let's be clear. Public policy is not the only factor at work in our economy, but there is no denying that Washington can make life harder for job creators or make it easier. The Obama economy was a tough pill to swallow—tax hikes and burdensome regulations. Their policies cut against the rhetoric, and the outcome was disappointing.

That was then. This is now. When Vice President PENCE lands in West Virginia today, he will be able to share a different story. He will be able to say that, thanks in part to regulatory relief and generational tax reform, the number of Americans saying that now is a good time to find a quality job hit a 17-year high just 2 months ago.

He will be able to say that West Virginia's unemployment rate has been lower in every month of this unified Republican government than it was during any month of the Obama Presidency.

It is the American people who are achieving all of this. Republicans are just happy that our policies are helping to create conditions for workers and job creators to thrive.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, the Senate has continued our regular appropriations process. We are considering four important funding measures that will account for about an eighth of discretionary spending.

This bill will keep resources flowing to a long list of key government functions. We are talking about everything from food safety inspections to anti-drug enforcement, to child nutrition, to the Forest Service. It attends to a number of specific policy priorities that we all hold in common, like providing major resources to rebuild America's infrastructure and to fight against opioid abuse.

My constituents in Kentucky will benefit from new funding for rural development grants and loans and more resources to fight everything from illegal drugs to invasive species like Asian carp. Communities in every single State will win because of this work.

I want to express gratitude to Members on both sides of the aisle: our subcommittee chairs, who helped to shape the bills in this minibus, Senators MURKOWSKI, COLLINS, HOEVEN, and LANKFORD; all of our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and their fearless leaders, Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY, for keeping this process bipartisan and for keeping it moving; and Senator MURKOWSKI, once more, for her work in managing this legislation here on the floor.

I am proud of the regular appropriations process we are rebuilding to-

gether. I am proud that we have been able to process several amendments and hope we can continue to process even more. But I am especially proud of the good things this legislation will do for families and communities nationwide.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 184 AND H.R. 1201

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk that are due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 184) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

A bill (H.R. 1201) to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 6147, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6147) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Shelby amendment No. 3399, in the nature of a substitute.

Murkowski amendment No. 3400 (to amendment No. 3399), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I am proud to be here this morning to talk about a legislative matter that has taken many years to come to fruition. We were able to work together in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and make important updates that will support high-quality programs, foster innovation, and improve access for all students. I am very proud to be joined by Senator ENZI, who worked for years on this issue. I will say more about Senator ENZI in a moment.

Perkins CTE—“CTE” standing for “career and technical education”—is critical to creating jobs and growing wages and ensuring our workers have the tools to outcompete with anyone in the world. This legislation will empower States and local districts to create programs that provide better outcomes for all students, educators, and our economy.

Since the last reauthorization in 2006—you heard that right, 2006—there have been significant changes to both technology and our economy, and we have a growing skills gap. In Pennsylvania, for example, jobs requiring some postsecondary education and training but not a B.A. account for 54 percent of Pennsylvania’s labor market; however, only 43 percent of workers in the State are trained to fill these jobs. This bipartisan legislation will help to close the skills gap by allowing programs to better align with industry needs, ensuring that programs serve as a pipeline to the high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand jobs of today as well as the jobs of tomorrow.

In addition, this legislation creates more alignment with Federal laws, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—known around here by the acronym WIOA—which deals with our workforce, and better alignment with the Higher Education Act, as well as better alignment with the Every Student Succeeds Act, which was the elementary and secondary education law passed in 2015. All of that will help to ensure that our education and workforce programs indeed work together.

Similarly, this legislation improves collaboration between secondary schools, institutions of higher education, employers, and other community partners. It increases stakeholder engagement and ensures we have a workforce to support high-quality programs by increasing recruitment of and improving professional development for CTE—career and technical education—educators.

I am particularly proud of provisions in this bill that will promote equity and ensure that all students, including students with disabilities, have access to high-quality programs.

I am also pleased that provisions in the bill will allow for more career and technical education exploration in both middle and secondary grades. Exposing students to different career and academic pathways early gives them more options and opportunities to succeed.

We have come together and passed a strong bill that is responsive to the needs of our communities and will help students, programs, and industries across Pennsylvania and across our Nation to thrive. I look forward to continuing to work on these issues. Now that the House has also passed this legislation, we are looking forward to having the President sign it into law.

I want to say how much I appreciate the work that was done over many years by Senator ENZI and his staff, working with my staff and working with me, and the direct involvement of both the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Chairman ALEXANDER, and Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY. We are grateful for their direct help in getting this legislation through the Senate.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I want to begin by thanking my friend from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, for his commitment to the students who will benefit from the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and for the bipartisanship that helped us to reach this point. I also want to thank Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY for prioritizing the effort to reauthorize Perkins CTE. Their recognition of the importance of this work was key to getting past an impasse that only a few months ago looked unlikely to break.

Senator CASEY and I have had a lot of hours of working together to come up with a bill that would make a difference for people who want to work with their hands. I have a favorite book that talks about this, and part of the title is “From Coal Miners to Cowboys,” referring to the people who get their hands dirty every day to provide what we need. This is a segment of the economy we really need. I know that if you need an electrician or a plumber, you want them right away, and you want them trained. That is what this bill emphasizes and provides for.

I do need to thank the administration, and Ivanka Trump Kushner, in particular, for putting the spotlight on the reauthorization of Perkins CTE and workforce development generally. With a laser-like focus on strengthening the economy, the President and his administration have rightly recognized that a strong and prosperous economy requires a skilled and ready workforce. This combined, bipartisan effort resulted in the Senate unanimously passing its amendment to the House’s own bipartisan bill. We did it by voice vote, and that is as bipartisan as it gets around here.

Now the House has taken that bill and approved of the changes that were made, which we coordinated with them during the time that we were negotiating, and they have taken the same action. So that bill is now on the way to the President, who emphasized that we need to do it.

Passing this reauthorization is particularly important to Wyoming, where one-sixth of school districts have chosen not to participate in Perkins CTE because the compliance and reporting burdens were too heavy to justify the funds they would receive. That changes with this bill.

For years, States have been leading the effort to tackle the national workforce skills gap and ensure that they, and our country at large, have a workforce that is capable of meeting the challenges of an increasingly dynamic, competitive, and global economy. Unfortunately, States have been meeting these challenges under a program that was last authorized in 2006.

By modernizing Perkins CTE, we are taking the important step of better aligning the primary Federal career and technical education program with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act. We like these all to work together—and these are all achievements that have been done in recent years—because, far from working independently, these programs are all pieces of the larger workforce development puzzle.

Because it can be hard to know what programs to provide when you don’t know which ones are needed, this legislation also promotes collaboration between the stakeholders so that local businesses are brought to the table to communicate their needs to States and local educators as strategies and programs are developed. We want people hired after they get training. So the training needs to be for the jobs that are going to be available.

Crucially, by enabling the limited funds provided by this program to be more effectively spent on education and less on complying with Federal reporting requirements, this legislation will better reflect that the investment made by the Federal Government in career and technical education represents pennies on the dollar when compared to the investment of money and effort made at the State and local levels. This bill takes the important step of providing States with greater authority to determine the levels at which they will be held accountable under this program.

However, as States continue to compete for investment, accountability will ultimately come in the form of employers who will vote with their feet and their capital, hiring people. Ask any businessperson what their biggest challenge is, and they will likely tell you it is finding workers with the right skills and knowledge to fill their open jobs. States and communities that recognize this need and rise to the challenge of preparing their residents for

those jobs are the ones that will succeed in this economy.

These improvements, along with many others included in this bill, underscore why passage of this legislation has long been a priority for so many people, and it is only appropriate that one of the clearest displays of bipartisanship in the 115th Congress would be in support of our workforce and the students preparing to join it.

I once again thank my friend Senator CASEY for his support in this effort, and I will also express my disappointment in how little publicity there has been. If there is a controversy, if people are cursing each other or making unusual comments, that makes the paper. But to actually do something—to actually get something done and to get it done in a bipartisan way with people working together virtually unanimously—well, that must have been too easy. If it were easy, we wouldn't have been working on it for three years, but we got it done. It is on its way to the President, and I am proud of it. Again, I thank Senator CASEY for his superb effort in reaching agreement on this.

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

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

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I want to briefly add my personal thanks to the Senators from Wyoming and Pennsylvania, who just spoke. Their work on getting this bipartisan solution to the Perkins CTE reauthorization is nothing short of admirable. I have worked with the Senator from Florida, Mr. RUBIO, for 7 years on an education demonstration program called the American Dream Accounts. Both of these terrific Senators were gracious in including it in this bill.

This is a bill that is going to make possible programs all over this country that will smooth and clear the pathway toward meaningful employment for young Americans. I wish more people knew about this kind of work, this kind of effort that these two Senators have made to move forward the sort of bipartisan, responsible solutions to the real problems facing Americans, which we need, and I just wanted to take one moment and thank them both for their tireless work to achieve this good result today.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, both parties used to agree that the thorough review of a Supreme Court nominee's record was essential to fulfilling our constitutional advice and consent obligations as Senators.

When Elena Kagan was nominated 8 years ago, even though Democrats were in the majority and Republicans were in the minority, Chairman LEAHY joined with Republicans to request all of Elena Kagan's records from her time in the White House. Now the shoe is on the other foot. We are in the minority; they are in the majority. But rather than applying the previous, bipartisan standard, the Republican majority is refusing to join with Democrats in requesting Brett Kavanaugh's complete record.

At issue is Brett Kavanaugh's time as Staff Secretary in the Bush White House. Republicans argue we don't need to see papers from that part of his career; Democrats argue we most certainly do. Republicans are being hypocritical and sophistic.

In both cases, we said that we needed all of the papers. Why? Because this is such an important job, and we ought to see the complete record of whoever the nominee is.

Now they are saying: Well, counsel is OK, but Staff Secretary isn't, and Kagan wasn't a Staff Secretary. So what? So what?

The relevant standard is all of the records, no matter what jobs they had, and Republicans are trying to come up with a difference for reasons that people are asking why. Are they hiding something? Is Kavanaugh hiding something? What did he do when he was Staff Secretary that he doesn't want the American public to see?

The Republicans say that the job of Staff Secretary wasn't so important, merely a paper pusher. Bull. The Senate doesn't need to see anything from that period, they say, because the job was unimportant. Second, they say that his years as a judge should preclude him from having to provide paperwork from his earlier work as a top White House official.

The Republicans keep moving the goalposts. They keep changing the standards to suit their needs to accomplish their goal—a hard-right, anti-middle-class, anti-choice, anti-healthcare Supreme Court. That is their goal. They can't accomplish it here; they can't accomplish it in the House; they can't even accomplish it with President Trump because those are elected branches of government, and the public pushes back. But with judges, they can, so they keep moving the goalposts and changing the rules time and again.

Their arguments don't withstand scrutiny. Let's take the first one: The job of Staff Secretary wasn't so important. That is a laugher. Brett Kavanaugh himself has said that "my

three years as Staff Secretary for President Bush—were the most interesting and in many ways among the most instructive." If he feels they were most instructive, why shouldn't the American people see what instructed him? By his own account, during his time in the White House and as Staff Secretary, Judge Kavanaugh attended meetings with world leaders from the Pope to Vladimir Putin. He participated "in the process of putting legislation together," and he talked to the President of the United States about how he should pick someone for the Supreme Court. In fact, Judge Kavanaugh said his time as Staff Secretary made him a "better interpreter of statutes."

Over and over again, Judge Kavanaugh has said that this was an important position and it critically informed who he is as a judge and who he will be, should he be confirmed—I hope he isn't—to the Supreme Court. So the argument the Republicans have made that Staff Secretary isn't an important job is virtually laughable and a cover-up for their fear of letting all the records out.

The second argument we are hearing is that it is gratuitous and unreasonable to ask for documents from Brett Kavanaugh's career before he became a judge. Well, they have amnesia on the other side. Nine years ago, when this body was considering the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court, Senate Republicans on the Judiciary Committee requested all of the paperwork from her tenure at the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Sotomayor was a judge for 15 years—3 longer than Judge Kavanaugh—and still Republicans, just 9 years ago, said they needed "minutes from the board meetings" that Justice Sotomayor attended as far back as 29 years before her confirmation hearings. Here is what Senator Sessions said in 2009:

The [Puerto Rican legal defense fund] documents may provide insight into [Sotomayor's] judicial approach. . . . The American people have a right to know this important information about President Obama's nominee.

Guess what. Senator LEAHY, then chairman, joined Sessions in requesting those documents. Democrats have been very open about their nominees—our nominees—and we have let the full records come out. We are not afraid of who they are. But when the Republicans are in charge, they come up with all of these elliptical, sophistic, and fundamentally hypocritical arguments about why that record shouldn't be made available. We have never heard those from Democrats. It is just unfair.

So when my friends from the other side say that we don't need all of Kavanaugh's documents because White House Staff Secretary isn't an important job, we ask: Isn't it a more important job than being part of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, from which you demanded records? Of course it is.

It seems each time Democrats demonstrate that our request is 100 percent consistent with the Senate's bipartisan precedents, we hear some new, strained, contorted rationalization from Senate Republicans as to why a new, partisan approach is called for now and why the Senate should avert its gaze from Judge Kavanaugh's work as one of the most senior officials in the White House. Republicans keep moving the goalposts in what I can only characterize as a flimsy and transparent attempt to mask their own hypocrisy.

Again, there is an obvious, looming question: What are Republicans trying to hide in Judge Kavanaugh's record? What don't they want the public to see? Why are they making such hypocrites of themselves in coming up with these solipsistic arguments that when they were in the minority and President Obama nominated people, they should get all the records, but not now?

If there is nothing to hide for Judge Kavanaugh, then let the sunlight shine. Let the records come out.

My Republican friends seem to think that some Democrats have announced their opposition to Judge Kavanaugh, and that means the full Senate doesn't deserve to have access to his records. Frankly, it is rich to hear this from the Republican leader. People are rolling their eyes. He refused to consider any nominee by President Obama—it didn't matter who it was—mere hours after we received the news of Justice Scalia's death. It was one of the most shameful chapters in the Senate. I know there is gloating on the hard right: Wasn't that a brilliant move?

It is going to go down in history as one of the low points of the Senate, and Senator McConnell will have to bear that on his shoulders. I say that even though he is my friend.

I say to my Republican colleagues: This is not about Democrats. This is not about individual Senators and how they might vote. It is about the American people. We have an open government. The American people deserve a chance to hear the full record, make their judgments, and let their elected representatives know now, before the nominee is voted on and in November.

When Elena Kagan's documents were requested by the Senate, they were almost immediately posted online for everyone to see, and they are still there. You can look them up. This isn't about how some of my Democratic colleagues may vote on Judge Kavanaugh; this is about hiding critical information about a Supreme Court nominee from the American people.

This is simple. Senate Democrats are following a bipartisan precedent; Senate Republicans are not. Republicans are playing a partisan game in hopes of withholding and hiding relevant information from the Senate and the public.

I will make one final plea to my colleagues on the other side, who seem to think the whole thing is just a political game and that there is nothing deep or

sincere about the foundation of this Republic. This is not a game. This is a nomination for a lifetime appointment to a seat on the Supreme Court of the United States. It is one of the most important votes any of us will ever cast. The American people expect and deserve that the Senate take its constitutional duty seriously. I hope our Republican colleagues will stop their partisan, self-serving games and let the Senate do its job.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, on healthcare, a year ago this week, the Senate defeated a partisan attempt by President Trump and Senate Republicans to repeal the healthcare law. Since that ignominious defeat, where JOHN MCCAIN showed such courage and looked so much better than so many of my other colleagues across the aisle in what they are doing now, the Trump administration and congressional Republicans have sabotaged our healthcare system, raising costs on American families, driving up premiums, reducing the quality of care. For what reason? There seems to be hardly any reason, other than political spite.

President Trump is an expert on political spite. We all know that. Our Republican colleagues just march blithely behind him. They hate the Affordable Care Act so much that they are willing to take a torch to our healthcare system, even though it hurts millions of average Americans.

The Trump administration is trying to gut protections for Americans with preexisting conditions through the courts. The administration has directed the Justice Department not to defend the constitutionality of preexisting conditions and at the same time is pushing Judge Kavanaugh onto the Bench.

Remember, President Trump said that his "judicial appointments would do the right thing, unlike Judge Roberts on health care." Make no mistake about it, America, Judge Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court puts the future of protections for preexisting conditions in the spotlight.

I would like every Republican Senator to go home and defend that. Go home and defend that they want to repeal protections for preexisting conditions; go home and defend that they want to put on the Bench a nominee who is likely to do so because President Trump said so.

In a recent Kaiser poll, voters ranked continuing preexisting conditions as the most important healthcare issue in the upcoming campaign. By 58 to 27, voters said that since President Trump and congressional Republicans have made changes in the law, they are now responsible for any problems with our healthcare system moving forward.

Almost a year after the Republican healthcare bill went down, those numbers should be a stark warning to my Republican colleagues. The American people do not want endless political sabotage. They want lower costs, bet-

ter quality, more stability, and, above all, they want to keep the protections for Americans with preexisting conditions.

Republicans go down the road of sabotage at their own peril. I urge my colleagues, instead, to join Democrats in defending preexisting conditions in court, as Senator MANCHIN, Senator CASEY—who has been such a leader on healthcare, whom we will hear from in a minute—and other Democrats have asked us to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise for two purposes today, and I will start with the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is the 28th anniversary of that landmark legislation.

Former Senator Tom Harkin served the people of Iowa for more than three decades, if you include House and Senate service. He was a champion for people with disabilities, and I think that is an understatement. For many years, he was the champion. Senator Harkin used to say that the Americans with Disabilities Act was the last great civil rights law of the 20th century.

The passage of what we know as the ADA helped to bring into focus a picture that started to develop 150 years ago with the ratification of the 14th Amendment. That great amendment guaranteed equal protection under the law for all.

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act confirmed that people with disabilities are included in that guarantee of the 14th Amendment. I think it is important to review the goals of the ADA. We have probably lost track of those goals with the passage of time. They need to be repeated.

The first goal is equal opportunity. The second goal is independent living. The third goal is full participation. The fourth goal is economic self-sufficiency. That is what we want to achieve for people with disabilities: equal opportunity, independent living, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency.

The goals are not achievable, of course, without great support. To achieve those goals, we need actions from governments, actions from businesses, actions from schools and universities, and, indeed, actions from every sector of our society. We need actions to promote and protect the dream that is at the core of the ADA.

The ADA affirmed rights outlined in the 14th Amendment. Despite those guarantees, this past year we have seen substantial and, I would argue in many instances, very cruel efforts that threaten equality for people with disabilities.

Earlier this year, we saw that the House of Representatives passed a bill that would have gutted title III of the ADA, making public access an afterthought for people with disabilities. In

the Senate, with many of our colleagues joined together, we stopped that effort. If they try it again, we will have to stop them from doing it. These threats continue.

In the past couple of weeks, we heard officials of this administration claim that segregation and institutionalization with regard to those who have a disability should be acceptable for these Americans with disabilities.

The law of our land, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision say otherwise. They say that the values and policy of the United States are for the inclusion—the inclusion—of people with disabilities. That statute and that Supreme Court decision do not say that the United States supports segregation, isolation, and institutionalization of people with disabilities.

I hope the administration will further clarify what their position is because it is contrary to law, but it is also an insult to our values. It seems that on many days in the last year and a half, if not longer, the Republican majority, both here in the Senate and in the House, has been focused on three objectives when it comes to healthcare: rip away, decimate, and sabotage. Ripping away protections like those for preexisting conditions in the Affordable Care Act, decimating the Medicaid Program, and sabotaging our healthcare system are actions by the administration that some Republicans have not interfered with. You have an administration that on a daily and weekly basis over many months now has sabotaged our system—sabotaged the individual market and sabotaged people's ability to get healthcare.

We are going to continue to fight against that. One of the biggest fights we are going to have is on Medicaid. Medicaid in Pennsylvania affects more than 2 million people. It has an impact because of the healthcare benefit it provides on 40 percent of the children of my State, 50 percent of the people with disabilities, and more than 60 percent of folks trying get into nursing homes.

When it comes to Medicaid, I am going to fight to the end of the Earth to protect it, not to sit down and have a nice discussion about it but to protect it. If they want to take it on, we are going to continue to fight against them as long as it takes. No matter how hard or how long that fight is, we are going to fight it.

Despite the progress we have made with the Americans with Disabilities Act and a lot of other progress in the interim, we still have a ways to go for the promise and the dream that many Americans with disabilities have had. We need further action, further legislation, further work in a bipartisan manner. I hope that will be the case on two of my bills.

Let me outline them quickly. No. 1, I just introduced a Disability Employment Incentive Act, which encourages businesses to hire more people with

disabilities. The disability workforce is robust, creative, reliable, loyal, and productive. We need more people with disabilities in competitive, integrated employment to strengthen our economy and to enhance the capacity of our businesses.

The second bill I have is to protect people with disabilities and their families, so we have introduced the Office of Disability Policy Act.

As sabotage continues to occur by the administration, we need accurate, nonpartisan information about proposals that could harm people with disabilities and the infrastructure that makes it possible for them to participate in our society.

We have a responsibility to know when a law that is being proposed—or an action by an administration—will benefit or adversely affect 56 million Americans with disabilities. During this month, when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 14th Amendment and the 28th anniversary of the signing of the ADA, we need to remember we all have a responsibility to complete the picture and to help Americans with disabilities to realize the dream.

As a nation, our duty now is to take the actions that protect and enhance the rights of all Americans, including those with disabilities, and to make equality for all a reality.

HEALTHCARE

Let me conclude with some thoughts about the recent debate about protections for preexisting conditions. As I said before, it seems that Republicans in Washington have a maniacal obsession with decimating Medicaid, wiping out the ACA protections, including protections for preexisting conditions.

Now that we have changed the law, we said: "If you have cancer, you can still get coverage or treatment." Now I guess some here want to take us back.

We have 5.3 million people in Pennsylvania with preexisting conditions; 643,000 of them are children. We are not going back. We are not going back to those days when those 5.3 million people in Pennsylvania don't have protection. We are not going back. If they want to have a fight about it, we will fight about it.

Last year, I heard from Liz from West Chester, PA—suburban Philadelphia—who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 26. Here is what she told me:

For years I worried about losing my job and with it my insurance because I have costly preexisting conditions. This stress added to the stress of my diagnosis, treatments, and work/life balance.

Then she goes on to say:

Weight lifted off my shoulders when the preexisting condition protections became law. Now those protections are threatened.

So a weight was lifted off her shoulders because of an advancement in law because we protected people with preexisting conditions. Now some people here want to add that weight back onto her shoulders. That has to be stopped at all costs, and we will stop it.

This latest scheme, this court case trying to overturn preexisting conditions protections, is why Senator MANCHIN and I are leading the effort on a resolution to authorize the Senate legal counsel to intervene in the case of *Texas v. The United States*.

This would be devastating for millions of people across the country. I mentioned 5.3 million in Pennsylvania with preexisting conditions—133 million across the country. Any of us—all of us—are vulnerable when the preexisting conditions protections are targeted. It is outrageous—outrageous—that the Department of Justice is weighing in against the law of the land and arguing that these protections for individuals with preexisting conditions should be struck down. We must defeat—defeat—this cruel attempt to rip away these protections. I will fight every day to make sure every American—no matter where they live or what their health status is—has access to the healthcare they need.

It is good that we are celebrating the 28th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We are happy about that, but at the same time, we need to be vigilant against attempts to undermine progress we have made since the ADA and progress we have made more recently.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, who wants to eat bugs for lunch? I am hearing crickets, even among the pages here.

Now, there is a reason for that, but the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the USDA is spending more than \$1.3 million to support cricket farming in the development of bug-based foods for human consumption. This sounds like a headline straight out of *The Onion*, but it is not. It is your hard-earned taxpayer dollars being used to try to develop a taste for crickets and other bugs.

This initiative is trying to determine which bugs taste best, which bugs are most nutritious, and the best methods for farming bigger, tastier crickets.

Now, while the USDA has no plans to inspect cricket farms and the FDA has "no special rules for edible insects" at this time, multiple bug-based companies have received Federal funds to research and develop techniques to put bugs in your food.

For example, Bugeater Labs—I am not joking here—Bugeater Labs of Nebraska has received \$100,000 of taxpayer money—this is a grant—to identify the most edible insects. With support from the USDA, Bugeater is testing bug-based pasta, ramen, and macaroni noodles.

Now, to get bugs into the food, the crickets are ground into a powder and mixed into pasta dough. Bugeater hopes to secure another \$600,000 in Federal funds to cover the cost of developing and manufacturing a commercial-ready product made from bugs.

Now, separately, All Things Bugs of Georgia—I am not kidding. Again, that is a real company—has received nearly \$1.3 million for reducing the cost and improving the efficiency of farming crickets as food ingredients. They currently produce and sell cricket powder with “mild aroma, neutral flavor, and minute particle size that can be added to recipes.” Four pounds of crickets are required to produce 1 pound of powder. A pound of cricket powder produced by All Things Bugs, which boasts “the most affordable wholesale price,” sells for about \$35 a pound. By comparison, the average retail price for 100 percent ground beef is about \$3.80 a pound.

The United States has more than 2.5 billion pounds of beef, pork, poultry, and turkey being stockpiled. This is a record level. Clearly, a new source of protein is not needed and, in this case, likely not wanted.

In fact, the CEO of one of these cricket cuisine companies said yesterday:

Realistically, as much as we wish people would behave differently, Americans won't buy significant amounts of insect protein. If most were asked to volunteer to eat a bug, the response would be—

As we heard here—
crickets.

With, I should note, the annual commemoration of Pioneer Day in Utah, I think I can speak for many of my own ancestors, who nearly starved thanks to swarms of crop-destroying crickets, when I say insect-based food development will not be stomached well by taxpayers.

Today I am proposing an amendment to end the Federal agriculture subsidies for farming of insects and to prohibit spending taxpayer dollars to develop bug-based food for human consumption. I can't believe it takes an amendment to do this kind of thing. It is my understanding it is being included in the manager's amendment and will likely succeed if it is.

I would just say this is not going to balance the Federal budget, but at a time when the Office of Management and Budget is projecting trillion-dollar deficits in 2019 and beyond, how can we pay money and have grants of over \$1 million to pay companies to try to get people to eat bugs? It doesn't pass the laugh test, and people simply have to have more faith in their government than that.

I hope this amendment will pass. I hope we aren't forced to eat crickets. That doesn't seem like anything anybody wants to do, and we shouldn't be forcing taxpayers to pay for it.

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

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see nobody seeking the floor. I will speak briefly, but I would urge the Congress—both bodies—to heed the clear warnings of our intelligence community, and I urge them to take a meaningful step, an important step, toward defending our democracy.

If we do nothing, we leave our elections vulnerable to an aggressive foreign adversary fully intent on destabilizing our country. To this Vermonter, and many of the Senators in the Chamber, it is a simple choice. It is a solemn responsibility.

Today, the Senate should vote on my amendment to provide \$250 million in grants to the States to help secure their election systems. We have to send a clear message to Russia and other foreign adversaries that tampering in our elections will not be tolerated. Simply giving a speech about it is not enough. We should vote on this.

If there was a missile attack against any of our States, we would respond immediately. Our democracy is a sacred part of what we cherish as Americans—all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike—and our States are under attack.

In fiscal year 2018, Congress came together—Republicans and Democrats, the House and the Senate—and we appropriated \$380 million for State election security grants in response to our intelligence community's assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

In just a few months since then, States and territories—55 in all—have requested funding, and 100 percent of these funds have been committed; 90 percent of them having been disbursed to the States.

The need is clear, and we have only scratched the surface. This week, 21 State attorneys general signed a letter pleading with Congress to appropriate more money to address this imminent threat. Experts agree that aside from our appropriation last year, Congress has not provided any new spending on election security grants in years. By not providing these funds, Congress has allowed our election infrastructure to lag behind the times and the threat. We are leaving our country vulnerable to a clear threat to the foundation of this very institution and the other institutions of American Government.

We spend hundreds of billions of dollars in defending against missile threats, as we should, or threats from the sea, the air, and the land, as we should. But here is a very direct threat we can begin to address with a tiny fraction of what we spend on these other threats.

My amendment will provide the funding needed to help protect our elections. Our intelligence community has warned us publicly that we are, once again, being targeted. The Senate should not allow that. We should vote to defend this institution, the U.S. Senate, and our own democracy.

In a world where the President of the United States stood shoulder to shoulder

with Vladimir Putin and refused to condemn Russia's attack on our election and attacked our own law enforcement intelligence agencies, my amendment is a necessary first step.

I believe in America first, not Russia first. I believe in protecting America. Our State works very hard to protect our elections. We elect Republicans and Democrats in our State. In the last election, Republicans elected a Governor, and I was reelected as a Senator. It is obvious we split votes, but we count our votes, and we do not have interference from another country.

Vermont is a small State, and we go under their radar, but anybody who reads the intelligence knows there is no question Russia has attacked us before, Russia is continuing to attack this country today, and Russia will attack this country in November. We must protect it.

I don't believe anybody is seeking recognition.

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

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

TARIFFS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, over the years I have been on the Senate floor many times bringing up the challenges of rural America, whether it is delivering quality healthcare or investing in vital infrastructure that supports our businesses or connecting our schools to the 21st century. I have worked hard to make sure that rural States like Montana have a voice in the Senate.

That is why I am so frustrated by the recent comments made by National Trade Council Director Peter Navarro. Mr. Navarro last week characterized the economic uncertainty that tariffs are causing to the American farmer and rancher as nothing more than a “rounding error.”

Mr. Navarro has an important position. He is a trade adviser, and he is a strategist for the President of the United States. He believes the tariffs that are harming Montana producers equate to nothing more than a “rounding error.” This statement is inaccurate, it is insulting, and it is dismissive of rural America. If Mr. Navarro truly believes that his comments are true, he has a lot to learn about what is going on across this country.

I am willing to bet that he hasn't been to a farm, a ranch, a stockyard, or a grain elevator facility recently—maybe ever—and I am sure he hasn't picked rock in North Central Montana. I don't think he would call the administration's trade war a “rounding error” if he met with Montana's homebuilders, construction workers, small business owners, farmers, and ranchers,

who are being squeezed by the rise of the cost of doing business now because of these tariffs.

I urge Mr. Navarro to leave the swamp, and come to Billings, Fort Benton, or Dutton, MT, and get an accurate perspective of how these tariffs are impacting family farms, ranches, and businesses across my great State. If he or anyone else in Washington were to speak with the folks who are most impacted by their trade policies, here is what they will hear. In ag country, they will say: Do you know what? Our commodity prices weren't that cherry to begin with, and now we are seeing them drop even more. We are seeing our input costs go up.

The head of the Montana grain growers, a lady by the name of Michelle Erickson Jones, testified recently that they didn't buy a grain bin. A grain bin is a facility that is made out of steel that stores grain. The costs went up on that very simple structure by 20 percent over the last year.

Forterra, in Billings, MT, builds bridges and has seen bridge component structures such as I-beams and rebar go up double digits just recently. In fact, in Missoula, MT, where they are building a new library to export information out of—a very good thing for that community, and for any community, as far as that goes—they passed a bond issue. Their costs went up more than \$700,000 just because of the increased cost of steel. Those are the input costs.

We have been working for generations and generations to develop markets all around the world, as we live in a world that is getting smaller every day, and we are losing those export markets. We are losing certainty, and without certainty you cannot plan for the future.

Many of these agricultural farms and ranches have been in the family for generations, as mine has been. We hope to pass it along to the next generation, but if you create enough uncertainty, that will simply be impossible. That is exactly what is going on in this country today.

In the 1980s, we saw family farm after family farm go broke. That started, by the way, with a grain embargo. We will see that same scenario being repeated today if we don't change the way we are doing business.

So I ask: What is the endgame? I don't know that what is going on in the White House right now gives me any sort of hope that there is an endgame.

Here are the facts. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the ongoing trade war will threaten \$20 million in Montana exports alone—just Montana exports—and, in fact, 140,000 Montana jobs. We have just over 1 million people living in Montana, and 140,000 jobs is a lot of jobs.

Only in Washington, DC, is a \$20 million drop in Montana's exports and the potential impact of 140,000 jobs considered a rounding error.

Just 5 days ago, after he called the impact of the tariffs a "rounding

error," the administration announced that taxpayers are going to have to pay \$12 billion to offset the financial impacts of these trade policies. Unlike drought, hail, floods, insects, or disease and other challenges that farmers and ranchers must deal with each year, this disaster is man-made. It is government-made. Make no mistake, this is a self-inflicted problem, and it is a financial problem that is a direct result of tariffs and irresponsible policy.

Now in order to try to ease the pain caused by these reckless tariffs, the administration has decided to further rattle the marketplace with an infusion of \$12 billion of taxpayer money.

I will state that folks in production agriculture want to sell their products, not depend upon un dependable erratic payments from the government. I never, ever met a farmer who wanted to receive their paycheck from the government. They want to earn their paycheck. They want to earn it from the free market. They want a free market. They want places where they can sell their products. They want to raise the products—and in my case and Montana's case, some of the finest agricultural products in the world—and they want to sell them to customers both at home and in markets around the world.

They don't want to collect cash payments from the government. That is not why they got into business. They want to get it from the marketplace. They want to get their living from the marketplace.

These dollars are being used as a bandaid to stop the bleeding that is being felt by America's farmers and ranchers as a direct result of these trade policies. This \$12 billion is not going to help hold on to any markets. It will simply be a patchwork to get through the problems that the government—this administration—has created. It will not provide them long-term certainty. It will not provide them the ability to make long-term investments. It will not provide them the opportunity to pass the farm on to their children.

It will provide temporary relief, and because of these trade policies, that temporary relief is important, but it is far from a real solution for the folks who give us food security and the folks who feed the world—our family farms and ranchers.

I will just say this. I have had conversations across the State of Montana over my tenure in the Senate. I can tell you that folks work hard. They work hard for their money, and they expect to be given a level playing field, but what we are seeing right now are markets that we have worked a generation to create and to mold being given away to other countries. We are seeing infrastructure in other countries that is not being focused on the United States and the products we produce, but it is being developed to do trade with other countries, in their markets. They produce sometimes the very same products that we produce.

I was at a meeting the other night and talked about the fact that in regards to Mexico, which buys more barley from Montana than any other nation in the world, and Canada, our No. 1 trading partner, Mexico is sitting down and they are negotiating and Canada isn't. It is interesting because we have heard this before. As Mexico negotiates, they also have signed a trade agreement with Argentina. To my knowledge, this is the first one ever to be able to supply their people with food. That is a market that we need.

As far as Canada goes, I have had plenty of issues with Canada—the Canadian Government knows that—whether it is softwood lumber, grain grading for our products going north, or whether it is issues that revolve around the Columbia River Treaty. The fact is that this is our best friend in the world. We need to treat them fairly and, in the process, make sure we have markets for the people in the United States.

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

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of the Nation's premier conservation programs. In fact, I believe it is the crown jewel of our conservation programs. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been an incredible program across the country, saving land for future generations to enjoy, saving land that otherwise might be lost and neglected for future generations—parts of our park systems, our trail systems, parts of our communities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been around for many years. Yet it is set to expire on September 30.

The challenge we have in this Chamber is that it never seems to be the right time to debate permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Again, it is a program that has incredible bipartisan support. The Land and Water Conservation Fund expires September 30. We need to not only reauthorize the program but to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Yet it is still not the right time to debate it. It is not the right issue, not the right bill, not the right moment.

I hope we can find a way to do exactly what we need to for our great outdoors, for our economy, and for our environment to continue the incredible work of this crown jewel of conservation programs. That is why I have authored a bill with a number of my colleagues around the country, including Senator BURR, who has been a longtime champion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—permanent authorization, full funding for the Land and

Water Conservation Fund. That is why we put together an amendment to do exactly what the American people want us to do, and that is permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I would ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 3424. I further ask that there be up to 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form on the amendment and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the amendment with no intervening action or debate.

Before I enter that request formally, I would like to yield to Senator BARR for a few comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BARR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, and I rise in support of his amendment.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund—you may remember, last month when I tried to get a vote on its reauthorization, I had just come from a press conference marking 100 days until it expires. We have been here before. I am sort of shocked sometimes how hardheaded we are in this institution.

This program has now reached a point where it is 66 days away from expiration. In the 115th Congress, we actually let it expire. The reason Congress passed legislation to reauthorize it was the pressure of the American people.

Let me say at the start that I have unbelievable respect for the chairmen of the committees whose bills make up this package, and I have deep respect for the ranking members. I hold in high esteem the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee. This is no beef with them. This is a beef with what we have set up as the process for the very choreographed movement of a piece of legislation—in this particular case, the appropriations bill.

Some have told me this is just not germane to this bill. The only way it wouldn't be germane, in my book, is that we are debating legislation on the use of taxpayer money to fund government, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses zero dollars of taxpayer money. You see, it was created to take a percentage off the royalties of exploration by visionaries who said: We want a perpetual fund that taxpayers aren't obligated to—that is self-generating off of the resources we take out of the land—to be pumped back in to protect the treasures for generations yet to come. Masterful. Absolutely masterful. As a matter of fact, it was so smart that over 60 Members of the Senate—if we called for a vote right now, up or down, with nobody objecting or making a motion, it would pass. It would meet the highest threshold in the Senate to actually move out of this body. With over 240 cosponsors in the House of Representatives, it would pass in the House. The President would sign it into law, and this would be behind us.

We would set the example for the next generation, as parents and as leaders, that there are some things you have to save for generations who need an opportunity to be exposed to them. It is not as much about what we get out of it; it is about the example we set on how we get there. That is why it troubles me.

I look at this as a tremendous opportunity. Although by standards, it is not germane, it is germane because we are not using taxpayer money. We are actually protecting treasures for generations to come, which is our responsibility as adults.

As I said, it is likely that there will be an objection. I hold no personal disrespect for those who are forced to object to it. If we were to table this amendment—I have already conceded to the chairman that they would probably win, not because a majority of the body isn't for it but because of the pressures that come with that vote; that actual sponsors of the legislation—people who would vote for it—might actually vote to table this for another day.

I have tried since the beginning of this Congress to bring up this legislation. I only ask for an up-or-down vote at a 60-vote threshold. I am not trying to short the process in the Senate by one vote. I am not trying to piggyback and hide behind something. I just want the Members of the Senate to actually have an opportunity to debate this and to have a vote.

At the end of the day, I think what we would find is that a majority of Senators—I think over 60—would support it and a majority of House Members would support it.

There is one assurance I can give my colleagues: A majority of America agrees with us. They believe we should pass this. We can have a debate as to whether we change it. We are the U.S. Congress; we can change a program at any time. But why would we not provide the certainty that the program is going to be extended?

Many that remember the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—it was authorized and capped at \$900 million a year. It has never received \$900 million a year because every dime that we get off of royalties is funneled through the same appropriations process in which we are currently engaged.

Another reason I would claim that common sense would say this is germane to what we are doing is because it is money that is controlled by the Appropriations Committee, and for whatever reason—and I am not questioning it—they never appropriated it at \$900 million. No administration ever requested \$900 million. But nobody can prove to me that there is not \$900 million worth of worthy projects out there.

Much of this land ends up back in the inventory of States' parks, and the residents of those States get to enjoy hunting, fishing, and recreation on

that land. They are not relying on their ability to buy a piece of property that they can do it on; they share it with others in their State.

In my State of North Carolina, we have some national treasures that, thank goodness, founders before me recognized and protected. One of them is called the Blue Ridge Parkway, the most traveled piece of Federal road structure that we have in this country. When we cut it through the mountains from Virginia to North Carolina in the 1950s—and we created the greatest jobs program at the time; that is what it was designed for—there were private landowners who had property adjacent to that road. What is the prudent thing? The prudent thing is to occasionally buy a piece of property that is not adjacent to the road and trade with the landowner who is on the road so that we can protect the roadway. That is the type of project that Land and Water Conservation Fund money goes to. It is not to create a bigger Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which is also in my State. It is the most visited park in the United States. I am not asking to enlarge it. I am asking for us to provide these funds so that great decisions can be made in coordination with local officials about what treasures should exist down the road for our children and our grandchildren.

We are not going to have an opportunity to acknowledge today that we are going to move this legislation. I believe that is incredibly unfortunate. I think it is tough because I think there are a lot of people who would be supportive who sound a little bit like crickets today.

Here is the only promise I can make to my colleagues today: You are going to have an opportunity to vote on this time and again. As long as the Senate goes into session, if we intend to move legislation, you will have an opportunity to vote on the Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorization. When this floor opens in the morning, on a regular basis, I will come down here, and I will not encumber the Appropriations chairman in every case; I will probably pull every chairman into this. And I won't just rely on chairmen's vehicles of legislation that they are very passionate on. I have an Intel authorization bill that I can't even get to the floor for authorization, and I can't think of anything that is more important. I think the chair and the ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee both served on the committee in the past, and they know the importance of the Intel authorization bill. I can't get it up because sometimes we get more hung up on the power of one person in this institution than we do on the importance of what it is we are doing.

Well, if that is what we want to do, I will come down as one person, and I will ask unanimous consent that we consider the reauthorization. I am sure somebody will stand up and object.

They always do. They are objecting to what the American people want us to do. They are objecting to a program that has a proven track record of success and requires zero—nada, not a dime—of taxpayer money. If there has ever been a thing that we have presented to the American people that we should be applauded on—and that doesn't happen often—this has been one of them.

Yet, because we have chosen convenience over debate, because we are trying to fit this in a really small box, let me suggest to my colleagues that we are making a foolish mistake for the long term in this institution. This is an institution that was created for this moment. It is an institution that was created so that we could come to this floor and debate, so that we could come in and believe one thing, hear the debate, and actually go out and say: It changed my mind.

Maybe some people will listen who are now supporters, and maybe some supporters will listen to what I have said and will now vote against me. Here is the troubling thing: They will not have the opportunity. With the promise I will make to them, they will get that opportunity. So watch what you say because before I leave this institution, you will be given the opportunity to vote time and time and again if, in fact, procedurally, we are blocked from letting the American people's voices be heard with a vote in the Senate.

I yield back to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from North Carolina, who has been a true champion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for years. You can hear his passion, and you can sense the passion, and you absolutely have an idea of his commitment. I am right along with him in this effort to make sure that we do our job here and let the American people's voices be heard for their support of this program and through our action, which is moving forward with the permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Every corner of this country has benefited from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. There were 330 million park visits in 2017. Every State and many countries around the world have benefited from this conservation program—from what this means to our country, what this means to our economy, and what this means to conservation and to the protection of our environment.

I look forward to fighting alongside Senator BURR as we move this most important piece of conservation programs forward in the permanent authorization and funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 3424. I further ask that on the amend-

ment there be up to 1 hour of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of that time the Senate vote on the amendment with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from the great State of Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to reluctantly reserve the right to object. I will object to amendment No. 3424, which would permanently authorize the revenue collection and deposit functions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I thank my colleague from North Carolina, and I thank my colleague from Colorado. I, too, know, hear, and understand the passion that they have expressed not only at this time but that they have expressed for quite some time in their support for this important conservation program. It is something about which we, as Americans, have much to be proud.

I have expressed some of my concerns about how, historically, certain aspects of the Land and Water Conservation Fund have shifted from there being less for stateside acquisition and more for Federal acquisition. I would like to see some of that reallocated and rebalanced. In concept, what we have designed with the LWCF is something that has brought strong and good benefit to our States and, really, to conservation efforts throughout the country.

When the Senators speak about the merits of the program, I find nothing that I can disagree with in terms of the benefits that we see. Why I rise to express my objection in advancing the amendment is that the issue they have raised is to permanently seek to authorize this program. The collection and deposit provisions within LWCF are currently authorized, and, as they have pointed out, they are authorized through September 30 of this year. The measure they bring before us would be to permanently authorize those expiring provisions. It is, in its very nature, authorizing on an appropriations bill. We have an annual spending bill that basically directs that spending for 1 year. This measure would be significant in the extent of its authorization.

We have sought to advance the 12 appropriations bills through to the floor in a manner that we have not seen in years. I mentioned, when we started this debate on Monday night, that we haven't had an Interior appropriations bill on the Senate floor since 2010. That is not the Senators' fault. That is a failure of our process. One can assign a lot of blame, and one can point a lot of fingers. The fact of the matter is that we had moved from that responsibility of "What are the annual spending priorities that the appropriating committees are tasked to do every year?" to, effectively, bringing in a lot of the authorizing that the authorizing committees themselves needed to do, and it

was not working. We stalled ourselves out. We had big omnibus bills that nobody liked. So we are trying to get back to a process that we can stand behind, that really defines what the appropriations process is designed to do.

At the direction of Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY, we have agreed to really try to come together to work to restore what we fondly refer to as "regular order" and what some don't even know to be regular order because they have never really experienced it. Because we made that commitment, we were actually able to move an Interior Appropriations Subcommittee bill through the full committee by 31 to 0—unanimous. I don't know if there has ever been a unanimous vote on an Interior appropriations bill out of the subcommittee, much less being able to bring it to the floor.

So much of this objection is due to the fact that the Senator's amendment would seek to permanently authorize on an appropriation's 1-year annual spending bill. I think it is also important to point out to colleagues that while the current authorization does extend through September 30, the authority to collect and deposit revenues in the funds is what expires on September 30. The ability and the authority to appropriate money continues indefinitely.

For those who may be concerned that if we fail to authorize this before September 30 the sky is going to fall on the LWCF and that all the good that is in the works will stop, that is not accurate. Within this year's spending bill, we have authorized the LWCF to the 2018 level of \$425 million. Within this amount, the stateside assistance programs are about 50 percent of the funding. There was \$124 million in 2015 for NPS stateside and also additional funding for the American Battlefield Protection Program—an increase this year to the highest level ever within this account.

I want to make sure that my colleagues do know that my commitment here and the commitment of many in this body is to work with our colleagues—to work with the Senator from North Carolina, to work with the Senator from Colorado, and with the many others who care deeply and rightly about the future of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—to ensure that it is able to continue the good work that it does.

I remind my friends that it was just about a year and a half ago when we moved an energy bill out of the authorizing committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Included as part of that measure was a permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This is something that the Senator from Colorado had worked on with us, and Senator CANTWELL, the ranking member on the committee, made sure that it was a priority. Now, that measure has not seen floor time this year. We were able to

move it out in the last Congress. We were able to move that bill out by 85 to 12.

When the Senator from North Carolina says that there is good support for the LWCF within this body, we have demonstrated it. We have demonstrated it through votes on the floor, and we have demonstrated it through the support in the authorizing committee.

I do think there is a path forward, but I ask my colleagues to honor the commitment we have made to try to advance our appropriations bills in an order that respects the authority that we have as appropriators, which is to appropriate these dollars to the designated priorities and to stand down when it comes to authorizing on these appropriating bills.

The Senators have my commitment, most certainly, to continue to work on a positive path forward—a path that is not months in delay. I absolutely believe that the Senator from North Carolina is very serious in his commitment and his resolve that we will see this issue before us on every vehicle out there. It is in my best interest—I think it is in our best interests—to figure out how we are able to come to an agreement to support a program that most of us can get behind, to do so in a manner that allows us to do our legislative business, and to do so with the level of comity and civility that this process demands.

With that, again, I reluctantly and respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority whips.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday, during the lunch hour, Kevin Hassett, Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, brought a number of charts and a very welcomed message, which was that the American economy is very strong and that many of the predictions that have been made during the course of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act debate have proven to be true—the positive comments. The negative comments have proven to be false in terms of what the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would do to restart this great economic engine known as the American economy.

Back home in Texas, we issued our monthly employment report, and it included good news, which I would also like to share. First, Texas created 27,000 new jobs in June. That is a whole lot of people who are moving up, pursuing new opportunities, and moving into our State from places in which they don't have those opportunities. A single new job can mean a lot of things in a person's life, but at the very least, it means a fresh start, a chance to be challenged, to grow, and to put a few extra dollars in the bank. Now multiply the 27,000 new jobs by 12, and you can see that the impact on workers, families, and our entire State is huge.

I am glad to say that this is the 24th consecutive month of job growth in

Texas, and the folks I have talked to around the State in places like College Station, Austin, and Amarillo, just to name a few, are pretty excited. They are also relieved. They are relieved that the Texas unemployment rate continues to decline and are excited that once again we have been called the top State for business. All told, Texas has added 360,000 new jobs over the last 12 months. That is 360,000 new jobs in Texas over the last 12 months.

Mayor Jerry Morales of Midland, TX, who is also the owner of several restaurants there, said recently: "This economy is on fire." Apparently the fire has reached as far as his kitchen because he is having trouble retaining cooks at his restaurant. In other words, the economy is running strong, unemployment is low, and the labor participation rate continues to go up, but employers are having a hard time finding qualified workers to perform the good, well-paying jobs that do exist. That is exactly what a competitive labor market looks like. Other employers in the Permian Basin around Midland have doubled the previous pay of new employees because of the competitive labor market there. Those are just a couple of stories in one area of my State. There are many more.

I continue to hear from my constituents about the positive impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—landmark legislation we enacted at the end of last year. Just to remind everybody, we cut tax rates; we doubled the standard deduction, meaning that fewer people will actually have to fill out the long-form tax return; and we doubled the child tax credit. What is more, we encouraged companies that had billions of dollars in cash parked overseas that they didn't want to see taxed twice to bring that money back home, and they have been bringing hundreds of billions of dollars of money previously parked overseas back here to the United States and putting it to work.

Earlier this summer, we hit the 6-month anniversary of the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. During that time, I have heard from men and women—William Alderman, for example. Mr. Alderman is a retired, disabled soldier who said that the new tax law increased his monthly income enough to ease the rising cost of his living expenses. Maybe that will not make headlines in the New York Times or the Washington Post, but that is a big deal to Mr. Alderman. I heard from Kim Ewing in Mesquite, who hadn't seen a pay raise in 7 years. Now she has one, and you can imagine she is grateful for it. She wrote that she is glad her Federal Government is finally getting what she calls a little "common sense."

The good news is not limited to Texas. We have seen the country on fire when it comes to our economy. We have seen newfound optimism and confidence in the future. That is a good thing because during the preceding 8 years, before the current administra-

tion, before we had done this, we had been told that we have to accept slow growth and stagnant wages as the new normal. We know that is not true because people can hope for and aspire and work for better, and with the right policies in place, they can be rewarded more generously for their hard work and their diligence and their self-discipline.

We have also heard from large companies in large cities. We have heard from small businesses in small cities. We have heard that some of the big businesses are handing out bonuses and raises and 401(k) increases. We have heard about the effects in some of our rural areas and the effects on people who sometimes get overlooked in the national conversation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a report showing that the estimated effective tax rates declined for all farms of all sizes and that farm households could pay close to 20 percent less in taxes. During a time of tough commodity prices, that is welcome news, that their bill to the Federal Government—Uncle Sam—is going to go down by 20 percent.

Unsurprisingly, most Americans now believe that economic conditions are good or excellent and that the economy is improving. As I said, optimism is high. To be specific, it is at a 14-year high.

After years of stagnant wage growth, after the previous administration ignored the plight of the average American worker and paid short shrift to his or her real circumstances—the bills they had to pay, the salary they earned each month—it is about time somebody got the message that Kim Ewing was talking about. In her words, this Congress got a little bit of "common sense" and passed the first major overhaul of the Tax Code in 30 years. Was it perfect? Well, of course, not. Are we still working to make those reforms bigger and better? Absolutely. But the main point is that we knew that American workers elected us to actually do something, not to just talk about it, and we sure weren't going to turn our backs on their everyday concerns, things they talk about around the kitchen table.

What are the results 6 months later? The United States as a whole added 213,000 jobs in June—more than expected. Average hourly earnings are up close to 3 percent. Manufacturers are more optimistic than at any other time in modern history. It is not just me saying it; it is the chief economist of the National Association of Manufacturers.

This week, Leader MCCONNELL has been talking a lot about the difference between rhetoric—what President Obama offered—and the results we have been able to deliver. I agree with that contrast. As the majority leader put it, all of us agree with the rhetoric about creating jobs, "[b]ut not everybody supported the policy agenda that's helped deliver results for the

American people.” That is a chronic problem here in Washington, DC—saying one thing and doing another. So we not only tried to say the right thing, we tried to do the right thing by the American people, and I think we have succeeded.

Unfortunately, like so much of what happens here in Washington, DC, even creating this newfound optimism, this confidence in the future, more take-home pay, and a lower tax burden—in spite of those benefits, it still surprises me that not a single Democrat voted for tax reform. It was a party-line vote. Every single Democrat in the Senate voted against tax reform. I bet the commonsense men and women, such as Kim Ewing, the lady from Mesquite, TX, whom I mentioned, are taking note.

(Mrs. FISCHER assumed the Chair.)

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Madam President, on to one more topic, earlier this month, I was privileged to be at the White House when President Trump announced whom he would nominate to serve in the seat being vacated by Anthony Kennedy on the U.S. Supreme Court. The President had a great roster of judges to choose from, but he settled on Brett Kavanaugh, who I have been here on the floor saying I believe is a stellar pick.

His nomination continues what we in the Senate have been doing in the last 18 months—voting on well-qualified nominees to fill the Federal bench, and we have been confirming them at a record pace. These are people who, by definition, will serve for a lifetime. That is what Federal judges do in our country. They have life tenure. They are not subject to election, and they get the independence that goes along with it and a unique job in our system of government of calling balls and strikes, applying the law to the facts of an individual case. It is an incredibly important role to play.

Sadly, during the discussion about Judge Kavanaugh that we will take up here soon—it increasingly appears that some of our Democratic colleagues aren't particularly interested in the qualifications of the nominee. They don't seem particularly interested in whether they will or will not rule in accordance with the law and the Constitution as written. Instead, they have made very clear that they are looking for judges whose views line up with the political opinions and views of the Democratic Party.

I am glad to see that a few of them are breaking rank. The minority leader has issued an edict to his Members saying: Don't meet with the judge until we work out something on the documents that we want to see from his time working at the White House Counsel's Office, as Staff Secretary, or as a member of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. But fortunately some of the Democrats have broken rank and decided that they want to visit with the judge, which I think is entirely appropriate.

As I said, the minority leader wants to get into a contest over how many documents are going to be produced. Well, let me put this in context. Our Democratic colleagues have requested at least 1 million pages of documents on Judge Kavanaugh. How many were produced for Justice Kagan, who sits on the Supreme Court? Well, it is about 173,000 pages versus 1 million. Like Brett Kavanaugh, Justice Kagan actually worked at the White House, at the White House Counsel's Office.

But what strikes me as so ironic and maybe just a little bit hypocritical is that when Judge Kavanaugh was confirmed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals in 2006, they didn't want to see any of those documents. They couldn't have cared less. Now, all of a sudden, they have become the most important things in the world they could get their hands on during this confirmation process. That ought to tell us something.

As I mentioned, the minority leader has told his colleagues to stop meeting with the judge, but a few have broken rank, and I know Judge Kavanaugh is grateful for their political courage.

Our colleague from Indiana, the senior Senator, said that he “always” planned to meet with Judge Kavanaugh. The junior Senator from Delaware said that “of course” he will meet with the nominee. And the senior Senators from West Virginia and North Dakota have said they will too. Good for them. I hope this means that the dam of resistance is finally breaking and that more of our colleagues across the aisle will follow suit. I am sure they will learn something by visiting with Judge Kavanaugh, and I am sure they will be impressed, as I was when I met with the nominee and heard more of his story, because the truth is, Judge Kavanaugh is eminently qualified and well respected by everybody who knows him.

I look forward to voting both in the Judiciary Committee and then on the floor of the U.S. Senate early this fall and confirming him for the vacancy left by Justice Kennedy's retirement.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT
REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of career and technical education, also known as CTE.

As cochair of the Senate CTE Caucus, along with Senators BALDWIN, KAINE, and PORTMAN, I am very proud of the work we have done in the Senate to advance CTE and to ensure that our students have the training and the skills needed to succeed in today's ever-changing workforce.

The career and technical education statute was last updated in 2006—over a decade ago—and it was due for reauthorization 6 years ago. Earlier this week, the Senate passed a historic agreement to update the law and to

make a number of important changes. I was proud to help pass this legislation out of the HELP Committee and through the full Senate. Yesterday, the House also passed this reauthorization, sending it to the President's desk.

Here are just a few reasons why investing in CTE is so critical to our country. By 2020, 30 percent of job openings will require some college or a 2-year degree. In the next 10 years, 3 million workers will be required for the Nation's infrastructure needs. We know that high school students who take CTE classes have higher graduation rates, and they are more likely to find employment or attain higher education. Postsecondary CTE programs are also a proven, cost-effective means to obtain a credential or other form of degree.

So it is worth noting that this reauthorization of our Nation's career and technical education law includes important components from legislation introduced by our Senate CTE Caucus.

The Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act and the Perkins Fund for Equity and Excellence Act are just two key bills that help align CTE programs with the jobs of tomorrow and ensure that quality is maintained and strengthened in our CTE programs.

The reauthorization also includes provisions from a bill I helped introduce with Senator PETERS to support training for career guidance and academic counselors so they can help inform students of opportunities in the workforce, and it includes a measure Senator GILLIBRAND and I worked on to encourage professional development change and hands-on learning approaches like makerspaces, which provide students the tools and space needed to build, create, and learn critical skills.

In conclusion, we critically need to update the law to reflect the current and future workforce. I am pleased the House overwhelmingly passed the Senate CTE bill, and I look forward to it becoming law very soon.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I wish to commend the Senator from Indiana for bringing our attention to this important subject. It is important in all of our States. Career technical education is an incredibly important part of helping to grow our economy, so I wish to express my appreciation to the Senator from Indiana for his leadership on this issue.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, I rise to speak about a different issue; that is, healthcare and what is happening to the Affordable Care Act and to the availability of healthcare and health insurance in our society.

I rise genuinely puzzled about what appears to be an obsession or a mania with removing health insurance from

people, with keeping people from having health insurance. I just don't get it.

The data is very clear over the years that having health insurance saves lives. There can be debate about exactly how many, but the reality is—and it is perfectly logical—if you have health insurance, you are more likely to be treated, you are more likely to be treated earlier, and you are more likely to survive, particularly with regard to diseases like cancer, where early detection and treatment is the best defense against this dread disease.

I just don't understand why we cannot face the reality that health insurance or health coverage or access to healthcare is a fundamental right. It is a fundamental part of being a human. The idea of rationing healthcare by wealth just doesn't make sense, particularly in a country committed, as we are, to equality and equal justice under law.

The other reason I am surprised at this continuing effort to undermine the Affordable Care Act is that its eventual sabotage will only lead to greater demands for some kind of more intrusive change to our healthcare system—a single-payer system or healthcare for all. There are already millions of people in this country building a political movement to support Medicare for all, which is essentially a single-payer system. So those who are trying to cripple the Affordable Care Act, which really was a conservative proposal from the 1980s and 1990s, are only paving the way for a much more radical transformation of our healthcare system than they would ever desire.

The ACA simply builds upon the current system we have of private health insurance and provides health insurance to those who aren't fortunate enough to work for a company that provides a subsidy for health insurance or provides health insurance to its employees. That is all it is. It is really an effort to fill the gap in this country between those who have insurance through their employer or through Medicare or through Medicaid and those who have no insurance.

The ACA was a remarkable success for a period of years because it vastly cut the number of uninsured people in this country. So why we are trying to kill it, to strangle it, to mug it, to sabotage it just doesn't make sense from any point of view—either from the point of view of providing healthcare and health insurance to people, which saves lives, or the point of view of trying to maintain the semblance of the current system.

So here we are in the midst of an ongoing attempt to basically sabotage this system. Back in October of 2017, the administration said they are no longer going to make cost-sharing reduction payments to help insurance companies provide lower copays and deductibles to low-income individuals. Premium increases. I sat on this floor and listened to Members decry pre-

mium increases because of the Affordable Care Act. This is an action which is sure to provide premium increases, and it was a voluntary action of the administration taken last fall.

Back in January of 2017, within weeks of taking office, one of the first things the new administration did was cut advertising to notify people of the availability of reasonably priced insurance under the Affordable Care Act—an initial step to cut access.

Of course, leading up to the tax filing deadline in 2016, for 2016 returns back last year, the administration said the IRS was no longer going to enforce the individual mandate.

Then, of course, this body, in a provision which I can only deem as cruel because of the effect on insurance premiums and the effect on the insurance market, generally, eliminated the individual mandate as part of the tax bill last December.

In 2018, the open enrollment period was reduced from 12 weeks to 6—cut in half. No reason was given. Let's cut it in half so fewer people can sign up. Interestingly, almost the same number of people signed up because they realized how important this is.

Then, last winter, during the open enrollment season, HHS, on Sundays, shut down the website where people can sign up, ostensibly for maintenance. It happened to be the 12 hours on a Sunday when most people would have an opportunity to navigate the website.

Speaking of navigation, in, I think, what is one of the most blatant attempts to sabotage and undermine people's ability to gain this most basic and important health insurance—to provide them with healthy lives—CMS recently announced they are cutting grant funding for navigators, the people who help people get the coverage. They cut it dramatically. It has gone from \$62.5 million to \$36 million, to \$10 million.

This is complicated stuff. I have gone on the website myself in order to get my coverage. As the Presiding Officer knows, we are in the Affordable Care Act. We have to go on the website. We have to get our care through it. If you have done it, you know it is hard. It is complicated. You are comparing policies. You are comparing deductibles. You are comparing premiums. It is a difficult, complicated process. The navigators I know in Maine have been enormously helpful in just guiding people through the process so they don't give up, and they end up getting healthcare and health insurance for the first time in their lives. The amount of funding available in Maine has been reduced from \$550,000 to \$100,000. It was cut by 80 percent. This is just arbitrary and cruel because the result is—which is, I guess, what they want—that fewer people will be able to access coverage.

It also said the navigators no longer need to be based in the State where they are working. That means you can't go to on-the-ground efforts or face-to-face efforts, and that is what often makes the difference.

The Department of Justice last month said they are not going to defend the patient protections in the Affordable Care Act—particularly preexisting conditions. This has enormous ramifications for the people of this country. About half the people in the country have preexisting conditions. Under the old law—not in Maine, I might add; Maine dealt with this issue years ago. Under the old law, in most of the country, an insurance company could either deny you outright for a preexisting condition—which is basically any time you had been sick previously in your life—they could either deny you coverage or charge you an outrageous rate, which is, in effect, a denial of coverage for so many people.

Finally, the administration is now pressing what they are calling short-term association plans, which are really largely junk insurance—insurance that is hardly useful, doesn't cover everything, has very high deductibles, and really gives people a feeling that they have insurance, but when it comes time to use it, it will not really provide coverage.

I would like to conclude with this picture of these wonderful people from Maine whom I was with last week. I don't know who this guy in the middle is, but these are the people who staff something called the Leavitt's Mill Free Health Plan. Every single person in this picture, with the exception of one part-time administrator, are volunteers. These are people coming in and volunteering. They are nurse practitioners, physicians who come in and volunteer for a couple of hours a week to provide healthcare to people who don't have insurance.

I just talked to the director, Patsy Levin. She repeated what she said to me when I was there last week: They want to go out of business. We can't provide healthcare to the millions of uninsured people of this country by volunteers. It is wonderful, what they are doing, but it is impossible. This is like having bake sales to support the Air Force.

We have to provide health insurance to people. We will have a healthier country. We will have a more productive country. We will have a more economically successful country. We will have a more humane country.

These people are fantastic. I spent time there. I visited with one of their clients. He has to go to town assistance to buy his insulin. That is wrong. He needs it. He is a diabetic. It is part of what he has to have to survive, and he is having to go for general assistance to the town to provide the lifesaving insulin that he needs.

These are wonderful people. They are doing great work, but we shouldn't have to rely on people taking their own time, their own energy voluntarily, to come in. It is wonderful for this region where it exists. There are several of these around Maine and they are terrific, but they can't fill the need. They can't fill the need for the millions of

people who are uninsured in this country.

We have a responsibility. We have a responsibility when we see a problem to fix it. I know the Affordable Care Act is not perfect. I know it has problems. I know it has limitations. We should be fixing it, not sabotaging it.

As I said at the beginning, if the sabotage is ultimately successful, the result will be heightened demand for more radical restructuring of our healthcare system in this country because, ultimately, people are going to rightfully demand that they have a right to health insurance and to healthcare coverage and access to healthcare that is not dependent upon their income.

So I call on the administration to stop these petty efforts to undermine this law that has done so much good, and let's come together and talk about what the problems are. I know Members on this side are absolutely ready to do so.

Let's talk about fixing it, not continue to undermine it—to what purpose? To a purpose of diminishing healthcare access to millions and millions of Americans, not only those at the low end of the income spectrum but particularly those in the middle income who aren't fortunate enough to have coverage through where they work.

We can do better. I believe we will. I hope the administration will join us in this effort instead of continuing its efforts to systematically undermine the law that is working for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, first let me thank my colleague and friend from Maine. If you ask the American people from one corner of this country to the other, what are they worried about, what are they concerned about, what you have just talked about is the top 1, 2, 3 issue: the accessibility and affordability of health insurance, time and again.

Some of us have been in a predicament in life when someone we love was very sick and had no health insurance. People never forget it as long as they live—people who live every single day with that prospect of not having health insurance or it is so darned expensive they can't pay for it.

I thank the Senator from Maine for the comments he made regarding the efforts by this administration to undermine and sabotage health insurance. It is one thing to say you are against ObamaCare, you are against the Affordable Care Act; the obvious question is, What would you replace it with? When given a chance, the other side of the aisle had nothing. That is why, thankfully, we stopped their efforts to repeal it.

You and I, and everyone on this side of the aisle, is open to talking about making it better, make it work more

efficiently, and reach more people in a more efficient way. But just saying we are going to get rid of it and then we will talk about it later is not an answer. I thank the Senator for the comments that he made.

Madam President, I am going to address the second issue that comes up when you talk to people across America who are concerned with it, and I will start with a question: Have you ever, ever, in your whole life, seen an ad on television for prescription drugs—ever? If the answer is no, I know one thing for sure: You don't own a television because the average American sees nine—nine—television prescription drug ads every single day. They see nine every day.

You know what I am talking about; they mumble as fast as they can: If you take this you may die; don't take it if you are allergic to it. All of those ads, all of those names of all those drugs—it took about 20 times for me to watch the XARELTO ad to get to the point where I could spell XARELTO. I am not sure I have it right still.

But here is what it is all about. Why does pharma—pharmaceutical companies—spend so much money on television advertising? What is this all about? You can't buy most of these drugs over the counter; you need a doctor. Here is why they do it: They believe, if they keep suggesting to you that this is a drug that might help you, when you go to the doctor you will ask him or her: Doctor, should I be taking XARELTO?

Well, the doctor may say to you that you don't need it—or may say to you that you can take a generic that is a lot cheaper and does the same thing. But in many, many cases, the doctor says "Let me write a prescription for XARELTO for you," and what we have happening across the United States is the increasing cost of healthcare for everyone, which is being driven by the increasing costs of prescription drug prices.

You see, in the United States of America, there is no control over the increases in prescription drug pricing. So these companies that spend billions of dollars advertising on television end up getting more of their drugs prescribed, making more money, raising their prices, and it goes on and on, and we see the cost of healthcare increasing.

How many countries in the world today allow drug companies to advertise on television the way they do in the United States? There are two—the United States and New Zealand. That is it. What does the American Medical Association—the doctors of America—have to say about this television advertising of prescription drugs? They say it is a bad idea because what it does is incentivize first the patients and then the doctors to prescribe more expensive drugs than are necessary, and that drives up the cost of healthcare. So I decided to try to address this.

There are lots of ways you could address it. I decided one of the things we

might do is simply do something that is fair and open and honest: Ask the drug companies in their ads to disclose the price of the drug. Simply that: How much does it cost? Put it in the ad. Well, you might be surprised.

Here is one for you. Have you seen the ads for the drug HUMIRA? HUMIRA. I bet you have. I have—plenty. It was a drug originally designed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, but then they found that it also could impact psoriasis. Most of us know, psoriasis is a skin problem. For many of us, it is just a tiny little patch on the elbow; for some people, it is more serious. But they now advertise that HUMIRA could be used for psoriasis. That is good to know.

Here is what they don't tell you. Do you know what HUMIRA costs? Do you know how much it costs each month for HUMIRA? \$5,500. They don't advertise that because, for \$5,000 a month, I think I can live with that patch on my elbow.

What I think, and many agree, is that we ought to move to the point where the pharmaceutical companies tell us the cost of the drug in their advertisement. That is not unreasonable, is it? In fact, it is so reasonable that—hang onto your hats—President Donald Trump and this Senator happen to agree on it.

The President, at a press conference a couple months ago, said: Let's have pharma advertise in their advertising the cost of the drug.

I thought to myself, Well, that is an issue that I have been working on for a while. I agree with the administration. Maybe we can do it together.

So I went to my colleague and friend, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa, and I asked him: Will you cosponsor an amendment to the bill on the floor today that gives appropriations to the Food and Drug Administration to support asking pharma to disclose their prices on their advertising?

We introduced this amendment, and, frankly, with 76 percent of the American people supporting the idea, we have an interesting coalition: DURBIN, Democrat of Illinois; GRASSLEY, Republican of Iowa; President Donald Trump; and—I came to learn last night—the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Mr. Azar. He called me. I don't know him. I have never met him. But he said: I want to tell you that we support your amendment, the Durbin-Grassley amendment for the disclosure of the cost of drugs. We think it is a good thing. We think it will start to bring down the cost of prescription drugs. That is a great thing. It turns out the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration also supports it.

So now we have kind of an amazing coalition: Democrats and Republicans—here in the Senate, as well as in the White House, the administration—coming together. How often does that happen around here? Not that often. Sadly, it doesn't. So let's seize this opportunity.

I am asking those who are managing this bill to include this language—this appropriations language in this amendment in the bill as a step toward giving us some control over the increasing cost of prescription drugs.

Pharma hates this amendment like the devil hates holy water. They don't want to tell people that HUMIRA costs \$5,500 a month. It kind of spoils your ad when you are talking about psoriasis, and it comes out to be over \$5,000 a month for their drug. So they don't want to tell you. They hope it gets lost in the system. I think it is better for Americans to know what they are getting into.

Why is pharma afraid to tell the consumers how much their drugs cost? We shouldn't wait to be surprised when we go to the pharmacy, when we stand by the register to pay for what we are buying. People have a right to know. You know the price of a car before you buy it. Don't you? How about the price of that washer and dryer? I looked at those over the weekend with my wife. We know those prices right now. Why shouldn't we know the price of those drugs?

So I am calling on my colleagues—we have amendments Nos. 3611 and 3612. Let's put them on this bill. Let's do something. Let's do the first thing we have done this year—the very first thing we have done this year to address the serious concern which Americans have on the cost of prescription drugs.

I see my colleague and friend, Senator GRASSLEY, is here. I thank him for yielding me on this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

REMEMBERING CLEMMIE DIXON SPANGLER, JR.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of C.D. "Dick" Spangler, a great North Carolinian who passed away earlier this week.

The true mark of a great man, a great contributor to our society is the fact that there are several acts in that individual's life, there is no one single attribute to which to ascribe that contribution, and Dick Spangler was such a man.

In that first act, Dick built an impressive wealth, at the time making him one of the wealthiest individuals in this country in the family construction and real estate business. The son of a Charlotte contractor and real estate investor, Dick attended Woodberry Forest School, then the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harvard Business School. After serving 2 years in the Army, he moved back to his native North Carolina to work in the family business, C.D. Spangler Construction.

In 1973, while continuing to serve in the family's construction company, Dick became chairman of a little bank at the time, the Bank of North Carolina, and was subsequently elected director of NCNB, which would eventually be sold to Bank of America.

Although he was a brilliant businessman, in my mind Dick Spangler will best be remembered in our State for his commitment to education and what it means for lifting individuals out of poverty, giving them a path for learning, and expressing their individuality. He did this by advocating for a return to an emphasis on teaching the basics, higher salaries for teachers, and programs for training high school principals for a very challenging job. That second act and the energies and personal contributions he made to it are what made Dick the remarkable man he was.

During his time as president of the University of North Carolina System, a position he held for over a decade, Dick was laser-focused on keeping North Carolina's public university system affordable and low-cost for all seeking postsecondary education. It is because of his dedication so many years ago to low-cost tuition in the UNC System—a mission he pursued without a paycheck during his time as president—that current North Carolinians today receive an affordable, great university education. Dick Spangler once said:

Low tuition is not a gift. It's an investment in these students. They go to work and pay that back over a lifetime.

The number of individuals who have chosen to do just that by making North Carolina their home after graduating from one of the UNC System's great schools is a testament to that effort.

He viewed leading the UNC System as one of the truly great jobs anyone could have. On the eve of his departure, he said, when talking about the UNC System:

We're on the side of angels. Spending time with our students—to be with them is one of the great joys a person could experience. . . . I live in a community that is vibrant—not asleep. It's wide awake and there's always turmoil because people are bright with viewpoints sometimes in conflict.

But for those who know the Spangler family and Dick's commitment to the State, I will always remember Dick for his philanthropy and the commitment to bettering our State through his personal efforts and his personal giving.

The C.D. Spangler Foundation dedicated hundreds of millions of dollars over the past several decades to better public education in our State. Through this work, over 120 distinguished professorships, purposed toward improving instruction in our public education, were funded, providing generations of North Carolinians with the benefits of a quality education.

For those unfamiliar with the racial history of North Carolina's schools, Dick Spangler was prompted by *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, that seminal Supreme Court decision which said it wasn't enough to simply say desegregation of public schools was the law of the land; towns needed to commit to it and follow through on educating minorities next to their White peers. It is no exaggeration to say that without Dick's

leadership in Charlotte during the 1970s and 1980s, racial desegregation of Charlotte's schools might not have happened the way it did, serving as a national model for other communities grappling with racial tensions in their schools.

Dick was so adamant about this fact, he decided not just to put his tremendous personal wealth to work, but to put his time on Earth to work as well. So he ran to become vice chairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in an effort to ease the racial tensions that existed at the time in Charlotte, NC. Although he could have afforded to send his children to private school, he chose to lead by example, and he sent them to the Charlotte public schools to prove what is obvious to us now but was seemingly so controversial at the time.

When I hear Dick Spangler's name, there are words I think of:

"Honest." He was never questioned about his honesty.

"Passionate." Dick Spangler was committed to every effort that he joined into, and he never sold it short.

"Opinionated." He made you listen, whether you wanted to hear it or not.

"Fair." He never let his wealth influence his outcome.

"Daring." He took on things that other people ran the opposite way from.

"Demanding." I am not sure I have been in many meetings with an individual who controlled attention the way Dick Spangler did. He saw time as a precious thing, and he knew we were limited on the amount that we would be here to use it. Dick Spangler used every minute of his life to make our State and this country better.

Last one, Dick Spangler was committed. He was committed to this country. He was committed to this State. He loved his UNC Tar Heels. More importantly, he loved his family.

His leading by example rather than simply words will remain in my mind as we mourn and we celebrate the loss of a great man. Today, I wish to extend my condolences and deep appreciation to his wife of 58 years, Meredith, to Abigail, to Hannah, to Tom, and to the extended family. Their loss is not only our State's loss but our country's loss.

I can feel confident, as I think Dick Spangler does today in Heaven, that Dick did everything he could to set the example for every generation to come; that you have to invest something to get something. I, for one, am moved, inspired, and committed to live on that commitment.

I yield to my good friend from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I also rise to make some comments about C.D., or as we all know him, Dick Spangler. I met him about 11 years ago—when I first got into the State legislature—in his office, which is just outside of downtown in Charlotte.

From every encounter from that point forward, I never left without learning something more. It could be on any number of topics.

I appreciate Senator BURR and all the comments about his legacy. He was amazing. He transformed the university system, made it one of the greatest in the Nation. He was a huge Tar Heels fan. I remember when we had a memorial service for a former University president, and C.D.—or Dick Spangler—spoke. Everybody had been saying this is a celebration, this is a celebration.

He got up and said: Folks, this is a very important memorial service, but a celebration is what you do just after the Tar Heels beat the tar out of Duke.

He loved the Tar Heels, and he loved the university system. He loved a modern North Carolina, an inclusive North Carolina, a North Carolina as a leader, leading on the integration of schools. I think what I remember most about Dick were those experiences I had in his office. It was easy for me to get to. Oftentimes, I would go there on a Monday before I would go to the airport to come here.

Every Monday for about 30 years, he had lunch for all of his employees, and he would be there. He would serve them lunch, and they would spend time together. I had the opportunity to do that on a few occasions. There were a couple of special times, after, we met in the conference room, and he would coach me on how I should present myself or on issues that were important for education and any number of things. He was truly a mentor.

He said: Would you like to see my shop?

This office out on Morehead Street is an unassuming office, just as humble as the off-the-rack suits this man wore all of his life or the old beat-up station wagon he would drive to the office. This was an amazing experience. You go into this office in the back, and it is nothing but a workshop. He loved fabricating metals, fixing the clockworks on grandfather clocks. He loved creating tools to teach kids how to learn. In fact, he gave me a homework assignment, which was basically a pyramid of ping-pong balls, and I had to use geometry to figure out the dimensions of the pyramid. He was always trying to get people to learn and get people to engage.

He engaged politically all of his life. Senator BURR said that you knew what was on his mind. If you were doing something in the legislature that was at odds with what he thought was in the best interest of the university system, I guarantee you, you were going to spend quality time with Dick Spangler, and you were more than likely going to embrace his opinion or his position because, in reality, he always made the university system better.

There is one quote I want to read. I think this was during an inaugural address. This is classic Dick Spangler: "Some unpopular ideas, of course,

don't deserve to be popular, ever, but they deserve to be aired."

He believed universities were a place where all ideas should be considered, not because they have merit but because someone has a deeply held belief and should hear about them, and you should have discourse. That is something we can continue to learn from to this day.

I join Senator BURR and offer my condolences to Meredith, Anna and her husband Tom, and their other daughter, Abigail. He has left a great impression. His earthly presence is no longer here, but his legacy and impact in North Carolina will live for decades to come.

He has a daughter who has clearly been raised right because Anna serves on the board of governors, has served on the board of governors in the university system. She is actively involved in education pursuits in North Carolina.

Dick Spangler is still living among us, and his works will continue under his family's leadership and their belief in North Carolina.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

To Meredith, to Anna, Abigail, and Tom, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Thank you for blessing us and having some time to share with Dick Spangler.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to visit with my colleagues for the same reason Senator DURBIN, about 15 minutes ago, spoke to my colleagues about the high price of pharmaceutical drugs and maybe at least one little thing we can do to help moderate that price or at least inform the public, accordingly, in a better way than we have so far.

Every American within earshot of a television has heard ads for prescription drugs. Almost every night, as I watch television, I see something along that line. These ads promise patient relief from nearly every medical problem, and informing the public is important for us to do in many areas.

The pharmaceutical companies want you to know that their drug is on the market to help you. They want you to talk to your doctor about the newest drugs.

As many of my colleagues know, I am an outspoken supporter for transparency. I hope it is one of my attributes I bring to the U.S. Senate. From the Physician Payments Sunshine Act to whistleblower protections, I am a strong believer that transparency keeps citizens informed, and, for sure, transparency in government brings accountability from those of us in government.

Senator DURBIN and I have amendments to the current funding bill which would shine transparency light on prescription drug prices. These amend-

ments would allow patients and their doctors to make informed decisions. Drug advertisers want to tell consumers all the benefits of the drugs. At the same time, drug advertisers are required to tell you about the side effects. In fact, half of an ad has something about side effects. That is usually in the small print and when somebody is babbling something very rapidly about the side effects, but they aren't as gung-ho to show how much that particular drug would cost. I believe it is something the public would like to be well-informed on when they are considering the advertisement and the purposes of the drug.

Six billion dollars is what pharmaceutical companies spent on direct-to-consumer advertising last year. Why would they spend that amount of money on TV commercials? Because it works. By bypassing the trusted physician and the ability of patients to decide for themselves, TV ads increase prescription drug utilization and, with it, drug spending. This increases drug costs to patients and taxpayers. In one case, a single drug in Medicaid costs the taxpayers an additional \$207 million just because of ads.

The President's blueprint to lower drug costs includes a provision for FDA to require the inclusion of the list price in these drugs. Senator DURBIN and I agree on that. I hope, since it is in the President's blueprint as one step to bring the high cost of drugs, it would be easy to get bipartisan support for the Grassley-Durbin amendment. This is a very simple, commonsense step to get drug prices down for consumers.

I have to confess to you, it is not the only answer, but it is a concrete first step. If you want to know other steps to get drug prices down, I would point out enacting the CREATES legislation, introduced by Senators LEAHY, LEE, KLOBUCHAR, and this Senator; or we could enact Pay for Delay, introduced by Senator KLOBUCHAR and this Senator; or Commissioner Gottlieb of FDA could come up with a plan for the importation of safe prescription drugs from Canada and other trusted countries.

Consumers today are promised the Sun, the Moon, and the stars if they will simply get a prescription filled. Senator DURBIN and I want to improve transparency and prescription drug advertising so consumers can decide for themselves. Our amendments would simply clarify that the Secretary of HHS has the authority to require drug companies to report the list price on advertisements.

I had a telephone conversation this morning with that Secretary of HHS, at his instigation, and he suggested that this would be very helpful, not only for him to accomplish the goals he wants to but to carry out the President's blueprint. One of several steps in that blueprint is to get the price of pharmaceuticals down for the consumer.

Consumers know the price of every other item they purchase before they

make their decision. Just think what a benefit it was to the consumers of this country when, maybe four decades ago, the Congress decided that we ought to have on the windows of a car what the cost of that car was so everybody had to play by the same rules of the game. This is a very simple free-market principle. I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort that will lower drug prices for all Americans.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise again to read letters from West Virginians about the concerns and fears they have over the ongoing lawsuit being led by 20 U.S. attorneys general, including West Virginia's own attorney general, that threatens to once again allow insurance companies to deny coverage to West Virginians with preexisting conditions.

In my State, 800,000 West Virginians, including 90,600 children, have a preexisting condition. Let me go over some of the things that qualify as a preexisting condition and insurance companies can rate you on: organ transplant, anxiety, cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, cystic fibrosis, pneumonia, epilepsy, anemia, depression, lupus, obsessive compulsive disorder, pregnancy, anorexia, diabetes, kidney disease, sleep apnea, obesity, bipolar disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, stroke, bulimia, asthma, and tuberculosis.

I have always said that our Nation's current healthcare system is in need of repair, but every West Virginian deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare, and I am very concerned that our country is at risk of moving backward instead of forward.

When people ask why I voted against repealing the healthcare law, I always say that it is because we need to make sure that those with preexisting conditions don't go bankrupt paying for basic healthcare.

What is happening today is an unfortunate political move. The only reason this lawsuit is moving forward is because they have failed to repeal the law through this process here in the Senate. Congress has voted more than 50 times to repeal, and it has not passed. So what you are telling us loud and clear is to fix it, repair it. It can be fixed and made better for everybody.

What makes this worse is that we do have this bipartisan compromise led by Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Republican from Tennessee, and Senator PATTY MURRAY, a Democrat from the State of Washington, with 12 Republicans and 12 Democrats. I am proud to say that I am one them.

This bill includes important steps that will help to reduce healthcare costs for West Virginia families, and this agreement shows what is possible when we put people before politics. Shame on us for not voting on that.

This is impacting real people. Last week I asked West Virginians to share

their stories with me, and my office has been flooded with stories. I am going to share just a few of these stories with you today.

This is Whitney from Morgantown, WV:

Dear Senator Manchin,

Please protect our pre-existing conditions.

In August 2016, my then 15 year old child suffered a stroke as a result of a brain AVM. He had to have emergency brain surgery which left him in a medically induced coma for several months.

When he woke up, he was unable to walk or talk. He had to have continuous medical care including expensive MRI's and angiograms.

This doesn't include his multiple therapies. If we did not have insurance coverage I do not know what we would do.

I cannot afford all these medical bills without the help of insurance. Due to the extensive medical needs I know if his pre-existing condition is not protected he will eventually lose benefits.

I beg you to stand up for my child and all those who deserve a right to ongoing medical care. Please feel free to contact [me] with any questions or follow up [concerning our needs].

This is William from Martinsburg, WV:

Dear Senator Manchin,

It was imperative that insurance companies are not allowed to screen members for pre-existing conditions.

I am a 20+year Type 2 Diabetic. I am currently taking five medications for my diabetes. If I did not have coverage I would be paying over \$1000 a month, OUT OF POCKET, for just my diabetes meds.

If insurance companies are allowed to start screening for and disallowing pre-existing conditions I would not be able to afford my medications and my diabetes would not be controlled which could possibly lead to loss of limbs, loss of vision and I could die.

How much would I cost the government if I was disabled? How much would I cost an insurance company then if I had to have feet, arms, and legs amputated because of my condition?

Bottom line, I cost my insurance company a lot less money when they help me to keep my diabetes under control.

Thank you for taking a stand for those of us with pre-existing conditions.

The final letter is from Kevin from Hinton:

Dear Senator Manchin,

I have lived with Crohn's Disease, a severe chronic illness of the immune system that attacks the digestive system. The condition is painful and treatments are expensive.

Like many West Virginians, I have dealt with insurance gaps and few jobs with good pay and benefits.

Though many Americans struggle with the expenses of healthcare, we remember the unfair practices before ACA [the Affordable Care Act] was passed and improved the healthcare system by ridding us of pre-existing conditions clauses, which allowed insurance companies to overcharge sick people for care or block them completely from getting coverage.

Please work for us to make sure that the steps taken in the ACA are improved upon instead of allowing such beneficial measures to be cut.

Those are just a few of the letters I have received, and I know we all have these preexisting conditions with people that are scared to death all over our country.

I hope that we can come together for the sake of America and maybe get off of this political roller coaster where we are blaming everybody and trying to find out who we can blame, especially when we can fix it.

What I am asking for is for all of us to work together as Americans, to forget whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, and to just help the people you represent.

These diseases don't have a home. They are not just because of a Democrat or a Republican. That is who they attack. They attack all of us.

So this needs, basically, the help and the cure from all of us also.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, in my home State of Florida, we have a rich history in manufacturing hand-rolled premium cigars. For those who aren't familiar with them, a hand-rolled premium cigar is not the same thing as a cigarette.

Number one, premium cigars are an expense product, and they are consumed very differently from a cigarette or some other tobacco product. I would say that they are more like wine than they would be like a cigarette, for sure.

The interesting thing about the cigar industry and its history—not just in Florida but in this country—is that, almost exclusively, the manufacturers of premium hand-rolled cigars are small family-run businesses. By the way, so too are the retailers that sell them. This is not the kind of thing you go and buy at 7-Eleven. There are stores that specialize in the sale of premium cigars. They cater to a clientele that can afford to buy these things. They are significantly older than someone who would walk into a convenience store and buy a pack of cigarettes from behind the counter.

The companies that are involved in this endeavor are not the big companies that we see involved, generally, in the tobacco industry. They are family-owned business, both at the retail level and also at the manufacturing level.

In addition to all of this, they represent a rich part of the cultural history of the Cuban community in Florida. Ybor City in Tampa is an example of it. It was an area that was settled over 100 years ago by Cubans that came to Tampa to start a very vibrant hand-rolling cigar industry. Again, these are hand-rolled premium cigars. These are people literally sitting down and rolling the leaves, and these are high-end products.

This industry is on the verge of extinction, and I will tell you why. In 2016, the previous administration finalized a rule based on a 2009 law, and, by

the way, its intended target was not premium cigars. They meant to go after tobacco products that we mass marketed and mass produced.

This 2009 law was interpreted in a way in the rule that would require premium cigars to regulate the manufacture, the import, the packaging, the labeling, the advertisement, the promotion, the sale, and the distribution of their products. With each new product, they would have to do it over again.

From year to year, the premium cigar industry may change the blend inside the hand-rolled cigar. They come in boxes of 8 or 12, and every time that one of these things is changed, you would have to redo the labels, redo the packaging, and everything would have to be completely redone, which is simply cost prohibitive because these blends change constantly, especially as you bring new markets.

I have offered an amendment to the minibus that is before us that would exempt premium hand-rolled cigars from the FDA regulations, not just so that the industry can survive but so that it can thrive and also to free up the FDA to go after what it is intended to go after—what everybody thought this was about—which is common tobacco products, like cigarettes and some of the others things that we are aware of.

Now, anytime you talk about this, it gets a little tricky because people talk about tobacco use causing cancer. I am as sensitive to that as everyone. My father was a lifelong smoker. He lost his life in his early eighties because of cigarette smoking.

I think we need to do everything we can to discourage people from smoking and consuming tobacco, especially cigarettes that are consumed in mass quantity and are cheap to buy in large quantities.

I would note that it is already illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone who is under the age of 18.

I would also tell you that beyond that, the numbers have continued to decline in tobacco use. So we know that the laws that are in place and the programs have worked, but one of the things that we have focused on is that tobacco is a legal product and small manufacturers of premium cigars are being harmed by this, but the regulations were not intended for them. The regulations were designed to target cigarettes. They were designed for flavored fat cigarettes and other commonly used tobacco products, the kinds that could potentially be marketed to young people and that are not like a premium cigar—at \$5, \$8, \$10 for each one, or \$80, \$90 a box—but the sort of flavored fat cigarettes and all the new stuff that is coming out that you can buy from behind the counter. They are very cheap to buy, and they are mass manufactured. That is what the rule was about. It was never intended to apply to premium cigars, but the way it is written and the way the rule is in-

terpreted, that is what it is now doing. It is putting the same requirement on a completely different product, and it is a requirement they simply can't meet.

The irony is that all of the things that are targeted under this new rule are going to survive. They are still going to be around. They may be a little bit more expensive, a little harder to bring to market, but they are still going to survive. All the mass-produced tobacco products will survive and continue to be more accessible to young people. They will be able to stay in business, but the premium cigar manufacturers are going to get wiped out.

One more irony in all this: It is still illegal to mass-import Cuban cigars, but you can bring them in in individual quantities. Those are not impacted by these regulations at all—none whatsoever. Think about that for a moment. A product made in another country doesn't have to meet the same guidelines but has all the same attributes.

I talked a moment ago about Tampa and in particular Ybor City, and today in Ybor City, after all this time, there is only one factory left, a company called J.C. Newman. It is within Ybor City, and it is known as Cigar City. They have been making premium cigars—not cigarettes, not flavored cigarettes, not JUULs so people can vape; I am talking about premium, expensive, hand-rolled cigars. They have been making them since 1895, and that is all going to come to an end in the near future if this rule goes through. They are a profitable company. They sell about \$10 million worth of products annually. That sounds like a lot of money, but it is nothing compared to mass-produced products. It is going to cost them three times that amount just to comply with the FDA regulations—three times as much—upwards of \$30 million to comply with this rule, the way this rule has been interpreted.

The sad part about it is that everyone knows this. You go to the FDA, and they say: Look, we get it. The law wasn't supposed to go after these guys. But that is the way it is written, and that is how we are going to have to apply it.

It was never meant to be about them. Everyone admits it. Yet that is the way it is going to be, and that is going put not just J.C. Newman but also other companies out of business. The retailers, the specialty cigar stores, those that sell premium cigars that are contained in a humidor—that is going to put them out of business very soon, all because of a stupid regulation that was written as a result of a law that was not properly drafted and was interpreted inappropriately.

The Federal Government is going to put these guys out of business. The irony is that the people they were trying to impact with the regulation are going to survive and remain in business and be as accessible as ever, and the people no one meant to harm are going to get wiped out. This is the epitome of government overreach and abuse.

Regardless of whether the business is 10 years or 100 years old, this industry represents the livelihood of hundreds of American families. There are people who work in those factories. There are people who own those retail stores. They are going to be out of work, not because the market shifted, not because Americans no longer want to smoke premium cigars, they are going to be out of business because no one can stay in business if the cost to follow the law is three times as much as what you make. You can't do it.

This is a legal product made by hard-working Americans who have been doing this for a very long time. They are not the intended target of this rule. It is unjust for these small businesses to be singled out. It is unjust, unfair, and it is wrong.

The worst part about this rule is that it is written retroactively. So not only will they have to start complying moving forward—because you could argue, well, just change your blend in the future—it goes all the way back to 2007. They are going to have to go back and relabel and repackage everything they have been making for the last 11 years. That explains a little bit about the \$30 million cost for just this one business.

By the way, they have broken no laws. Yet they have been singled out, and this threatens their livelihood.

This is a bipartisan, bicameral issue. A number of Members in the Senate from across the aisle agree with this. I have been working with Senator NELSON on this for a long time. This is not a partisan issue, not a Big Tobacco issue; this is a premium cigar issue. These are consumed differently than cigarettes by different groups of people in different ways. You don't smoke 10 cigars a day. We just know this. It is common sense. But this is what is going to happen. We are going to wipe these guys out because of a government rule and the way it was interpreted even though it was never meant to be about them.

We have an amendment. We have a law that fixes all this. I am not going to offer it on this bill because it is already part of the House package that lines up with the appropriations bills that are before us, but I wanted to point this out because I know that people in Ybor City and people around the country who care about this issue are watching, and I want them to know that when this issue gets conferenced with the House, we are going to be fighting for this. This needs to get fixed.

This is the last chance. That is the other point. This rule is about to kick in. The comment period is about to end, and the rule is going to kick in. This is our last chance. If we don't get it right here when we work this out, this is going to happen. You are going to be reading about it. Maybe it doesn't matter in some places. It matters a lot to Florida, and it matters a lot to this company in Ybor City in Tampa. It matters a lot to hundreds of thousands

of people across the country who work in the retail shops that sell them and who work in the places hand-rolling and making them.

This is wrong, and we should do everything we can to stop it from happening. I hope we will deal with this issue in conference. I am glad it is in the House version. I wish we could get it in the Senate version. We are going to fight to include it in the final version. We are not going to watch as J.C. Newman and small businesses like it are put out of business by a rule that was never supposed to apply to them.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for Senate amendment No. 3399.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3399 to H.R. 6147, an act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, Bob Corker, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, James M. Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for H.R. 6147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the H.R. 6147, an act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, Bob Corker, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, James M. Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran.

THE AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate has received a message from the House to accompany S. 1182.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1182.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1182) entitled "An Act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.", do pass with amendments.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendments to S. 1182.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendments to S. 1182, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, John Kennedy, Bill Cassidy, Marco Rubio, Jerry Moran, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Lisa Murkowski, Chuck Grassley, Johnny Isakson, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Richard Burr, Richard C. Shelby.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3628

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment to the text of S. 1182, with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 1182, with an amendment numbered 3628.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3629 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3628

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 3629 to amendment No. 3628.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days"

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3630

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to refer the House message on S. 1182 to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs with instructions to report back forthwith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to refer the House message on S. 1182 to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs to report back forthwith with instructions, being amendment numbered 3630.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3631

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 3631 to the instructions of the motion to refer S. 1182 to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days"

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3632 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3631

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 3632 to amendment No. 3631.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "4" and insert "5"

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 5515.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 5515, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes on the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5515), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of July 25, 2018.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

James M. Inhofe, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, Bob Corker, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the next vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday on cloture on the Grant nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

A FREE PRESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the importance of a free press and its role since the founding of our Nation in protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans.

I was on the Senate floor on July 12 talking about a recent tragedy—a mass shooting at the Annapolis-based Capital Gazette. A man who had a long-standing grudge against the newspaper for accurately reporting news about

him shot his way into the newsroom and killed five good people. These five men and women died doing their jobs—reporting the news and supporting a publication that is an important part of their community.

One victim in particular, Wendi Winters, fought back and worked to distract the gunman in such a way that those who bore witness to her bravery described her actions in this way:

Wendi died protecting her friends, but also in defense of her newsroom from a murderous assault. Wendi died protecting the freedom of the press.

Wendi died protecting the freedom of the press.

We think of violence against reporters as something that happens in other countries, in war zones and the like, but not here in the United States of America. All around the world, reporters work to gather facts, ask questions, and report the news in the spirit of the free, open, and transparent societies and governments that all people deserve. Too often, reporters are harassed, jailed, and even killed simply because of the nature of their work, which often exposes cronyism and corruption.

From this floor, I have stood in solidarity with the Reuter's reporters who were detained in Burma for shining a light on the horrific abuses that occurred in the Rakhine State.

I have stood in solidarity with the Ethiopian journalists and bloggers who are routinely arrested for criticizing the Ethiopian Government and exposing human rights abuses in that country.

I have talked frequently about China—a country that engages in routine censorship and online blocking, harassment, reprisals, detention of journalists, and visa delays or denials for journalists.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists—an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide—more than 600 journalists and media workers have been killed in the last 10 years while doing their jobs.

Of the member states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Russia remains the deadliest country for journalists. Investigative journalist Maksim Borodin, who died in April, was the latest Russian reporter to be silenced by death.

Turkey is the largest jailer of journalists in the world, and scores of media outlets have been closed since the attempted coup there. The heavy-handed measures used against media freedom in Turkey both before and during recent elections illustrate the lengths to which the government went to control the information available to voters. They also serve as a reminder of the essential role of a pluralistic media for free and fair elections.

In May, a Helsinki Commission briefing on the murder of investigative journalists examined the unsolved murders of Daphne Caruana Galizia and Jan Kuciak.

Daphne Caruana Galizia was a Maltese journalist known for her investigations into international organized crime and its connection to the Government of Malta. She relentlessly probed Maltese citizenship sales, revealed money laundering, and exposed sanctions evasion. At the Commission's briefing, her son, Matthew, described the years of harassment, intimidation, and threats she faced by those who sought to silence her. "Growing up," he said, "I thought these things were normal." She was murdered on March 16, 2017, by a bomb planted under the seat of her rental car.

Jan Kuciak investigated financial crimes, organized crime, and high-level corruption in Slovakia. He was executed by gunshot in his home on February 25, 2018, along with his fiancée. On May 6, some 3,000 people attended a holy mass in the small village where the two 27-year-olds would have wed.

I am troubled that at a time when media freedom in Slovakia is already under a spotlight, a Slovak judge is suing journalist Peter Getting for writing about Communist-era judges who handed down sentences against people for attempting to emigrate. The crimes of communism should be reported, taught, and remembered. Somewhat ironically, a law reminiscent of the Communist past is being used to thwart scrutiny of the crimes of that very era.

Unfortunately, Slovakia is not the only country where defamation or insult laws are used to limit free speech. In addition to laws that criminalize libel and make insulting the President or other officials an offense, Belarus criminalizes providing media services without accreditation and has recently moved to limit access to the media on the internet.

Here at home, Donald Trump, as a candidate and as President, has mused about taking "a strong look" at our Nation's libel laws, calling them "a sham and a disgrace."

Jason Rezaian, a reporter for the Washington Post who was falsely imprisoned in Iran for doing his job as a journalist, had this to say recently. He was talking about the attack I referenced earlier in Annapolis.

Mostly I've covered attacks on the media taking place on the other side of the world, usually in countries where the flow of information is restricted, or conditions are such that a sense of desperation or political or tribal affiliation can compel individuals to take heinous action. . . . Writing about a deadly attack that happened less than 30 miles away, in an idyllic town that I recently visited with relatives from overseas, is a new experience for me. And I have to say I don't relish the task.

We Americans have certain rights and responsibilities granted to us through the Constitution, which established the rule of law in this country. Freedom of the press is one of those most basic rights, and it is central to the First Amendment of the Constitution.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or

prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." This precious freedom has often been under attack, figuratively speaking, since our Nation's founding.

Today, attacks on the American media have become more frequent and more literal, spurred on by dangerous rhetoric that has created an open season on harassing the media for doing its job—asking questions that need to be asked, investigating the stories that need to be uncovered, and bringing needed transparency to the halls of power, whether they are in Annapolis, Washington, DC, or elsewhere.

Then-candidate and now-President Donald Trump's rhetoric—calling the media "a stain on America" and "the enemy of the people"—certainly has caused damage.

On July 13, while Donald Trump was in the United Kingdom, he continued his assault on the media, brushing off a reporter from CNN by saying "CNN is fake news."

This was underscored yesterday by a question being asked by a White House press corps pool reporter at his meeting with the European Commission President. That reporter asked a question the President didn't like. Because the President didn't like the question being asked by CNN's Kaitlin Collins in her role as a reporter, she was told that she will be banned from the next event that is open to the press or otherwise open to all credentialed media.

Then, Tuesday, at the Veterans of Foreign Affairs, the President said to the audience there to not believe what they see and hear. The President of the United States told a crowd of veterans: Stick with us. Don't believe the crap you see from these people, the fake news. What you are seeing and what you are reading is not happening.

That is the President of the United States saying those comments—again, demeaning the press and the importance of our free press. Why is the President doing this? Earlier this year, CBS "60 Minutes" correspondent Lesley Stahl, an icon in the news business, shared comments from Donald Trump from an interview she did with him soon after his 2016 election win. Stahl recalled that she said to Trump about his attacks on the media: "Why are you doing this? You are doing it over and over. It's boring and it's time to end that."

The candidate's response was straightforward and shocking. He said: "You know why I do it? I do it to discredit you all and demean you all so when you write negative stories about me, no one will believe you."

Let that sink in for a moment. A man who was about to assume the position of President of the United States explicitly acknowledged that he was purposely working to diminish the integrity of the free press.

After the Capital Gazette shooting, Donald Trump said that "journalists, like all Americans, should be free from the fear of being violently attacked

while doing their job." But how do we interpret his sincerity when more frequently he is calling the media "fake news" or "totally unhinged" and telling the American people and the world that reporters are "truly bad people"?

Donald Trump's constant, dismal refrain needs to end. He needs to accept that one of the press's most important roles is to speak truth to power—especially his.

There is a reason why the leading newspaper in Helsinki bought 300 ads that said: "Mr. President, Welcome to the land of free press." The message is clear. They put that ad up to let Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin understand that one of the basic tenets of a democratic society is to embrace and respect the freedom of the press.

In Russia, Putin routinely jails political opponents and journalists. Here at home, we are left to wonder whether Donald Trump is more inclined to agree with Mr. Putin's view of the press than that of Thomas Jefferson, who famously said: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Jason Rezaian wrote in the Washington Post that Donald Trump "didn't create the problem of hostility to journalists, but he exploits it and exacerbates it. That's true, too, of the leaders in other countries who routinely call reporters enemies of the state, terrorists and national security threats. And we must be vigilant in standing up to these empty accusations."

After the tragedy at the Capital Gazette, Annapolis and most of the country rallied in support of the survivors of the mass shooting. They received tremendous outpourings of support, including by this body, and I know it was heartfelt. Yet the paper has reported that it has received new death threats and emails celebrating the attack. This is sick, and it is dangerous. It shouldn't happen in Annapolis, it shouldn't happen in America, and it shouldn't happen anywhere else in the world.

Journalists, like all Americans, should be free from the fear of being violently attacked while doing their jobs, both figuratively and literally. The right of journalists to report the news is nothing less than the right of all of us to know. Media freedom and media pluralism are essential for the expression of or ensuring respect for other fundamental freedoms and safeguarding democracy, the rule of law, and a system of checks and balances.

Every one of us in this body, Democrats and Republicans, has sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. As leaders of this great Nation, we have a responsibility to defend the rights of our citizens, including the freedom of the press. It is enshrined in our Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the

free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.”

Just before the July 4 recess, I had the opportunity to discuss the state of media pluralism and the safety of journalists with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Desir. The Representative plays a key role in calling out threats to and attacks on journalists, including murders and violent attacks. He also assists OSCE participating states in fulfilling their commitments by providing them with expert opinions on media regulation and legislation. Unfortunately, Mr. Desir has his work cut out for him.

In the aftermath of the tragic murders at the Capital Gazette headquarters in Annapolis, Mr. Desir sent his condolences and words of support.

That mass shooting and the other incidents I have just mentioned are all stark reminders of the incredible work journalists do every day in big cities and small towns around the world, reporting on all of the things that are important in our lives—and the dangers they face doing it.

I appreciated the sentiment from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. I am grateful to the other journalists at the Capital Gazette for carrying on their important mission even in the face of this tragic adversity. And I am grateful for journalists everywhere for their dogged pursuit of the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the National Flood Insurance Program is in trouble, and everyone in this building knows it. Everyone in Washington knows it. It is fiscally unsustainable because it is by its nature structurally unsound. Yet here we are again, for the seventh straight time in just 6 years, considering a so-called “straight” reauthorization. “Straight”—yes, that is the word that Washington uses. That is the word that Washington uses when Republicans and Democrats, after burning the midday oil for 2½ days a week for a few months, decide together that a dysfunctional program, \$20 billion in debt, is, in fact, perfect. So we are planning to rubberstamp a continuation of its dysfunctional status quo. Swamp talk aside here, this is the opposite of “straight.” This is the definition of “crooked” and “swampy.”

Here are the facts. The National Flood Insurance Program creates a government monopoly that insures some of the most expensive real estate in the entire world. We are talking about homes and homeowners that the private sector would be falling all over itself to insure if given the opportunity to do so. The incentives are there for flood insurance to be a vast, profitable industry, one that creates jobs and opportunity for thousands of Americans. But, no, in our unearned but infinite confidence, Congress has assured the American people: We got this. We got this. We, as in Washington. Except the problem is, we don’t.

Congress’s answer to private insurance is \$20 billion in more debt, just a few months after receiving a \$16 billion taxpayer bailout.

Why is NFIP losing money faster than Congress can spend it? Well, because the program doesn’t charge policyholders market rates for insurance. It offers them a special, below-market rate despite the fact that we know floodplains are dangerous. That is why we call them floodplains and not puppy dog and ice cream plains. We also know for a fact that the subsidized premiums will lead inevitably to shortfalls, debt, and taxpayer bailouts.

Here, one might recall the old quip: “Insanity involves doing the same thing over and over and hoping for different results.” But Congress isn’t insane. We know exactly what we are doing and why. Recall the last time NFIP was reformed. It was about 6 years ago in its 2012 reauthorization. That bill, for the first time in a long time, reined in some of the program’s worst distortions. For reformers on the left and right, it was a sign of hope. The problem was, the reforms worked. NFIP and its artificially low premiums actually started to climb toward reality-based levels, market-based levels. We of course couldn’t have that, so in 2014, Congress stepped in and repealed many of those same reforms that were working—reforms that were put in place in 2012. That is the broken status quo we are being asked to perpetuate today. If this bill were any more serious, it would be written in crayon. The question is, why?

If the Flood Insurance Program is so obviously and terribly flawed, why is it so resistant to reform? Why are we so resistant to reforming it? The answer is that, like most inexplicably durable programs, this is a program that quietly serves the interests of the well-to-do at the expense of working and middle-class American families.

Proponents of the program would have us believe that the NFIP is essentially there to protect innocent victims who just happen to live in low-lying communities and they can’t afford flood insurance. But this argument is absurd.

First of all, if homeowners can’t afford to insure their homes, then in reality they can’t afford those very same homes.

Second, many of the areas Washington calls flood plains are really just property near water. Residences there are expensive for lots of reasons, but as anyone who knows anything about real estate can tell you, the biggest reason is location, location, location. These homes are expensive because lots of people want to live there, among them wealthy people who bid up the price. “Wealthy people” is another way of saying people who can afford high-risk insurance premiums without taxpayer subsidies covered by Washington, DC, over and over and over again.

In fairness, other flood plains are not necessarily home to multimillion-dol-

lar beach houses, but simply normal neighborhoods in low-lying locales. But in either case, the potential for flooding makes living in these areas more dangerous and more expensive. So in both cases, it is unfair to ask taxpayers to make expensive, dangerous homes—25 percent of which are vacation homes—artificially more affordable. It is unfair, and it is unsustainable for hard-working, poor, and middle-class American families.

The failure of the Flood Insurance Program is not an economic theory; it is not a matter of ideological speculation. It is, in fact, a fact. No amount of money will change that. The problem with NFIP, as with almost all wasteful Federal programs, is not the pricetag itself but the underlying policy. It doesn’t work as currently structured because it can’t. Yet, despite decades of failure and folly, NFIP remains unchanged as nothing more or less than a subsidy for people to live in places we know are probably going to get flooded.

It is tempting to call this a recipe for losing money. But as we know, Federal programs never actually lose money. Whether it is waste, fraud, or abuse, someone somewhere pockets that money, and in the case of the NFIP, as with so many other government programs, the winners are—well, see for yourself.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the median value of an NFIP-insured home is about twice that of the average American home. A 2015 study by the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth found “an inverse relationship between insurance premiums paid . . . and total property value.” In other words, “The greater the average property value, the lower the average premium paid.”

Likewise, a 2016 study from the University of Michigan Law School found data “suggesting that zip codes with higher-valued homes receive higher per-policy subsidies.”

We all know there are worthy and sympathetic beneficiaries of NFIP, as there are for every government program. But in the aggregate, in the big picture, the NFIP simply redistributes money from nonwealthy people to wealthy people, from less wealthy people to more wealthy people, and to believe otherwise is to indulge in what might be called an actuarial science denial.

This isn’t alchemy. This isn’t voodoo. Actuaries already know how much flood insurance should cost. Of course, they also know how much ObamaCare, Medicare, and Social Security are going to cost, and Congress is getting terrifyingly good at ignoring actuaries—and actuarial science in general. But as with our entitlement programs, politicians just want to pretend that NFIP can magically charge less, spend more, and not leave future taxpayers holding the bag.

It is long past time to set aside this farcical, magical type of thinking. Neither former President Obama nor King

Canute a thousand years ago nor the NFIP today has the power to stop the rise of the oceans. What we can do is prepare—through mitigation, through insurance, and through proven platforms of success.

Senators HELLER and TESTER have a bill that would allow private insurers to compete with NFIP. I wholeheartedly support their bill and can cite Utah's successful embrace of private flood insurance as strong evidence in favor of that approach. Senators CRAPO and BROWN have a bill that would improve flood mapping and insist on community preparation for flooding as a condition of eligibility for NFIP coverage. This is not too much for the American people to ask, either of their affluent, flood-prone neighbors or of their sworn representatives in Congress. Nor is the amendment I am offering.

My amendment would leave the program—broken as it is—exactly the same, only for today's purposes with one small change. It would cap eligibility for NFIP insurance at homes worth more than \$2.5 million. For anything under that, fine, they can enjoy the cut-rate premiums. But the taxpayers should not pay any amount of coverage for the top 1 percent, who can afford a new \$2.5 million beach home. All my amendment says is that people who can afford a multi million-dollar waterfront home should be able to afford to insure those homes on their own, without a government subsidy paid for by America's poor and middle class.

With the stock market near all-time highs, with a corporate tax cut driving up profits, I think it is eminently reasonable to ask multimillionaires to insure their beach houses without the welfare assistance of hard-working taxpayers who make a fraction of their income.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3128

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the Committee on Banking to be discharged from further consideration of S. 3128 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the Lee amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, nobody—nobody in this Chamber has more respect for the junior Senator from Utah than I do. He is whip-smart, he is honest, he is a good guy, and we almost always vote together. I have some problems I would like to point out to the Chamber with respect to the Senator's request for unanimous consent.

No. 1, it is a fact that 98.5 percent of all of the homes insured by the Na-

tional Flood Insurance Program are not owned by a bunch of rich people; 98.5 percent of those homes are located in counties with a median household income below \$100,000; and 62 percent of those homes are located in counties with a median household income below \$54,000, which is the national average. So I would respectfully disagree that the purpose and the effect of the NFIP are to help people with their expensive beach homes.

No. 2, if we adopt the motion by my distinguished colleague, the NFIP is dead on Tuesday. Let me say that again. If we do what the distinguished Senator would like us to do, on Tuesday, the 31st, the NFIP expires. The reason is that, even if I agreed with what my colleague wanted to do, we do not have time to pass this bill, get it to the House, and get it to the President in time to keep the program from expiring on July 31—and, by the way, the House has recessed.

No. 3, I agree with my colleague that this program needs to be reformed, and we all, including my distinguished colleague, have been working toward that end. We are not there yet, but we are working hard toward that end.

I slightly disagree with the proposition that we reformed the program in 2010. I think the last time we really, truly reformed the National Flood Insurance Program was never, and it is about time that we do it now.

The final point I would like to make is that the amendment my colleague is asking this house to adopt today is not just about vacation homes costing \$2.5 million. I have looked at the bill, and by my reading—and the reading of people a lot smarter than I—this bill would apply to any structure, period, that costs more than \$2.5 million. That structure would not be eligible to participate in the NFIP. It would prohibit assisted living centers, it would prohibit dormitories, it would prohibit hotels, it would prohibit apartment buildings from insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program. If you can't get it from the private sector—and, in many cases, you will not be able to; that is why we have the NFIP—you are on your own. It would mean we couldn't have any more low-income housing. Low-income housing projects are required to have flood insurance from HUD. We all know that. They would be barred from insurance coverage under this amendment.

Residents of Louisiana, Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico also know that if one of their communities is not participating in the NFIP, then Federal assistance can't be used in any of those areas.

Finally, this amendment would jeopardize the ability of communities to receive community development block grants for disaster recovery.

Let me say again, the junior Senator from Utah is absolutely correct: We need to reform this program. But we need to keep it alive. It is not going to do anybody any good to let this pro-

gram expire on Tuesday and scare 5 million-plus Americans half to death. We don't have to do that.

There is an instrument coming to us from the House. It extends this program by 4 months. It passed the House overwhelmingly. The House vote was 366 to 52. I am strongly encouraging the majority leader to bring this extension. All it does is maintain status quo for 4 months to bring this extension to the floor. Let's pass it, and let's keep this program alive.

With all the due respect I can muster, I think the purpose of this amendment is to cause the NFIP to expire, and I just can't live with that. I couldn't sleep tonight if I did. For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand with enormous respect for my friend, my distinguished colleague, the Senator from Louisiana. I stand also with enormous respect for the amount of care and diligence he puts into each legislative effort that he addresses in this Chamber and in the committee on which we serve together.

I wish to respond to a couple of points. My colleague is absolutely correct. Most of the people—the overwhelming majority of people who get insurance under this program—are not wealthy. It is one of the reasons this is a limited-purpose amendment. This amendment would deal only with properties, new properties, to be insured worth more than \$2.5 million.

The idea is, if you can build this structure, a home, or otherwise worth more than \$2.5 million, there can and ought to be a way—there is a way for you to provide for the assurance in the event of a flood, for the addressing of whatever flood damage is done as a result of that. Anyone who has the ability to afford such a structure can address that structure without having to be subsidized by America's poor- and middle-class families.

Secondly, I would like to respond to the suggestion that the purpose of this amendment is somehow to kill the NFIP program. If that were the purpose of it, we wouldn't even be having this discussion. We would simply be entertaining means by which to block their reauthorization of that program. Yes, the House of Representatives has adjourned just moments ago, but, yes, the House of Representatives has a pro forma session scheduled for tomorrow, and there are means by which the House of Representatives could and, I believe, would pass this amendment, this reauthorization, with the amendment intact.

The House of Representatives has, in fact, in the very recent past, passed far more aggressive, far more significant reforms than this, and I believe they would do so in their pro forma session by their version of unanimous consent. This is not intended, nor would it have the effect of shutting down NFIP altogether.

Finally, let me say this. Ten months ago, when we were asked to give another so-called clean reauthorization of this program, we were promised—I was promised by many distinguished Members of this body there would be reforms that we would put in place before the next reauthorization. It hasn't happened, and, in fact, we haven't had significant reforms for 6 years.

It is, in fact, time to reform the program, and, on that point, I am very pleased that my friend and distinguished colleague from Louisiana and I agree on that point—reforms are needed.

We can't continue to kick the can in perpetuity. As St. Augustine is quoted as saying during his conversion to Christianity, "Lord grant me chastity, but not yet."

If we are always kicking the can, if we are always saying, yes, we need to be righteous; yes, we need to do the right thing, but not yet, when will we ever get there? If not us, who? If not now, when? It saddens me that we can't pass even this minor reform today.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with respect, I reassert my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is noted.

The Senator from Hawaii.

HEALTHCARE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, last year, around this time, millions of Americans were mobilizing, marching, calling, and writing with a simple, straightforward demand. They demanded the U.S. Senate stand up to Donald Trump and protect the nearly 30 million Americans who were at risk because the Republican Party was hell-bent on destroying the Affordable Care Act, the ACA.

With a vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act looming late in the evening, I came to the Senate floor that night intending to stand with the thousands of Hawaii residents who wrote or called my office with a sense of urgency to save their healthcare.

I wasn't scheduled to speak that evening. I had already spoken many times previously about the importance of healthcare. As the debate wore on, much of it focused on healthcare in the abstract. I felt compelled to talk about the immediacy of healthcare because of what I was experiencing.

Two months earlier, I had been diagnosed with kidney cancer during a routine examination. It is a moment everyone dreads, but it is also a moment nearly every family in this country has experienced at some point. Even as I reckoned with what came next—two surgeries and now ongoing immunotherapy—I knew I was fortunate. I had health insurance that allowed me to focus on my treatment rather than worrying about whether I could afford the care that would save my life.

Every American deserves the same peace of mind because healthcare is a right, not a privilege just for those who

can afford it. During my treatment, I was heartened by the kind words of support by my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. Many share stories about how cancer touched their lives. For some, it was a personal battle. For others, it was a child, a parent, or a spouse.

I was touched by their compassion. It meant a lot to me to know so many people were pulling for me. I was dismayed that evening on the Senate floor because the empathy my colleagues showed me did not extend to the millions of people who would lose their healthcare if the ACA was repealed that night.

I rose that night and implored my Republican colleagues to show the same compassion to the American people that they showed me by voting against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

In a dramatic late-night vote, we joined together across party lines to save healthcare for millions of Americans, but the fight was not over. There was the hope that we could come together to improve our Nation's healthcare system.

We got off to a good start, with Senators MURRAY and ALEXANDER's good-faith negotiations on a plan that would have helped stabilize insurance markets and provide a path forward to strengthening our country's healthcare system.

Instead of embracing this bipartisan effort and proposal, Donald Trump and Republican leaders doubled down on their efforts to destroy and dismantle the ACA, no matter the consequences.

Last October, Donald Trump announced he would halt all cost-sharing reduction payments that helped keep plans more affordable. In December, congressional Republicans eliminated the ACA's individual coverage requirement as part of a massive tax giveaway to the wealthiest 1 percent of the people and corporations in our country—a tax break, by the way, they didn't even ask for.

With that, 10 million Americans stand to lose their coverage, and millions more will see their premiums rise as a result. Earlier this year, the Trump administration made it easier for insurance companies to offer minimal—minimal—insurance plans to consumers. These plans are called junk plans for a good reason because they don't require insurers to cover some pretty basic essential health service benefits—things as basic as annual physicals, trips to the emergency room, or prescription drug coverage. In other words, your junk plan will not provide coverage if you really get sick.

Two weeks ago, the President announced a draconian cut to the ACA's navigator program—a program that helps people sign up for healthcare coverage. In Hawaii, funding for ACA navigators is a particularly critical tool for outreach to the COFA community, and these are citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States

of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau living and working in the United States as part of our Compacts of Free Association with these countries.

COFA citizens live, work, and pay taxes in the United States but face significant health challenges and difficulty accessing healthcare.

Under current Federal law, COFA citizens are ineligible for Medicaid. They are, however, eligible for subsidized healthcare coverage under the ACA. This is where the navigator program comes in. This program helps our COFA citizens navigate the enrollment process in their own language and helps to ensure they have access to the healthcare they need. Without access to the navigator program, the already underserved COFA citizen community will face new challenges accessing the care they need.

Last month, the Trump administration joined Texas and 19 other States suing to invalidate the ACA's core protections for Americans with preexisting conditions—illnesses like diabetes, asthma, or cancer. If the President and Texas prevail in this lawsuit—which will end up before the Supreme Court—nearly one in four Americans with preexisting conditions will be at risk of either losing their healthcare coverage altogether or find it unaffordable.

Healthcare is one reason I have deep reservations about the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Kavanaugh was nominated by a President who has openly bragged about all the things he has done to gut the Affordable Care Act and who expects his judicial nominees to share his views.

In our democracy, every elected leader faces a reckoning with their voters. This year, the American people are sending us a clear message to protect their healthcare. They are standing up and speaking out because healthcare is not just some abstract concern for them. It is deeply personal for all of us. It is why healthcare is a top concern for our constituents all across the country—whether they are Republicans, Democrats, Independents, pro-Trump, or anti-Trump. Health insurance impacts every single one of us.

This is not a game. Lives are at stake. Our constituents are watching and demanding we listen and act to safeguard their healthcare, and they will hold us accountable if we do not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The Senator from Massachusetts.

FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking Senator BROWN for organizing time for our speeches today and, of course, for his tireless fight on behalf of working people in this country.

I rise today to join Senator BROWN and my other colleagues in standing with Federal workers in Massachusetts and all around the country—Federal

workers who are under attack from all sides by the Trump administration.

There are nearly 30,000 Federal workers in Massachusetts alone, and almost a quarter of them are veterans—thousands of men and women who have put themselves in harm's way to protect us and then come home and continue serving their communities in the Federal workforce. These Americans work at agencies like the Social Security Administration, to help older Americans receive the benefits they have earned, and they work at the VA, where they help us fulfill the promises that we have made to our veterans. They help to keep our communities safe, and they help them recover after a disaster hits. They fight deadly diseases and work day in and day out to improve the health of our fellow citizens. Those are just a few examples.

But ever since taking office, President Trump has attacked these public servants, attacked their paychecks, attacked their working conditions, and attacked their retirement security in just about every way he could think of—freezing their pay and proposing draconian cuts to their wages and their hard-earned retirement benefits.

His latest assault, in the form of three Executive orders, undermines collective bargaining rights that have protected Federal workers' voices in their workplaces since the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 passed this Senate 87 to 1. These orders disrupt the bargaining processes that Federal workers have used for decades, and they interfere with the ability of unions to represent their members. For example, one of President Trump's Executive orders severely cuts down on the time that unions can spend helping their workers navigate the process for filing a workplace sexual harassment claim or getting whistleblower protections in order to report fraud and corruption in the government.

President Trump's attacks on these public servants and their rights undermine important government services and the rights of all American workers, and they are part of a clear pattern. Despite his campaign rhetoric from 2 years ago, the President's track record on standing up for workers has been absolutely miserable. From the day he nominated Andrew Puzder, an executive who delighted in mocking and belittling his own low-wage workers, to run the Labor Department, this administration has delivered one gut punch after another to American workers.

But that was only the beginning. In the Trump administration, workers in all sectors and all industries and in all parts of the country are under repeated attack. President Trump has signed laws, ended commonsense protections, and nominated anti-union and anti-worker judges—all of which undermine the rights of American workers in more ways than I can possibly count.

He has rolled back rules designed to make sure that Federal contractors don't cheat their workers out of hard-

earned wages. He has delayed safety standards that keep workers from being exposed to lethal carcinogenic materials, and he has made it easier for employers to hide injuries and deaths that their workers suffer on the job.

He has opened the door for shady financial advisers to cheat hard-working Americans out of billions of dollars in retirement savings.

He has put anti-worker corporate attorneys on the National Labor Relations Board, which has now mowed its way through a giant wish list of areas where giant companies were begging to be left off the hook for violating workers' rights.

For the Supreme Court, he nominated Neil Gorsuch, a union-busting judge who was the deciding vote in the 5-to-4 Janus case, which was also an attack on public servants, nurses, teachers, firefighters, and police—the culmination of a years-long campaign by rightwing billionaires to damage unions.

The list goes on. After a year and a half of corporate tax cuts and rolling back commonsense protections for workplace safety, collective bargaining, retirement security, and more, we know that President Trump's promises to fight for American workers aren't really worth much of anything.

Like all of the attacks on working families that we have seen from this administration, President Trump's rolling back the rights of Federal workers will lower wages, worsen conditions, hurt retirement security, and squeeze middle-class families all around the country even tighter than before. But that is not all. By attacking the Federal workforce, President Trump is making it harder for them to do their jobs. That means he is undermining services that our seniors, our veterans, and Americans from all backgrounds rely on every single day.

In Massachusetts and here in Washington, Federal workers are saying: Enough is enough. So they are joining together, standing up, speaking out, and they are refusing to back down. Like so many Americans, I am grateful for their service to our country and to our communities, and I am proud to stand and fight shoulder to shoulder with these dedicated public servants, with their families, and with their communities all around the country. I am proud to stand with them. Powerful interests have been trying to break the backs of working people and their unions for decades, but we are here to say: We are not going away. We are going to fight, and we are going to win.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

THE TREATY WITH THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA ON THE DELIMITATION OF A MARITIME BOUNDARY

THE TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI ON THE DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties en bloc: Calendar Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5. I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through their various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee-reported conditions, declarations, or reservations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; further, that when the resolutions of ratification are voted upon, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be notified of the Senate's action, all en bloc; and that following the disposition of the treaties, the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The treaties will be stated.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Treaty document No. 114-13A, The Treaty with the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary.

Treaty document No. 114-13B, The Treaty with the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries.

Treaty document No. 115-1, Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Serbia.

Treaty document No. 115-2, Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Kosovo.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document Nos. 114-13A, 114-13B, 115-1, and 115-2, Senators in favor of the resolutions of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to en bloc.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 114-13A

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary, signed at Koror on August 1, 2014 (the "Treaty") (Treaty Doc. 114-13A), subject to the declaration in section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 114-13B

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, signed at Majuro on September 6, 2013 (the "Treaty") (Treaty Doc 114-13B), subject to the declaration in section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 115-1

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Serbia on Extradition, signed at Belgrade on August 15, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115-1), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 115-2

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Extradition Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, signed at Pristina on March 29, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115-2), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CHRISTOPHER A. CELIZ

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor SFC Christopher A.

Celiz, who was fatally wounded while conducting operations in support of a medical evacuation landing zone in Afghanistan last week. Sergeant First Class Celiz was a Summerville, SC, native and attended the Citadel before enlisting in the Army, where he subsequently served five deployments, including Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant First Class Celiz was serving as a battalion mortar platoon sergeant and supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel when he sustained fatal wounds and passed away on July 12.

Sergeant First Class Celiz served this country with the utmost courage and commitment, and his service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. I ask that he be honored today, and share my deepest condolences with all of those who knew and loved Sergeant First Class Celiz.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETE MCALEER**

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Marine Corps Caucus, I rise to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Pete McAleer, who has selflessly served our great country as a U.S. marine. Lieutenant Colonel McAleer will retire on July 31, 2018, after a successful 24-year military career as an infantry officer.

Lieutenant Colonel McAleer's service was inspired by the example set by his family. His grandfathers both served in WWII, and his father, retired Marine Col. Rob McAleer, was a 30-year Marine infantry officer who served in Vietnam and Desert Storm. As a military child, Lieutenant Colonel McAleer learned firsthand what it meant to serve. Like most military children, he endured numerous relocations, which included Japan, Norway, and England, while experiencing the true meaning of service and sacrifice. These challenges developed his personal resilience and an undeniable sense of patriotism.

It was his experiences growing up that solidified his desire to serve in the Marine Corps. Lieutenant Colonel McAleer was commissioned in 1994 upon graduating from the University of Notre Dame and was then assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th executive officer for two WESTPAC and CENTCOM area deployments. In each of his following assignments, he not only excelled, but continued to pursue personal and professional development, earning masters degrees from both the U.S. Naval War College and the U.S. Army War College.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel McAleer served honorably in numerous assignments that took him to seven States, the Nation's Capital, and overseas, where he served in five combat deployments including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During his career, Lieutenant Colonel McAleer demonstrated what it

means to be a leader. A highly decorated marine, he earned several service awards, including the Bronze Star, for his heroic service.

As a testament to Lieutenant Colonel McAleer's exemplary service, he was selected to serve as the commandant of the Marine Corps' Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

He was also chosen to represent the U.S. Marine Corps as a military legislative fellow for Senator Judd Gregg R-NH. Following his successful year on Capitol Hill, he served as the deputy director for the Marine Senate Liaison Office.

As his final assignment in uniform, Lieutenant Colonel McAleer served as a strategic policy adviser to the Chief of Naval Operations.

Lieutenant Colonel McAleer faithfully served his country. He was motivated to join the Marines because of the example set by his father and the challenge of earning the title of marine. He was encouraged to continue his service because of the mission and the men and women he served alongside.

Lieutenant Colonel McAleer, congratulations on your successful career and well-deserved retirement. I join my colleagues in Congress and all Americans as we express our appreciation for your service, acknowledge your many accomplishments, and wish the very best for you, your wife, Laura, and your daughter Paige in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY FUGERE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Sherry Fugere of Daniels County for her contribution to the Scobey community through her work at the Daniels County Fair.

Raised in Scobey, Sherry graduated from Scobey High School. After graduation, she attended Miles Community College and finished her degree at Northern Montana College in Havre. Following college, Sherry moved back home to Scobey where she has dedicated her time to the community serving as the Secretary of the Daniels County Fair Association, where her contributions have made the event a huge success.

Over the past 15 years, Sherry has gone above and beyond to ensure the success of the Daniels County Fair which has brought families and community together, and will be cherished for generations to come.

I congratulate Sherry on her significant role to Daniels County and the Daniels County Fair. I look forward to seeing that success continue to grow.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JACK LAW

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the career achievements of Dr. Jack Law of the Idaho National Laboratory who was named a fellow of the American Nuclear Society

and received the 2018 Glenn T. Seaborg Actinide Separations Award.

Fellow is the highest distinction conferred by the American Nuclear Society and was awarded to Jack for his original research and innovative leadership in chemical separation technologies, specifically in the spent nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear waste treatment.

The Glenn T. Seaborg Award recognizes U.S. scientists and engineers who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the development and application of actinide separations processes and methodology.

Dr. Law has made impactful contributions during his over 30-year career at the Idaho National Laboratory, where he previously received the laboratory's Individual Lifetime Achievement in Science and Technology Award and the Department of Energy's Secretary's Achievement Award.

I congratulate Jack on these outstanding achievements. The Idaho National Lab has a truly outstanding scientist and leader in Dr. Jack Law, and we wish him and the lab continued success.●

RECOGNIZING WRIGHT PHYSICAL THERAPY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, the people of Idaho are hard workers who dedicate their time, skills, and energy into making Idaho the great State that it is. With such dedication sometimes comes the occasional injury in pursuit of a goal, and, luckily, that is where Bryan Wright, doctor of physical therapy and founder of Wright Physical Therapy, comes in.

No matter one's ailment, Wright Physical Therapy's goal is to provide inspiration and healing rehabilitation to their patients through expert-led sessions, creative treatment plans, and unparalleled service. As chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Wright Physical Therapy as the Small Business of the Month for July 2018.

Before opening Wright Physical Therapy in Twin Falls ID, Bryan Wrightowned and operated a fitness center in nearby Pocatello with helpful guidance from the Idaho Small Business Development Center, better known as the Idaho SBDC. This marked the beginning of a relationship that would help propel Bryan's business career to new heights and enable him to pursue his passion of helping people. After the completion of his doctorate in physical therapy and a move to Twin Falls, Bryan started the process of opening his own practice. The SBDC's assistance throughout the process was instrumental in establishing Wright Physical Therapy. The SBDC provided Bryan with feasibility studies for new locations, paired him with university students to conduct research on growth and progression, and talked to him about franchise opportu-

nities, organic partnerships, and licensing. The SBDC's assistance paired with Bryan's expertise in his field were key to Wright Physical Therapy's development as a member of the Twin Falls community. Bryan's entrepreneurial spirit spearheaded Wright Physical Therapy's expansion throughout Idaho into Kimberly, Jerome, Wendell, Burley, Idaho Falls, and Shelley, along with the addition of a second Twin Falls location.

Bryan has always been passionate about helping people, but his interest in physical therapy blossomed after his mother seriously injured her knee. His talent for physical therapy and knowledge of the musculoskeletal system was so apparent that, when Bryan accompanied his mother to her doctor's appointments, the physician mistook him for her physical therapist. Although he often works on the knee, he now specializes in the neck and spine. Bryan is the first physical therapist in the Twin Falls area to become a mechanically certified back and neck specialist.

Bryan also has a strong commitment to family values, which is apparent at all of the Wright Physical Therapy locations. Whether it be celebrating a team member's new baby, balancing daddy-daughter day at work, or walking together in a local parade, a focus on family life and values is integral to Wright Physical Therapy's environment. This team-first, family-based mindset creates a welcoming community where patients feel safe and assured that they are in caring hands. This year marks the 10-year anniversary of Wright Physical Therapy's commitment to innovative treatment.

In addition to practicing physical therapy, Wright Physical Therapy operates three service divisions: WorkWright Industrial Solutions, the W Fitness, and SciAthlete. These service divisions guarantee a holistic approach to body care, including prevention and postcare programs. They strive to make the workplace safer for employees whose jobs require physical activity and optimize physical potential of local athletes. The team at Wright Physical Therapy not only helps patients alleviate their pain, but aim to prevent injuries before they happen.

Wright Physical Therapy's employees positively contribute to society through volunteer work in Idaho and throughout the world. For example, the Wright team volunteered at the 2015 Magic Valley Health Fair where they provided complimentary musculoskeletal screenings to members of the community. They have a unique social mission that involves donating resources, time, and expertise to better the lives of children worldwide.

I am proud to recognize a small business with a purposeful service-based mission. Wright Physical Therapy ensures that Idahoans can get back to work and do what they love. From sports injuries to preventative care,

they strive to help all who come through their doors. Once again, I am honored to recognize Wright Physical Therapy as July's Small Business of the Month, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIN FOTH

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Erin Foth, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Erin is a graduate of Sully Buttes High School in Onida, SD. Currently, she is attending SD State University in Brookings, SD, where she studies economics and accounting. Erin is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Erin for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS HARDCASTLE

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Thomas Hardcastle, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Thomas is a graduate of Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, he is pursuing his masters of public administration at the University of Colorado, Denver. Thomas is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Thomas for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MARIA LEWIS

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Maria Lewis, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Maria is a graduate of West Central High School in Hartford, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where she studies criminal justice and political science. Maria is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Maria for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN SISEL

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Stephen Sisel, an intern in

my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Currently, Stephen is attending the University of St. Andrews in St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, where he studies modern history. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stephen for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CHARLES D. HODGES

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize South Carolina native, Maj. Charles D. Hodges for his exceptional service and bravery in his recent military support efforts in the Thailand cave rescues. Major Hodges is a U.S. mission commander for the Air Force's 353rd Special Operations unit and led his team of U.S. support in rescuing 12 young Thai boys and their coach trapped in a network of caves. With his support and the hard work and bravery of so many military personnel, all 13 were all rescued safely on Tuesday.

South Carolina and I are very proud to call Major Hodges one of our own.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN WALTERS

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Dan Walters of Greenwood, SC, for his dedication and willingness to provide children without families a home of love and support for over 15 years and congratulate him on receiving the 2018 Angels in Adoption award.

Mr. Walters has truly opened up his heart and home through his exceptional service for children in the foster care system. Since entering the foster care program, Mr. Walters has fostered 15 children, provided long-term care for three children, and also adopted one child. I had the pleasure of working with one of those children through my internship program, and he credits Mr. Walters for giving him a "second chance at life." He truly has made an incredible difference in the lives of many foster youth.

Aside from being a foster parent, Mr. Walters is also an engaged member of the community as a businessowner, active Rotarian, and deacon at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church.

Mr. Walters is an outstanding example of a foster parent, and I applaud him on his continued commitment and compassion towards helping foster care children. He truly has been an "angel in adoption," and I congratulate him on this special recognition.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CESCHINI

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an outstanding edu-

cator from the State of Maryland. John Ceschini has been an extraordinary leader in the area of arts education. His work has, in short, transformed this field and the lives of countless students.

For the last 4 years, Mr. Ceschini was the arts integration officer for Prince George's County schools. During that time, he played an integral role in the expansion of the arts integration program, which is now the largest in the country.

Previously, Mr. Ceschini was the executive director of education in the Maryland Schools Alliance. In 2011, he received the National Arts Education Association's Distinguished Service Award, and in 2010, he received the Innovator of the Year Award from the "Daily Record" for his efforts to support and expand the arts integration initiative across Maryland.

Mr. Ceschini served as principal of two elementary schools that developed nationally recognized arts integration programs under his leadership. One of those schools, Kensington Parkwood Elementary School in Kensington, MD, was the 2007 recipient of the Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award. In 2006, the school received the New and Emerging Art School Award from the International Network of Schools for the Advancement of Arts Education. Before that, Mr. Ceschini served as principal of Rockledge Elementary School in Bowie, a Maryland Blue Ribbon school that received national recognition for its arts program. In fact, Harvard University included Rockledge in its "Why Arts Survive" research and named the program as one of eight promising arts schools in the Nation.

Mr. Ceschini was one of four educators across the Nation who received the BRAVO Network National Arts Education award for his commitment to arts education. His other awards included the Washington Post Outstanding Educational Leader Award, the Prince George's Arts Council ABE Award for outstanding elementary arts program, the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Administrator Award, and the Bowie Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Ceschini has been an advocate for arts education across the world and has demonstrated how the arts can play an essential role in any school curriculum. There can be no doubt that he is one of our country's most effective leaders in arts education. Now, as he begins his well-earned retirement, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating and expressing our appreciation to John Ceschini on his outstanding service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.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, without amendment:

S. 2779. An act to amend the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001.

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

H.R. 5535. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 regarding energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5693. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend the interest rate for certain loans guaranteed under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5754. An act to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5864. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish qualifications for the human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6199. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include certain over-the-counter medical products as qualified medical expenses.

H.R. 6311. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to modify the definition of qualified health plan for purposes of the health insurance premium tax credit and to allow individuals purchasing health insurance in the individual market to purchase a lower premium copper plan.

H.R. 6414. An act to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the deadline for promulgation of regulations under the tribal transportation self-governance program.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 756. An act to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 770. An act to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate resources to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes.

At 12:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2353. An act to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, July 26, 2018, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON):

S. 2245. An act to include New Zealand in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of New Zealand.

S. 2850. An act to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5535. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 regarding energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5693. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend the interest rate for certain loans guaranteed under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5754. An act to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5864. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish qualifications for the human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 184. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

H.R. 1201. An act to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 26, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 2245. An act to include New Zealand in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of New Zealand.

S. 2850. An act to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund.

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-6047. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's strategic plan for fiscal years 2018 through 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6048. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6049. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Dairy Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Florida Marketing Area; Order Amending the Order" ((7 CFR Part 1006) (Docket No. AMS-DA-17-0068)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6050. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Walnuts Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order 984" ((7 CFR Part 984) (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6051. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure Governing Marketing Orders and Marketing Agreements, and Research, Promotion, and Information Programs" ((7 CFR Parts 900 and 1200) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6052. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Regulations for Federal Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crop Marketing Agreements and Orders; Authority To Meet Via Electronic Communications" ((7 CFR Part 900) (Docket No. AMS-SC-17-0086)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6053. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Pummelos Grown in Florida; Increased Assessment Rate" ((7 CFR Part 905) (Docket No. AMS-SC-17-0074)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6054. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Almonds Grown in California; Revision to the Adjusted Kernel Weight Computation" ((7 CFR Part 981) (Docket No. AMS-SC-17-0084)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6055. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate" ((7 CFR Part 932) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6056. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Decreased Assessment Rate" ((7 CFR Part 925) (Docket No. AMS-SC-17-0082)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6057. A communication from the Administrator of the Dairy Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the California Marketing Area; Federal Milk Marketing Order Promulgation" ((7 CFR Part 1051) (Docket No. AMS-DA-14-0095)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6058. 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 "Indemnification or Defense, or Providing Notice to the Department of Defense, Relating to a Third-Party Environmental Claim" (RIN0790-AJ54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6059. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts for 2018" (RIN2501-AD86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6060. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6061. 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; Alaska Marine Highway System Port Valdez Ferry Terminal, Port Valdez, Valdez, AK" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0578)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6062. 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; San Francisco Fourth of July Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0508)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6063. 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; City of Vallejo Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Mare Island Strait, Vallejo, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0544)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6064. 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; City of Benicia Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Carquinez Strait, Benicia, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0641)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6065. 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; Willamette River, Wilsonville, OR" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0647)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6066. 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; Taylor Bayou Turing Basin, Port Arthur, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0914)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6067. 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; Fleet Week Maritime Festival, Pier 66, Elliot Bay, Seattle, Washington" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0656)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6068. 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 Zones; Annual events requiring Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port, Lake Michigan Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0082)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6069. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area and Safety Zone, Harlem River and Hudson River, Manhattan, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00 and RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0523)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6070. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Romeoville, IL" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2017-1095)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6071. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Choptank River, Cambridge, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0178)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6072. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; 2018 Detroit Hydrofest, Detroit River, Detroit, MI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0673)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6073. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival Waterski Show, Grand Haven, MI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0267)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6074. 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; Barge PFE-LB444, San Joaquin River, Blackslough Landing, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0634)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-278. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri applying to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States House of Representatives and to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States Senate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States requires a Convention to

be called by the Congress of the United States for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution upon application of two-thirds of the Legislatures of the several states; and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Missouri favors a proposal and ratification of an amendment to said Constitution, which shall set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States House of Representatives and as a member of the United States Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby make an application to Congress, as provided by Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America, to call a convention limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States House of Representatives and to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States Senate; and be it further

Resolved, That this application shall be considered as covering the same subject matter as the applications from other states to Congress to call a convention to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and the Senate of the United States; and this application shall be aggregated with same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but shall not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject; and be it further

Resolved, That this application shall expire five (5) years after the passage of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the President and Secretary of the Senate of the United States and to the Speaker, Clerk, and Judiciary Committee Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and copies to each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1580. A bill to enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 3248. A bill to restrict the provision by international financial institutions of loans and financial and technical assistance to the Government of Turkey, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Nominee: Joseph James Cella.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$375, 5-12-06, Fidelis America PAC; \$250, 9-7-08, McCain-Palin Victory 2008; \$250, 9-29-08, Republican National Committee; \$150, 3-31-12, Rick Santorum for President, Inc.; \$100, 3-31-12, Rick Santorum for President, Inc.

2. Spouse: Kristen Renee Cella: \$500, 9-30-11, The American Way—Durant 2012.

3. Children: Francesca Teresa Cella: \$0; John Paul Cornelius Cella: \$0; Dominic Paschal Cella: \$0; Rita Rose Benedicta Cella: \$0; Mariana Lucia Cella: \$0; Anthony Gilbert Cella: \$0.

4. Parents: Janice Jean Cella: \$0; Robert Francis Cella (deceased): \$0.

5. Grandparents: Irene Rose (deceased): \$0; Emmett Rose (deceased): \$0; Angela Cella (deceased): \$0; Joseph Cella (deceased): \$0.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Robert Francis Cella (brother): \$35, 11-1-16, Make America Great Again PAC; Kelli Anne Cella (sister-in-law): \$0.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Christina Marie Cella (sister): \$27, 2-13-16, ActBlue; \$2.70, 2-13-16, ActBlue; \$50.00, 3-16-16, ActBlue; \$15.00, 3-31-16, ActBlue; \$50.00, 4-18-16, ActBlue; John Paul Nelson (brother-in-law): \$3.86 11-5-16, ActBlue; \$2.70, 11-5-16, ActBlue; \$3.86, 11-5-16, ActBlue; \$3.85, 11-5-16, ActBlue; \$3.86, 11-5-16, ActBlue; \$3.86, 11-5-16, ActBlue; \$3.86, 11-5-16, ActBlue; \$15.00, 12-16-06, ActBlue.

*Kimberly Breier, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs).

*Denise Natali, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Michael Calvert and ending with Marvin Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2018.

*Foreign Service nomination of Tanya S. Urquieta.

*Foreign Service nomination of Maureen A. Shauket.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Philip S. Goldberg and ending with Daniel Bennett Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 18, 2018.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. 3278. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional protections to taxpayers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3279. A bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 3280. A bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat human trafficking within Indian lands and of Indians; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3281. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require a person that possesses or intends to possess a tableting machine or encapsulating machine to obtain registration from the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3282. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require that orders subject to review be submitted through a clearinghouse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3283. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to increase the risk-sensitivity of the capital treatment of certain centrally cleared exchange-listed options and derivatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. NELSON, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KING, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3284. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require certain tax-exempt organizations to include on annual returns the names and addresses of substantial contributors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3285. A bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to provide investment authority to support rural infrastructure development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SASSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3286. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a program on children and the media within the National Institutes of Health to study the health and developmental effects of technology on infants, children, and adolescents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 3287. A bill to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3288. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide the Department of Justice needed legal authorities to combat cybercrime, including state sponsored cybercrime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 3289. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide adjustment assistance to certain workers adversely affected by reduced exports resulting from tariffs imposed as retaliation for United States tariff increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 3290. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3291. A bill to reauthorize the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3292. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to modify a provision relating to certain consultation requirements; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3293. A bill to provide for the use of unleaded aviation gasoline; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3294. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support innovative, evidence-based approaches that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of postsecondary education for all students, to allow pay for success initiatives, to provide additional evaluation authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3295. A bill to improve energy performance in Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. REED, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S.J. Res. 62. A joint resolution formalizing congressional opposition to any withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty, requiring the advice and consent of the Senate to modify or terminate the North Atlantic Treaty, and authorizing litigation to advance the Senate's constitutional authority; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 594. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Government of the Russian Federation's ongoing attacks against the United States election system to undermine our democracy by interfering with our election system, and affirming the Senate's unequivocal commitment to holding the Russian Federation, President Putin, and those who carried out the attacks accountable; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 595. A resolution designating July 26, 2018, as "United States Intelligence Professionals Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 596. A resolution recognizing the 29th anniversary of the Tribal Canoe Journey of the Tribal Nations of the Pacific Northwest and congratulating the Puyallup Tribe of Indians for hosting the 2018 Power Paddle to Puyallup; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 693

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 1023

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1023, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

S. 1050

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

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1084, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ensure that each chief executive officer of a Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter

of the Federal penal or correctional institution for firearms carried by certain employees of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with an option to provide medical assistance to individuals between the ages of 22 and 64 for inpatient services to treat substance use disorders at certain facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of certain direct primary care service arrangements and periodic provider fees.

S. 1413

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1413, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to establish teacher leader development programs.

S. 1588

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to secure Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 1589

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1589, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2128

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2128, a bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data.

S. 2260

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2260, a bill to establish and fund an Opioids and STOP Initiative to expand, intensify, and coordinate fundamental, translational, and clinical research of the National Institutes of Health with respect to opioid

abuse, the understanding of pain, and the discovery and development of safer and more effective treatments and preventive interventions for pain.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2348, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure reliable air service to American Samoa.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2520

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2520, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for inmate telephone and advanced communications services.

S. 2553

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2553, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit health plans and pharmacy benefit managers from restricting pharmacies from informing individuals regarding the prices for certain drugs and biologicals.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2823, a bill to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

S. 3030

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3030, a bill to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program.

S. 3057

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3057, a bill to provide for the processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of certain international mail shipments and to require the provision of advance electronic information on international mail shipments of mail.

S. 3063

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3063, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2020.

S. 3166

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3166, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 3172

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3172, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 3191

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3191, a bill to provide for the expeditious disclosure of records related to civil rights cold cases, and for other purposes.

S. 3222

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3222, a bill to designate the J. Marvin Jones Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Amarillo, Texas, as the "J. Marvin Jones Federal Building and Mary Lou Robinson United States Courthouse".

S. 3229

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3229, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 3257

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3257, a bill to impose sanctions on foreign persons responsible for serious violations of international law regarding the protection of civilians during armed conflict, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3402

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3402 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3441

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3441 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3483

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3483 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3492

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3492 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3496

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3496 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3502

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3502 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3520

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3520 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3524

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3524 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3533

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3533 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3554

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3554 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3564

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3564 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3577

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3577 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3597

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3597 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3600

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3600 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3603

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3603 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3604

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3604 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3605

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3605 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3606

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3606 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3607

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3607 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. 3287. A bill to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3287

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Nicholasville, Kentucky”, numbered 532/144,148, and dated April 2018.

(2) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument” means the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument established by section 3(a)(1).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP NELSON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established as a unit of the National Park System the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky to preserve, protect, and interpret, for the benefit of present and future generations, the nationally significant historic resources of Camp Nelson and the role of Camp Nelson in the Civil War, Reconstruction, and African American history and civil rights.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The Monument shall not be established until after the date on which the Secretary—

(A) has entered into a written agreement with the owner of any private or non-Federal land within the boundary of the Monument, as depicted on the Map, providing that the property shall be donated to the United States for inclusion in the Monument to be managed consistently with the purposes of the Monument; and

(B) has determined that sufficient land or interests in land have been acquired within the boundary of the Monument to constitute a manageable unit.

(b) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the Monument shall be the boundary generally depicted on the Map.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may only acquire any land or interest in land located within the boundary of the Monument by—

- (1) donation;
- (2) purchase with donated funds; or
- (3) exchange.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Monument in accordance with—

(A) this Act; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to the Secretary to prepare a general management plan for the Monument, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the Monument in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—On completion of the general management plan, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate the general management plan.

(f) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act, the establishment of the Monument, or the management of the Monument creates a buffer zone outside of the Monument.

(2) ACTIVITY OR USE OUTSIDE MONUMENT.—The fact that an activity or use can be seen, heard, or detected from within the Monument shall not preclude the conduct of the activity or use outside of the Monument.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3292. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to modify a provision relating to certain consultation requirements; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3292

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

SECTION 1. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN NEW INFORMATION.

Section 6(d)(2) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) any new information (within the meaning of subsection (b) of section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) relating to a land management plan, if the land management plan has been adopted by the Secretary as of the date on which the new information is revealed.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(A) by striking “since the date” and inserting the following: “since the later of—

“(I) the date”;

(B) in subclause (I) (as so designated), by striking “this section or the date” and inserting the following: “this section; and

“(II) as applicable—

“(aa) the date”; and

(C) in subclause (II)(aa) (as so designated), by striking “subparagraph, whichever is later.” and inserting the following: “subparagraph; or

“(bb) the date on which new information relating to the land management plan is revealed as described in clause (iii) of that subparagraph.”.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. REED, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S.J. Res. 62. A joint resolution formalizing congressional opposition to any withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty, requiring the advice and consent of the Senate to modify or terminate the North Atlantic Treaty, and authorizing litigation to advance the Senate’s constitutional authority; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I regret it is necessary to introduce legislation that prevents a President from withdrawing from NATO. Our allies with whom we have fought alongside since World War II and earlier in some cases, are seriously questioning our allegiance for the first time in the history of the modern international order. President Trump has chosen to call our European allies “foes” while aligning himself with a brutal and repressive authoritarian, Vladimir Putin, over the professional assessment of the U.S. intelligence community. Troubling news continues to flow from the President’s disastrous trip to Europe for the NATO summit and his meeting with President Putin in Helsinki. And for the first time ever, we are forced to ask what options we have to preserve U.S. membership in the primary tool of peace and stability for the last 70 years, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In response to the only invocation of Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, more than 1,100 servicemembers from our NATO allies have given their lives fighting alongside the United States. This is a sacrifice that should not be so easily cast aside by our President who continues to inaccurately depict the alliance as a protection racket and “obsolete.” While we must continue to press every country to continue increasing defense spending to meet the agreed upon goal of 2 percent of GDP by 2024, it is disconcerting to watch the President disparage these allies and make threats to withdraw the U.S. from NATO. Unfortunately, without action from Congress, this President might try to terminate U.S. membership in NATO. For this reason, we must affirmatively pronounce our legal position with regards to NATO, use our constitutionally required power of advice and consent to block any withdrawal and we must preemptively authorize legal proceedings to challenge any future decision to withdraw.

This legislation I am introducing today along with Senators GARDNER, REED, and MCCAIN, is a bipartisan message to the President and the necessary tool needed to block the President from terminating the NATO treaty. It is the affirmative position of the United States Senate, supported by this Bill, and previous resolutions passed by this Congress, including and by the original vote of 82–13 in 1949 to give the Senate’s advice and consent to join NATO, that the United States of America through their elected officials are unequivocally opposed to the U.S. withdrawing from NATO. This legislation also asserts our constitutional responsibility to provide advice and consent to U.S. membership in treaties. Just as the President sought and received the advice and consent to enter into NATO, the President must also receive the advice and consent to terminate treaty membership—especially when such a decision would be at odds with the opinion of the Senate and the American people. Finally, this Bill will authorize Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate in challenging any decision to withdraw from NATO and specifically grant Federal courts jurisdiction to consider the case.

I am proud to have bipartisan support for this bill to ensure that the opinion of the Senate is upheld and the safety of the American people prioritized through our continued membership in NATO. I strongly encourage my colleagues in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 594—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION’S ONGOING ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ELECTION SYSTEM TO UNDERMINE OUR DEMOCRACY BY INTERFERING WITH OUR ELECTION SYSTEM, AND AFFIRMING THE SENATE’S UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT TO HOLDING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, PRESIDENT PUTIN, AND THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT THE ATTACKS ACCOUNTABLE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 594

Whereas, on January 6, 2017, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence published a report titled “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections,” noting that “Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. Presidential election,” with a goal of undermining public faith in United States democratic processes, and that the Government of the Russian Federation’s influence campaign followed a Russian messaging strategy that blends covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian Government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or “trolls”;

Whereas the findings of the investigation by the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate regarding election interference confirmed the intelligence community’s assessment that—

(1) Russia attempted to influence the 2016 election and its actions were a significant escalation in directness, level of activity, and scope;

(2) Russia conducted cyber operations on United States political targets likely to shape future United States policies;

(3) Russian-state actors and third-party intermediaries were responsible for the dissemination of documents and communications stolen from United States political organizations;

(4) the Government of the Russian Federation used coordinated state platforms RT and Sputnik to advance its malign influence campaign during the 2016 United States presidential election; and

(5) Russian intelligence leveraged social media in an attempt to amplify Kremlin messaging intended to sow social discord and to undermine the United States electoral process;

Whereas, on July 13, 2018, the Department of Justice indicted 12 members of the Russian military intelligence agency, Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff (GRU), for conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States during the 2016 election, noting in the indictment that the Russian officials conspired to hack “into the computers of U.S. persons and entities involved in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, steal documents from those computers, and stage releases of the stolen documents to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election”;

Whereas the Senate passed the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions

Act, (H.R. 3364, 115th Congress), by a vote of 98–2, in order to impose strong sanctions against the Government of the Russian Federation for its well-documented efforts to undermine democratic institutions and elections in the United States and Europe;

Whereas, on May 8, 2017, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper testified before the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate that “Russia is now emboldened to continue such activities in the future both here and around the world, and to do so even more intensely”;

Whereas, on Friday, July 13, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats reaffirmed that Russia is continuing its efforts to disrupt United States elections, noting, “Today, the digital infrastructure that serves this country is literally under attack . . . It was in the months prior to September 2001 when, according to then-CIA Director George Tenet, the system is blinking red. And here we are nearly two decades later, and I’m here to say, the warning lights are blinking red again,” and that Russia is the “most aggressive foreign actor, no question. And they continue their efforts to undermine our democracy.”;

Whereas, on July 16, 2018 Director of National Intelligence Coats reaffirmed United States intelligence conclusions, noting, “We have been clear in our assessments of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and their ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy.”;

Whereas the men and women in the United States Foreign Service, Armed Forces, intelligence agencies, civil service, and law enforcement dedicate their careers to advancing the interests of our country and home and abroad, including in some difficult and demanding locations such as Russia;

Whereas these men and women serve honorably despite at times having to endure unwarranted harassing and hostile actions in performance of their duties; and

Whereas bipartisan support in Congress is important, but there is no substitute for presidential leadership and action, and without it, the costs imposed will not be sufficient to deter Russia in the future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) unequivocally agrees with the conclusions reached by the dedicated, non-partisan men and women at United States intelligence agencies that Vladimir Putin ordered an attack against the 2016 presidential election to influence and undermine faith in our democratic process and that United States elections remain a target for Russia;

(2) views attacks against United States election infrastructure as representing a threat to the foundation of our democracy, and declares that protecting our elections is a national security priority;

(3) views attempts by the Government of the Russian Federation or persons or entities associated with the Government of the Russian Federation to hack and otherwise tamper with United States election voting systems, voter roll information, political party organizations, and State and local election administration officials as an attack on United States critical infrastructure;

(4) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United States to defend against and respond to cyber-attacks against our election infrastructure, and declares that an attack on our election systems by a foreign power is a hostile act and should be met with appropriate retaliatory actions, including full implementation of existing sanctions as well as new additional sanctions;

(5) reaffirms that States are responsible for conducting elections, and Congress is committed to providing resources, information,

and cybersecurity expertise to help improve the security of United States elections;

(6) strongly supports State and local election officials who administer United States elections and the continued information sharing between those officials and the Federal Government in order to protect the administration of elections;

(7) reaffirms that the free, open, and fair administration of elections is a cornerstone of American democracy and that any attempts to interfere with election administration is a threat to national security;

(8) strongly urges President Trump to take all necessary steps to ensure the 12 Russian government officials and any other Russian nationals indicted by the Department of Justice for interfering in the 2016 elections are extradited to the United States; and

(9) strongly urges President Trump to publicly and unambiguously state that the United States Government will refuse all efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to question any current or former United States personnel.

SENATE RESOLUTION 595—DESIGNATING JULY 26, 2018, AS “UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS DAY”

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 595

Whereas on July 26, 1908, Attorney General Charles Bonaparte ordered newly-hired Federal investigators to report to the Office of the Chief Examiner of the Department of Justice, which subsequently was renamed the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas on July 26, 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), creating the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thereby laying the foundation for today’s intelligence community;

Whereas the National Security Act of 1947, which appears in title 50, United States Code, governs the definition, composition, responsibilities, authorities, and oversight of the intelligence community of the United States;

Whereas the intelligence community is defined by section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003) to include the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, other offices within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized national intelligence through reconnaissance programs, the intelligence elements of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury, the elements of the Department of Homeland Security concerned with the analysis of intelligence information, and other elements as may be designated;

Whereas July 26, 2018, is the 71st anniversary of the signing of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

Whereas the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 118 Stat. 3638) created the position of the Director of National Intelligence to serve as the head of the intelligence community and to ensure that national intelligence be timely, objective, independent of political considerations, and based upon all sources available;

Whereas Congress has previously passed joint resolutions, signed by the President, to designate Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Patriot Day on September 11, and other commemorative occasions, to honor the sacrifices of law enforcement officers and of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the United States has increasingly relied upon the men and women of the intelligence community to protect and defend the security of the United States in the years since the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the men and women of the intelligence community, both civilian and military, have been increasingly called upon to deploy to theaters of war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere since September 11, 2001;

Whereas numerous intelligence officers of the elements of the intelligence community have been injured or killed in the line of duty;

Whereas intelligence officers of the United States are routinely called upon to accept personal hardship and sacrifice in the furtherance of their mission to protect the United States, to undertake dangerous assignments in the defense of the interests of the United States, to collect reliable information within prescribed legal authorities upon which the leaders of the United States rely in life-and-death situations, and to “speak truth to power” by providing their best assessments to decision makers, regardless of political and policy considerations;

Whereas the men and women of the intelligence community have on numerous occasions succeeded in preventing attacks upon the United States and allies of the United States, saving numerous innocent lives; and

Whereas intelligence officers of the United States must of necessity often remain unknown and unrecognized for their substantial achievements and successes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 26, 2018, as “United States Intelligence Professionals Day”;

(2) acknowledges the courage, fidelity, sacrifice, and professionalism of the men and women of the intelligence community of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIBAL CANOE JOURNEY OF THE TRIBAL NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND CONGRATULATING THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS FOR HOSTING THE 2018 POWER PADDLE TO PUYALLUP

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. RES. 596

Whereas 2018 marks the 29th anniversary of the first Tribal Canoe Journey, held in Seattle, Washington;

Whereas the Puyallup Tribe of Indians is hosting the Tribal Canoe Journey for a second time with the 2018 Power Paddle to Puyallup;

Whereas, in 2018, more than 100 Tribal canoes, representing more than 60 Tribal Nations from across the United States and Canada, will travel along the Pacific Ocean, the Salish Sea, and the Puget Sound to arrive at the shores of the territory of the Puyallup Tribe;

Whereas the theme of the 2018 Power Paddle to Puyallup is “Honoring our Medicine”, which is a reminder of the importance of the Pacific Ocean, the Salish Sea, and the Puget Sound to the culture and economy of the Tribal Nations of the Pacific Northwest; and

Whereas the Tribal Canoe Journey is a celebration of the resilient culture and way of life of the Tribal Nations of the Pacific Northwest and Tribal Nations across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 29th anniversary of the Tribal Canoe Journey;

(2) acknowledges that the Tribal Canoe Journey is a vital part of the fabric and culture of the Tribal Nations of the Pacific Northwest; and

(3) congratulates the Puyallup Tribe of Indians for hosting the 2018 Power Paddle to Puyallup.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3613. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3614. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3615. Mr. JONES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3616. Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3617. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3618. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3619. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3620. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3621. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended

to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3622. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3623. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3624. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3625. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3626. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3627. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3628. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1182, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

SA 3629. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3628 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 1182, supra.

SA 3630. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1182, supra.

SA 3631. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3630 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 1182, supra.

SA 3632. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3631 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 3630 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 1182, supra.

SA 3633. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3634. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3635. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3636. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. JONES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3637. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3638. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3639. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3640. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3641. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3642. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3643. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3644. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3645. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3646. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3647. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3648. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3649. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3650. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3651. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3652. Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3653. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3654. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3655. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr.

SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3656. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3657. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3658. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3659. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3660. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3661. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3662. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3663. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3664. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4318, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty.

SA 3665. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3613. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 18, strike the period and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 9(a) of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-196; 130 Stat. 691), \$500,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be provided to the organization selected under section 9(b) of that Act for expenditure by the United States Semiquincentennial Commission in accordance with that Act.”.

SA 3614. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report on efforts by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials, which shall include—

(1) a description of direct removal efforts by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency;

(2) a description of education provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency to other Federal agencies, local governments and communities, recipients of grants made by either entity, and the general public relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials;

(3) a description of assistance received from other Federal agencies relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials; and

(4) any best practices developed or provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials.

SA 3615. Mr. JONES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Small Business Administration shall conduct a study on whether the provision of match-making services that, using data collected through outside entities such as local chambers of commerce, link veteran entrepreneurs to business leads in given industry sectors or geographic regions, would enhance the existing veterans entrepreneurship programs of the Administration.

SA 3616. Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV of division A, add the following:

RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, AND OHIO AND ERIE NATIONAL HERITAGE CANALWAY

SEC. 43 _____. Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (54 U.S.C. 320101 note; Public Law 104-333) is amended in sections 409(a) (110 Stat. 4256; 129 Stat. 2551), 508(a) (110 Stat. 4260; 129 Stat. 2551), and 812(a) (110 Stat. 4275; 129 Stat. 2551), by striking “\$17,000,000” and inserting “\$19,000,000”.

SA 3617. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 464, line 4, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading and the heading ‘National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation’, not more than \$500,000 shall be made available to provide a discount of not less than 15 percent on passenger fares to members of the public benefit corporation Veterans Advantage.”.

SA 3618. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 142, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

PROHIBITION OF USE OF FUNDS TO RELOCATE ANY FUNCTION OF THE CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL PROGRAM

SEC. 433. Effective on January 1, 2018, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to relocate any function of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail program.

SA 3619. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 40, line 7, strike “\$134,673,000” and insert “\$132,673,000”.

On page 136, line 21, strike “\$670,000,000” and insert “\$672,000,000”.

On page 137, line 5, strike “\$30,000,000” and insert “\$31,000,000”.

On page 137, line 14, strike “\$15,000,000” and insert “\$16,000,000”.

SA 3620. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of

the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 357, after line 14, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in carrying out any discretionary grant or funding program using funds provided under this heading, the Secretary of Agriculture shall give priority to providing broadband funding to areas in the United States that, as determined by the Secretary, have challenging topography and face additional barriers to broadband deployment due to higher costs for infrastructure buildout.

SA 3621. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. Within Available funds, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report on efforts by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials, which shall include—

(1) a description of direct removal efforts by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency;

(2) a description of education provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency to other Federal agencies, local governments and communities, recipients of grants made by either entity, and the general public relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials;

(3) a description of assistance received from other Federal agencies relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials; and

(4) any best practices developed or provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the removal of lead-based paint and other hazardous materials.

SA 3622. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division C, insert the following:

SEC. 7 _____. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences—

(1) to carry out a study of the functional effectiveness of wildlife damage management methods of the Department of Agriculture; and

(2) to make recommendations to the Secretary based on the results of the study carried out under paragraph (1).

(b)(1) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the functional effectiveness of each method used by the Department of Agriculture to proactively or reactively protect property, game, or fish.

(2) The report and any revision to the report prepared under paragraph (3) shall—

(A) incorporate any recommendations made under subsection (a)(2); and

(B) comply with—

(i) the scientific integrity policy of the Department of Agriculture;

(ii) Executive Order 13642 (78 Fed. Reg. 28111 (May 14, 2013));

(iii) section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”);

(iv) subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”);

(v) section 515 of appendix C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (commonly known as the “Data Quality Act”) (44 U.S.C. 3516 note; Public Law 106-554);

(vi) section 3729 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the “False Claims Act”); and

(vii) any other applicable laws (including regulations) and procedures and policies relating to the handling of documents.

(3) Not later than 2 years after the date on which the report is submitted under paragraph (2) and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) revise the report submitted under that paragraph;

(B) make available for public comment the revised report; and

(C) submit the revised report to Congress for review.

SA 3623. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “BUREAU OF THE FISCAL SERVICE” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY” in title I of division B, insert “: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available to the Bureau of the Fiscal Service under this Act may be used to make a payment from amounts appropriated under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, to a state sponsor of terrorism, as defined in section 1605A(h) of title 28, United States Code” after “expenses”.

SA 3624. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under

this Act may be obligated or expended by the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, or any Federal agency for which amounts are appropriated by division B or D of this Act, to acquire telecommunications or video surveillance equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Ltd., Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, Ltd., or Dahua Technology Company, Ltd. (or any subsidiary or affiliate of any of such entities), or a high-impact or moderate-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, “Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems”, unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST to inform acquisition decisions for high-impact and moderate-impact information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and relevant threat information provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other appropriate Federal entity, conducted an assessment of any risk of cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by one or more entities identified by the United States Government as posing a cyber threat, including but not limited to, those that may be owned, directed, or subsidized by the People’s Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) Section 432(a) of division A of this Act, section 632(a) of division B of this Act, and section 420(a) of division D of this Act shall have no force or effect.

SA 3625. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 79, line 13, strike “\$27,000,000” and insert “\$22,000,000”.

On page 79, line 14, strike the period at the end and insert “; and \$5,000,000 shall be for grants for lead testing in school and child care program drinking water authorized in section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322).”.

SA 3626. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 4 _____. No funds made available under this Act or any other Act for fiscal year 2019 may be used to close, consolidate, or eliminate a regional or program office of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SA 3627. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 167, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

SEC. 129. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury (in this section referred to as “FinCEN”), in consultation with other appropriate elements of the Department, shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of FinCEN to identify and combat trade-based money laundering, including an assessment of—

(1) the type of data FinCEN collects on trade-based money laundering;

(2) how FinCEN uses that data and which agencies FinCEN shares the data with in order to combat trade-based money laundering;

(3) whether FinCEN needs additional authorities to combat trade-based money laundering;

(4) whether FinCEN and other elements of the Department have all the necessary tools to identify and combat trade-based money laundering, including tools relating to big data and necessary platforms to house the data; and

(5) what level of priority FinCEN gives to identifying and combating trade-based money laundering.

SA 3628. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1182, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

SA 3629. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3628 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 1182, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

SA 3630. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1182, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment.”

SA 3631. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3630 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 1182, to require the Secretary of the

Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

SA 3632. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3631 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 3630 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 1182, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion; as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”

SA 3633. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall—

(1) work with Federal agencies to review each Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization’s efforts to comply with the requirements under section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(k)); and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives—

(A) a report on Federal agency compliance with the requirements under such section 15(k); and

(B) a report detailing the status of issuance by the Small Business Administration of detailed guidance for the peer review process of the Small Business Procurement Advisory Council in order to facilitate a more in depth review of Federal agency compliance with the requirements under such section 15(k).

SA 3634. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 520, line 4, strike “safety.” and insert “safety: *Provided further*, That the matter under this heading in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017 (division B of Public Law 115-56) is amended by inserting ‘*Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the requirements that activities benefit persons of low and moderate income, except that at least 50 percent of the funds under this heading must benefit primarily persons of low and moderate income unless the Secretary makes a finding of compelling need:’ after the eighth proviso: *Provided further*, That the matter under this heading in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (title XI of division B of Public Law 115-123) is amended by inserting

‘*Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the requirements that activities benefit persons of low and moderate income, except that at least 50 percent of the funds under this heading must benefit primarily persons of low and moderate income unless the Secretary makes a finding of compelling need:’ after the eighteenth proviso.”.

SA 3635. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 51, line 25, strike “\$56,735,000” and insert “\$52,735,000”.

On page 142, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

APPLICATION OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RULE

SEC. 433. (a) In this section, the term “project” means a system described in section 2801.9(a)(4) of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to apply the rule of the Bureau of Land Management entitled “Competitive Processes, Terms, and Conditions for Leasing Public Lands for Solar and Wind Energy Development and Technical Changes and Corrections” (81 Fed. Reg. 92122 (December 19, 2016)) to a project that applied for a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) on or before December 19, 2016.

(c) The owner of a project that applied for a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) on or before December 19, 2016, shall be obligated to pay with respect to the right-of-way all rents and fees in effect before the effective date of the rule described in subsection (b).

SA 3636. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. JONES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I of division A, add the following:

SEC. 1____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to repeal section 105(a)(2) or section 105(b) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109-432).

SA 3637. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. The Securities Investor Protection Corporation shall use amounts from the

fund established under section 4(a) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 78ddd(a)) to establish an electronic system for the filing of a claim under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 78aaa et seq.).

SA 3638. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter under the heading “ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)”, add the following:

SEC. 527. None of the funds made available to the General Services Administration under this Act may be used to award a contract to an insured depository institution, as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813), if the insured depository institution avoids doing business with certain industries that are in compliance with the law (including regulations) based strictly on social policy considerations.

SA 3639. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 258, after line 3, insert the following:

SEC. 634. Notwithstanding any other provision of this division—

(1) the total amount provided under the heading “FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)” under the heading “OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY” under the heading “EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT” in title II shall be increased by \$5,000,000; and

(2) under the heading “REAL PROPERTY ACTIVITIES FEDERAL BUILDINGS FUND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF REVENUE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)” under the heading “GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION” under the heading “INDEPENDENT AGENCIES” in title V—

(A) the aggregate amount shall be reduced by \$5,000,000; and

(B) the amount in paragraph (3) shall be reduced by \$5,000,000.

SA 3640. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____ Section 2102 of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88; 129 Stat. 690) is amended—

- (1) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”; and
- (2) by striking subsections (b) and (c).

SA 3641. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____ Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, shall prepare and submit a report, to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, on the training ship Cadet-to-Berth ratio at each State Maritime Academy.

SA 3642. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____ (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and 180 days thereafter, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall—

- (1) prepare a report detailing—

(A) the efforts of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Judicial Conference of the United States to implement each of the recommendations in the report entitled “Report of the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group to the Judicial Conference of the United States”, dated June 1, 2018; and

(B) the efforts of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Judicial Conference of the United States to investigate sexual harassment, discrimination on the basis of sex, and other sexual misconduct, in the judicial branch; and

- (2) submit the report to—

(A) the Committees on Appropriations and on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committees on Appropriations and on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(b) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall—

- (1) prepare a report—

(A) providing, to the extent practicable, data, for the most recent 10 years for which data are available, on the number of individuals who were interviewed for positions as a covered law clerk, and the number of those individuals who were hired as a covered law clerk, disaggregated by sex, and by the ethnic and the racial categories in the 2010 decennial census (or similar categories); and

(B) analyzing year-to-year trends in that data; and

- (2) make the report publicly available.

(c) In this section, the term “covered law clerk” means a law clerk for a justice, judge, or magistrate judge of the United States.

SA 3643. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of any department or agency funded in this Act or any other Act for fiscal year 2019 shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and the relevant authorizing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report detailing the actions taken or to be taken to eliminate sexual harassment and address related issues, including those documented in the 2016 Merit Principles Survey published by the Merit Systems Protection Board.

SA 3644. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 1 ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Internal Revenue Service to permanently remove any automated external defibrillator that is located in any office of the Internal Revenue Service as of January 1, 2018.

SA 3645. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 487, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 1 ____ (a) Subject to subsections (c) and (d), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to enforce or require the enforcement of section 127(a) of title 23, United States Code, with respect to a segment described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) if the segment is designated as a route of the Interstate System.

(b) The segments referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The William H. Natcher Parkway (to be designated as a spur of Interstate Route 65) from Interstate Route 65 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to United States Route 60 in Owensboro, Kentucky.

(2) The Julian M. Carroll (Purchase) Parkway (to be designated as Interstate Route 69) in the State of Kentucky from the Tennessee State line to the interchange with Interstate Route 24, near Calvert City, Kentucky.

(c) Only a vehicle that could operate legally on a segment described in paragraph (1)

or (2) of subsection (b) before the date of designation of the segment as a route of the Interstate System may continue to operate on that segment, subject to the condition that, except as provided in subsection (d), the gross vehicle weight of such a vehicle shall not exceed 120,000 pounds.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits a State from issuing a permit for a nondivisible load or vehicle with a gross vehicle weight that exceeds 120,000 pounds.

SA 3646. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____ (a) Within available funds for the National Forest System, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct an inventory and evaluation of certain land, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Flatside Wilderness Adjacent Inventory Areas” and dated November 30, 2017, to determine the suitability of that land for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(b) The Chief of the Forest Service shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropriations, and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate the results of the inventory and evaluation required under subsection (a).

SA 3647. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 344, line 4, strike “needs.” and insert “needs: *Provided further*, That of amounts made available under this heading, \$20,000,000 shall be provided for rental assistance under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, which shall be designated as supplemental servicing rental assistance to assist residents financed with a mortgage loan under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 to help address ongoing operating expenses and capital improvements, including the use of private activity bonds and low-income housing tax credits to acquire and rehabilitate properties at risk of leaving the program under such section 515: *Provided further*, That not less than \$10,000,000 of amounts made available under this heading shall be provided for the preservation of properties assisted under such section 515 to prevent loss through prepayment or foreclosure: *Provided further*, That when the Secretary recaptures rental assistance, removes rental assistance from a property, or recaptures rental assistance when a unit receiving rental assistance is lost through prepayment, maturity, or foreclosure, the Secretary shall apply that rental assistance as supplemental servicing rental assistance to remaining properties assisted under such section 515, with priority given to properties in rural counties designated by the Federal Housing Finance Agency as high-needs counties for duty to serve purposes.”.

SA 3648. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 414, line 24, strike the closing period and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$20,000,000 shall be for advanced digital construction management systems for the Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program of the Department of Transportation developed under section 503(c) of title 23, United States Code.”.

SA 3649. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 414, line 24, strike “determines” and insert the following: “determines: *Provided further*, That funds provided for national infrastructure investments for passenger rail transportation projects under title I of division C of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55; 125 Stat. 641), may be expended until September 30, 2019: *Provided further*, That funds provided for national infrastructure investment for port infrastructure projects under title VIII of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6; 127 Stat. 432) shall be September 30, 2020.”.

SA 3650. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____ ADDRESSING PEDIATRIC CANCER RATES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) REPORT IDENTIFYING GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION OF TYPES OF PEDIATRIC CANCER.—Using funds appropriated under the heading “Toxic Substances and Environmental Health” for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, a report that provides details on the geographic variation in pediatric cancer incidence in the United States, including—

(1) the types of pediatric cancer within each of the 10 States with the highest age-adjusted incidence rate of cancer among persons aged 20 years or younger;

(2) geographic concentrations of types and prevalence of pediatric cancers within each such State, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines; and

(3) an update on current activities related to pediatric cancer, including with respect to carrying out section 399V-6 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-17).

(b) SUPPORT FOR STATES WITH HIGH INCIDENCE OF PEDIATRIC CANCER.—Using funds appropriated under the heading “Toxic Substances and Environmental Public Health” for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may conduct public outreach, in collaboration with State departments of health, particularly in the 10 States with the highest age-adjusted incidence rate of cancer among persons aged 20 years or younger, to improve awareness by residents, clinicians, and others, as appropriate, of possible contributing factors to pediatric cancer, including environmental exposures, in a manner that is complementary of, and does not conflict with, ongoing pediatric cancer-related activities supported by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(c) PRIVACY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that all information with respect to patients that is contained in the reports under this section is de-identified and protects personal privacy of such patients in accordance with applicable Federal and State privacy law.

SA 3651. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____. The Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with relevant regulators, shall conduct a study that—

(1) examines the financial impact of the mineral pyrrhotite in concrete home foundations; and

(2) provides recommendations on regulatory and legislative actions needed to help mitigate the financial impact described in paragraph (1) on banks, mortgage lenders, tax revenues, and homeowners.

SA 3652. Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division A, insert the following:

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998 AMENDMENTS

SEC. 4 ____. (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this section an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(b) Section 603(a) (33 U.S.C. 4001(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (14); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

“(13) the Army Corps of Engineers; and”.

(c) Section 603 (33 U.S.C. 4001) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f);

(2) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (f), (g), (h), and (i), respectively; and

(3) by amending subsection (g) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(g) SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS OF MARINE AND FRESHWATER HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than once every 5 years the Task Force shall complete and submit to Congress a scientific assessment of harmful algal blooms in United States coastal waters and freshwater systems.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—Each assessment under paragraph (1) shall examine both marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms, including those in the Great Lakes and upper reaches of estuaries, those in freshwater lakes and rivers, and those that originate in freshwater lakes or rivers and migrate to coastal waters.”.

(d)(1) Section 603A(e) (33 U.S.C. 4002(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including to local and regional stakeholders through the establishment and maintenance of a publicly accessible Internet website that provides information as to Program activities completed under this section” after “Program”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) to accelerate the utilization of effective methods of intervention and mitigation to reduce the frequency, severity, and impacts of harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events;”;

(iv) in paragraph (4), by striking “and work cooperatively with” and inserting “, and work cooperatively to provide technical assistance to,”; and

(v) in paragraph (7)—

(I) by inserting “and extension” after “existing education”; and

(II) by inserting “intervention,” after “awareness of the causes, impacts,”.

(2) Section 603A(f) (33 U.S.C. 4002(f)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, which shall include unmanned systems,” after “infrastructure”;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) use cost effective methods in carrying out this Act; and

“(8) develop contingency plans for the long-term monitoring of hypoxia.”.

(e) Section 102 of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004 (33 U.S.C. 4001a) is amended by striking “the amendments made by this title” and inserting “the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998”.

(f)(1) In this subsection:

(A) The term “appropriate Federal official” means—

(i) in the case of a marine or coastal hypoxia or harmful algal bloom event, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; and

(ii) in the case of a freshwater hypoxia or harmful algal bloom event, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(B) The term “event of national significance” means a hypoxia or harmful algal bloom event that has had or will likely have a significant detrimental environmental, economic, subsistence use, or public health impact on an affected State.

(C) The term “hypoxia or harmful algal bloom event” means the occurrence of hypoxia or a harmful algal bloom as a result of a natural, anthropogenic, or undetermined cause.

(2)(A) On a determination under paragraph (3) that there is an event of national significance, the appropriate Federal official is authorized to make sums available to the affected State or local government for the purposes of assessing and mitigating the detrimental environmental, economic, subsistence use, and public health effects of the event of national significance.

(B) The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out under this subsection for the purposes described in subparagraph (A) may not exceed 50 percent of the cost of that activity.

(C)(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an appropriate Federal official may accept donations of funds, services, facilities, materials, or equipment that the appropriate Federal official considers necessary for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

(ii) Any funds donated to an appropriate Federal official under this paragraph may be expended without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation.

(3)(A) At the discretion of an appropriate Federal official, or at the request of the Governor of an affected State, an appropriate Federal official shall determine whether a hypoxia or harmful algal bloom event is an event of national significance.

(B) In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the appropriate Federal official shall consider the toxicity of the harmful algal bloom, the severity of the hypoxia, its potential to spread, the economic impact, the relative size in relation to the past 5 occurrences of harmful algal blooms or hypoxia events that occur on a recurrent or annual basis, and the geographic scope, including the potential to affect several municipalities, to affect more than 1 State, or to cross an international boundary.

(g) Section 609(a) (33 U.S.C. 4009(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(2) by striking “603B \$20,500,000” and inserting the following: “603B—

“(1) \$20,500,000”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) \$22,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.

SA 3653. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division A, add the following:

SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 1 _____. (a) Congress finds that—

(1) the United States has entered into mutually-beneficial Compacts of Free Association with the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau (referred to in this section as the “Compact of Free Association Nations”);

(2) as a result of the mutually-beneficial Compacts of Free Association, the citizens of the Compact of Free Association Nations are entitled to travel to, work in, and otherwise live in the United States;

(3) the number of citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations living in the United States and territories of the United States has grown, particularly in Hawaii and Guam;

(4) because of the unique relationship between the United States and the Compact of Free Association Nations, information on the number of citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations that access the health care programs and services of States, territories of the United States, and local jurisdictions is difficult to quantify; and

(5) to better meet the needs of citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations and the communities that host the citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations, it is in the interest of the Federal Government to develop a more complete understanding of—

(A) the estimated costs to States, territories of the United States, and local jurisdictions of providing health care services for citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations in the United States;

(B) projections with respect to ways in which the number of citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations and the health care needs of citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations in the United States may change over the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to address the health care needs of citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations in the United States.

(b) It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Interior should—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, consult with the heads of other Federal agencies with the necessary expertise and resources for assistance in developing—

(A) a plan for assessing the current and future health care needs of citizens of Compact of Free Association Nations residing in the United States; and

(B) recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to address the needs assessed under subparagraph (A); and

(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which the consultations have been completed under paragraph (1), submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the plan developed under paragraph (1)(A), including the estimated time and cost for the assessment provided for under the plan.

SA 3654. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 40, line 7, strike “\$134,673,000” and insert “\$132,173,000”.

On page 67, line 18, strike “\$41,489,000” and insert “\$43,989,000”.

SA 3655. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 327, line 10, strike “That the Food” and all that follows through “Provided further,” on line 14.

SA 3656. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 10, line 18, strike the period at the end and insert “: Provided further, That not less than \$96,520,000 shall be used for recovery of species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), of which not less than \$4,500,000 shall be used for the recovery of species at the greatest risk of extinction.”.

SA 3657. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 30, line 12, strike “\$2,403,890,000” and insert “\$2,405,890,000”.

On page 31, line 25, strike the period at the end and insert “: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be made available to provide additional funding for hiring staff for tribal detention facilities, with priority for funding given to regional tribal detention facilities serving 3 or more Indian tribes.”.

On page 40, line 7, strike “\$134,673,000” and insert “\$132,673,000”.

SA 3658. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 571, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

SEC. 237. (a) In the case of a contract for project-based assistance that terminates, if the Secretary does not transfer the assistance under section 210, the Secretary shall transfer the assistance to 1 or more other multifamily housing projects in accordance with the conditions under section 210(c), effective—

(1) as of the date of termination of the contract; or

(2) if the Secretary is unable to comply with those conditions by the date on which the contract terminates, as soon as practicable after that date.

(b) The Secretary shall maintain a publicly available list of multifamily housing projects that are eligible for project-based assistance for purposes of transfers under subsection (a).

(c) In this section, the terms "multifamily housing project" and "project-based assistance" have the meanings given those terms in section 210(d).

SA 3659. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 296, after line 6, add the following: SEC. 751. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used by the Office of Personnel Management or any other executive branch agency for the development, promulgation, modification, or implementation of any Executive Order, rule, or guidance that would remove administrative law judges from the competitive service or place administrative law judges in the excepted service.

SA 3660. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 83, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall coordinate with the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission—

(1) to harmonize the definition of the term "flex fuel" for purposes of the programs and authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Trade Commission; and

(2) to enforce the prohibition under section 211(h)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(h)(1)) on the sale of any gasoline-ethanol blend that contains greater than 10 percent, but not more than 15 percent, ethanol by volume as a flex fuel.

SA 3661. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, line 4, strike the period at the end and insert the following: "Provided further, That within available amounts provided under this heading, the Secretary of the Interior shall designate the rest area bound by Alexandria Avenue, West Boulevard Drive, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway on the Mount Vernon Trail within the George Washington Memorial Parkway as the 'Peter B. Webster III Memorial Area' and any reference in a law, map regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the rest area shall be deemed to be a reference to the 'Peter B. Webster III Memorial Area'; Provided further, That the Secretary of the Interior shall accept and expend private contributions for the design, procurement, preparation, and installation of a plaque honoring Peter B. Webster III on the condition that the Director of the National Park Service shall approve the design and placement of the plaque."

SA 3662. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 30, line 12, strike "\$2,403,890,000" and insert "\$2,405,890,000".

On page 31, line 25, strike the period at the end and insert "Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be made available to provide additional funding for hiring staff for tribal detention facilities, with priority for funding given to regional tribal detention facilities serving 3 or more Indian tribes."

On page 40, line 7, strike "\$134,673,000" and insert "\$132,673,000".

SA 3663. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 464, line 4, strike the period at the end and insert "Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading and the heading 'National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation', not more than \$500,000 shall be made available to provide a discount of not less than 15 percent on passenger fares to members of the public benefit corporation Veterans Advantage."

SA 3664. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4318, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty; as follows:

Strike sections 324, 372, and 1118.

Strike section 1274 and insert the following:

SEC. 1274. MEN'S SHOES WITH OUTER SOLES AND UPPERS OF RUBBER OR PLASTICS, VALUED OVER \$3 BUT NOT OVER \$6.50 PER PAIR.

Subchapter II of chapter 99 is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

9902.14.03	Men's footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, with foxing or foxing-like band, covering the ankle, closed toe or heel, valued over \$3 but not over \$6.50 per pair, the foregoing other than sports footwear and protective, waterproof or slip-on type footwear (provided for in subheading 6402.91.70)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2020	".
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Strike section 1275 and insert the following:

SEC. 1275. MEN'S SHOES WITH OUTER SOLES AND UPPERS OF RUBBER OR PLASTICS, VALUED OVER \$6.50 BUT NOT OVER \$12 PER PAIR.

Subchapter II of chapter 99 is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

9902.14.04	Men's footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics (other than sports footwear), with foxing or foxing like band, covering the ankle, closed toe or heel, valued over \$6.50 but not over \$12.00 per pair, not of the protective, waterproof or slip-on type (provided for in subheading 6402.91.80)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2020	".
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Strike section 1305 and insert the following:

SEC. 1305. SKI BOOTS AND SNOWBOARD BOOTS.

Subchapter II of chapter 99 is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

9902.14.34	Ski boots, cross country ski footwear or snowboard boots, constructed with a forward-leaning upper or designed to attach securely to skis or a snowboard by means of bindings, the foregoing valued over \$12/pair, with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials (provided for in subheading 6404.11.90)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2020
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Strike sections 1389, 1399, 1564, and 1565.
Strike section 1665 and insert the following:

SEC. 1665. CUSTOMS USER FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “July 21, 2027” and inserting “October 13, 2027”.

SA 3665. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3399 proposed by Mr. SHELBY to the bill H.R. 6147, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 464, line 24, strike “regulation.” and insert the following: “regulation: *Provided further*, That not less than \$50,000,000 of the amount provided under this heading shall be for capital expenses related to safety improvements, maintenance, and the non-Federal match for discretionary Federal grant programs to enable continued passenger rail operations on long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) on which Amtrak is the sole tenant of the host railroad and positive train control systems are not required by law (including regulations): *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be used by Amtrak to give notice under subsection (a) or (b) of section 24706 of title 49, United States Code, with respect to long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) on which Amtrak is the sole tenant of the host railroad and positive train control systems are not required by law (including regulations), or otherwise initiate discontinuance of, reduce the frequency of, suspend, or substantially alter the schedule or route of rail service on any portion of such route operated in fiscal year 2018, including implementation of service permitted by section 24305(a)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code, in lieu of rail service.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomi-

nation of Rick A. Dearborn, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, and Martin J. Oberman, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Justin George Muzinich, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, and Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel, both of the Department of the Treasury.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Modernizing Apprenticeship to Expand Opportunities.”

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 25, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Challenge and opportunities of the Proposed Government Reorganization on OPM and GSA.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAXATION AND IRS OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Improving Tax Administration Today.”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Rachel Cohen of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today’s proceedings.

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

MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN MARINE FISH CONSERVATION STATUTES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 486, H.R. 4528.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4528) to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 4528) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5729, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5729) to restrict the department in which the Coast Guard is operating from implementing any rule requiring the use of biometric readers for biometric transportation security cards until after submission to Congress of the results of an assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 5729) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 595, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 595) designating July 26, 2018, as "United States Intelligence Professionals Day."

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 595) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL ACT OF 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4318 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4318) to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Hatch amendment at the desk be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 3664) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike sections 324, 372, and 1118.

Strike section 1274 and insert the following:

SEC. 1274. MEN'S SHOES WITH OUTER SOLES AND UPPERS OF RUBBER OR PLASTICS, VALUED OVER \$3 BUT NOT OVER \$6.50 PER PAIR.

Subchapter II of chapter 99 is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

Table with 4 columns: Description, Free, No change, No change, On or before 12/31/2020. Row 1: 9902.14.03 Men's footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, with foxing or foxing-like band, covering the ankle, closed toe or heel, valued over \$3 but not over \$6.50 per pair...

Strike section 1275 and insert the following:

SEC. 1275. MEN'S SHOES WITH OUTER SOLES AND UPPERS OF RUBBER OR PLASTICS, VALUED OVER \$6.50 BUT NOT OVER \$12 PER PAIR.

Subchapter II of chapter 99 is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

Table with 4 columns: Description, Free, No change, No change, On or before 12/31/2020. Row 1: 9902.14.04 Men's footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics (other than sports footwear), with foxing or foxing like band, covering the ankle, closed toe or heel, valued over \$6.50 but not over \$12.00 per pair...

Strike section 1305 and insert the following:

SEC. 1305. SKI BOOTS AND SNOWBOARD BOOTS.

Subchapter II of chapter 99 is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

Table with 4 columns: Description, Free, No change, No change, On or before 12/31/2020. Row 1: 9902.14.34 Ski boots, cross country ski footwear or snowboard boots, constructed with a forward-leaning upper or designed to attach securely to skis or a snowboard by means of bindings, the foregoing valued over \$12/pair, with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials (provided for in subheading 6404.11.90)

Strike sections 1389, 1399, 1564, and 1565. Strike section 1665 and insert the following:

SEC. 1665. CUSTOMS USER FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)(A)) is amended by striking "July 21, 2027" and inserting "October 13, 2027".

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

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4318), as amended, was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDER FOR FILING DEADLINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the filing deadline for first-degree amendments be at 4 p.m. on Monday, July 30, for the measures upon which cloture was filed during today's session.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 115-123, on behalf of the majority leader of the Senate and the chairman of the Finance Committee, appoints the following individual as a member of the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: Jeremy Keele of Utah.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: the Honorable JOHN CORNYN of Texas.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 30,
2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, July 30; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later

in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Grant nomination; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JULY 30, 2018, AT 3 P.M.

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 4:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 30, 2018, at 3 p.m.