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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 2, 2019, at 11 a.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who has created humanity in Your image, look upon us and hear our prayers.

Today, give our lawmakers the desire to do Your will and the energy to complete the tasks that will glorify Your Name. That which they don't know, reveal it; that which they lack, supply it; and that which they doubt, confirm it. Keep them blameless in Your service so that their lives will be living letters causing people to exalt Your Name. Lord, strengthen their minds for Your service so that Your wisdom will permeate their endeavors.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

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

### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I think we should save the taxpayers a lot of money by giving States more options under Medicaid.

Unlike Medicare and private insurance, Medicaid doesn't incentivize bundled payments. This prevents States from testing a method that could potentially save money.

The bipartisan prescription drug pricing reform legislation I introduced with Senator WYDEN allows States to collect rebates from drugs in outpatient settings. This removes an existing exemption in statute for some outpatient drugs and allows States to more completely utilize and test bundled payments to possibly save money.

Giving States flexibility allows them to focus on the best care for different populations. Encouraging bundled payments in Medicaid would do just that.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### LINCOLN COUNTY GAS LEAK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, my office and I are closely monitoring a significant explosion of a natural gas transmission pipeline early this morning near Danville, in my home State of Kentucky.

As of this morning, one fatality and five more injuries have been reported, and others may be unaccounted for. We

hope and pray that these figures do not increase. Several structures have been damaged or destroyed.

The Lincoln County emergency manager reported: "The part of the area that has been compromised, there is just nothing left." The fiery explosion was so large that it was picked up by weather satellites, and witnesses report the smoke can be seen from my hometown of Louisville, almost 70 miles away.

Obviously, the investigation is just beginning. My staff and I will continue to stay on top of this and be a resource for everyone affected.

This morning, our prayers are with the families whom this disaster has touched, and our gratitude is with all the first responders who rushed toward the towering flames to protect their neighbors and communities.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, the Senate has accomplished a significant amount of business this week for the American people.

We have made a big dent in the backlog of President Trump's well-qualified nominees for Federal office. With respect to the judiciary, we have confirmed 13 impressive individuals to lifetime seats on the Federal bench. We have also ensured that two more key components of the President's foreign policy team will be on the job before the Senate adjourns for the August work period.

We confirmed the Deputy Secretary of Defense and a new ambassador to

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



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the United Nations—both with bipartisan support, just as it should be for nominees who are so fully prepared for jobs that are so important.

#### BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will turn our attention to legislation. We need to address the debt limit and secure the full faith and credit of the United States. We need to continue to secure the funding our national defense demands. Fortunately, the pending legislation will accomplish precisely that.

In recent weeks, key officials on President Trump's team engaged in extensive negotiations with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic House. Given the exigencies of a divided government, we knew that any bipartisan agreement on funding levels would not appear perfect to either side, but the administration negotiated a strong deal.

First and foremost, it ensures our Federal Government will not approach any kind of short-term debt crisis in the coming weeks or months. It secures our Nation's full faith and credit and ensures that Congress will not throw this kind of unnecessary wrench into the gears of job growth and a thriving economy.

What is more, despite the desires of the Democratic House, the administration has successfully kept far-left poison pills and policy riders entirely out of the process.

We had heard that our Democratic colleagues across the Capitol were clamoring to take us backward on the issue of life, perhaps even targeting the Hyde Amendment or forcing more taxpayer dollars back toward Planned Parenthood. We had heard they were clamoring to try to handcuff the administration's important work on border security, but on those fronts, and many others, the far left was denied any such victories. There are no poison pills—a big win for the White House.

I ask unanimous consent that the terms of this agreement and the specific prohibition of poison pills be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

#### BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021

1. The 2019 Bipartisan Budget Agreement for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 ("Agreement") is agreed to by the bipartisan leadership of Congress and the administration of Donald J. Trump. The bipartisan Congressional leadership and the administration agree to cooperate in the Agreement's implementation.

2. The Agreement modifies the discretionary spending caps imposed by the Budget Control Act ("BCA") for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 pursuant to the table below. The spending cap adjustments are intended to reflect the elimination of the BCA sequester for two years, plus a slight increase in spending for both defense and non-defense programs.

3. The parties agree to partially offset the Agreement's modifications to the discretionary spending caps legislation by extending the BCA mandatory sequester and customs user fees to achieve a total offset level of \$77.4 billion as scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

4. The debt limit will be suspended for two years, through July 31, 2021. No additional restrictions will be placed on the Secretary's extraordinary measures authorities. The debt limit suspension, spending cap adjustments, offsets, and any necessary procedural matters, will be included as part of a single piece of legislation.

5. Appropriations bills: Specific spending decisions shall be left to the members of the Appropriations Committees, with 302(b)s set through the regular process of the committees. Congressional leaders and the administration agree that, relative to the FY 2019 regular appropriations Acts, there will be no poison pills, additional new riders, additional CHIMPS, or other changes in policy or conventions that allow for higher spending levels, or any nonappropriations measures unless agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President. Current transfer funding levels and authorities shall be maintained, and any modifications must be agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President. Any emergency spending levels must be agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President.

6. The agreement also establishes a new cap adjustment for FY 2020 to help ensure the necessary resources for the decennial Census are provided.

7. Senate Leaders agree that if a bill has been reported on a bipartisan basis from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is consistent with the BCA spending caps, and has the support of the Chairman and the Ranking Member, they will work together to minimize procedural delays. The Majority Leader will continue to consult with the Democratic Leader to sequence bills in a bipartisan way, and acknowledges that bipartisan concurrence is required to expedite the consideration of any appropriations bill.

8. The President, Congressional leaders and the leadership of the Appropriations Committees shall work together to reach bicameral and bipartisan agreement on the orderly and timely consideration of FY 2020 appropriations bills to avoid a government shutdown, and a 12-bill omnibus. The President, Congressional leaders and the leadership of the Appropriations Committees shall also work together to reach bicameral and bipartisan agreement on the orderly and timely consideration of FY 2021 appropriations bills to avoid a government shutdown, and a 12-bill omnibus.

	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Defense Base .....	647.00	666.500	671.500
Defense OCO .....	69.0	71.500	69.000
Defense subtotal .....	716.000	738.000	740.500
Nondefense Base .....	597.000	621.500	626.500
Census Adj. ....	--	2.500	0
Nondefense base plus adjustments .....	597.000	624.000	626.500
Nondefense OCO .....	8.0	8.000	8.000
Nondefense subtotal .....	605.000	632.000	634.500
Total .....	1,321.000	1,370.000	1,375.000

Adjustments permitted under current law for disaster relief, wildfire suppression, program integrity, and 21st Century Cures Act continue.

Agreement calls for increased OCO funding in FY 2020 (relative to FY 2019) of + \$2.5 billion for defense funding. Defense OCO returns to FY 2019 levels in FY 2021.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, perhaps more importantly—particularly to my Republican colleagues and to me—this legislation sets a sufficient funding level for our national defense.

Over the past few months, as we have worked through important legislation like the NDAA, we have been reminded of one glaring reality: The forces that seek to harm the United States and our interests are ever-changing, and they demand the full attention of a fully equipped, modern, and ready military.

Since President Trump took office, Republicans in Congress have made remarkable progress. Working together, we have begun rolling back the damage caused by the previous administration's neglect, atrophy, and misguided approach. We have begun to rebuild and restore our military. We have taken important steps toward modernization, so we aren't just rebuilding the capabilities we need today but investing in those we will sorely need tomorrow.

I trust none of my colleagues are under the illusion that our work is finished. As our adversaries grow stronger, critical gaps remain in our ability to counter expansion, influence campaigns, and direct acts of violence toward America and our allies around the world.

The bipartisan funding deal is the opportunity—the only opportunity on the table—to continue filling in these gaps before it is too late. So make no mistake, Russia is not waiting idly by as we sort out whether to deliver full funding to missile defense or uphold our support of partner forces in Europe. China will not scale back its own aggressive ambitions and military investments if Americans decide to take a breather ourselves. Iran's financing of terrorist organizations and regional troublemaking is not going to stop if we stop investing in our own ability to check their efforts and project power.

So if we say we are serious about countering threats to our homeland, our allies, and our men and women deployed overseas, then we have to actually deliver on our promise to equip our forces for the job.

We have to invest in improved readiness to help our military commanders plan for emerging challenges—in research and development to support the U.S. military of the future—and in rock-solid support for our alliance commitments, which help preserve the peace and extend the reach of our values.

This deal is an opportunity to do exactly that. This is the agreement the administration has negotiated. This is the deal the House has passed. This is the deal President Trump is waiting and eager to sign into law. This is the deal that every Member of this body should support when we vote later this morning.

#### 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.

## BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3877, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3877) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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 Calendar No. 165, H.R. 3877, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

Lamar Alexander, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Susan M. Collins, Tom Cotton, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Bill Cassidy, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Rob Portman, Lisa Murkowski, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

## ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will move to consider the measure on the floor, probably pass it, and then leave town. There will be efforts to describe what we have done as a reason for satisfaction and pride. There have been accomplishments, but on one critical issue—really a range of issues—involving our national security, we have only abject failure to show for the months we have been here.

I am proud to come to the floor of the Senate today to advocate for that cause—election security—with colleagues like Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota and Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia, who have been tireless champions, articulate, and eloquent advocates for this cause.

Election security is national security. The testimony from Robert Mueller, whatever you think about his verdict on the President, clearly called for action.

Robert Mueller is a modern-day Paul Revere, sounding the alarm about the

Russians and many other nations—as he put it—who are mounting a renewed attack on this country.

In the next election, this attack will make 2016 look like child's play, a dress rehearsal, because the tools and techniques they will bring to bear in attacking our democracy are so much more sophisticated. Already, in 2016, Robert Mueller called that attack sweeping and systematic. It was the reason he first spoke about it in his statement and in May closed that statement with a severe and dire warning about the ongoing interference in our democracy.

Those many other nations already include Iran, which just last week the Washington Post reported to be mounting its own disinformation campaign using social media and misinformation—disinformation—to distract, divide, and sow discord here and in other democracies around the world.

There is nothing unknown to many of us about the Russians' intent and the designs of these other nations. It is hiding in plain sight.

From all of the classified briefings that we have received over these months, the Russians know what they are doing, we know what the Russians are doing, and we know what we are failing to do. The ones in the dark are the American people, and that is why Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator WARNER, and I are on the floor today—to make sure that when we leave today, it is not the end of this topic. It is the beginning of a drumbeat, a cry of outrage, and unhappiness around the Nation.

There are a number of measures that we have championed that involve more funding for the States to do election security, paper ballots by the States to provide backups, auditing standards, and cyber security criteria. These measures are a matter of common sense. That word “common sense” is overused these days, especially in a city where it is on display so infrequently, but common sense is the reason we are here.

I want to talk specifically about the Duty to Report Act. It is based on a very simple idea: If you see something, say something. The Duty to Report Act would require all campaigns, all candidates, and family members to immediately report to the FBI and the Federal Election Commission any offers of foreign assistance. It would codify in the law what is already a matter of moral duty, patriotic duty, and common sense. It is already illegal to accept foreign assistance during a campaign. It is already illegal to solicit foreign assistance during a campaign. All this bill would do is require individuals and campaigns and family members to report those illegal foreign assistance efforts to the FBI.

When Robert Mueller came before Congress, he outlined the most serious attack on our democracy by a foreign power in our history. It includes 140 contacts between the Trump campaign and Russian agents—Russian covert

and overt efforts to influence the outcome of our election by helping one candidate and hurting another. But the Russians and those many other nations that will engage in similar attacks on our democracy have no particular partisan preference. They are doing what is in their interest to disrupt our democracy, and the victim in one election may be the one preferred in the next. So we have a common cause here.

Indeed, Robert Mueller testified:

Over the course of my career, I've seen a number of challenges to our democracy. The Russian government's efforts to interfere in our election is among the most serious.

This deserves the attention of every American. We have an obligation, above all, as Members of this body, where there has been so much history of bipartisan action, to come together in this cause.

Christopher Wray, the Director of the FBI, recently came before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and he warned that the Russians are still actively trying to interfere in our elections. Again and again, our intelligence community has warned severely, repeatedly, powerfully about this threat.

Yet when asked whether he would accept foreign help in 2020, the President of the United States said: “I'd take it.” It is much like his son Donald Junior said during this last campaign in response to an offer of assistance from the Russians: “I love it.”

When Robert Mueller was asked about this point during his testimony, he said: “I hope this is not the new normal. But I fear it is.”

That is the reason we need this measure. That is the reason we need the measures that my colleagues, Senator KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota and Senator WARNER of Virginia, have helped to lead, and that is why I have been proud to join them in this effort.

To my Republican colleagues in the leadership, I say: Lead or get out of the way. To the President of the United States: Lead or get out of the way. Our national security is too important to make a partisan issue. We ought to join together, as we did after 9/11, to prevent more disaster and to join in this common cause.

This legislation is a matter of moral duty, patriotic duty, and common sense. With the 2020 election literally on the horizon before us, we must act now. Time is not on our side. It is only on our adversary's side.

As much as we take pride in the National Defense Authorization Act, the threat to our national security is not only from the planes and the submarines and the aircraft carriers. It is also from the cyber attacks and the social media campaigns to disrupt and destroy our democracy.

I am proud to be joined today by a great colleague who has been a wonderful champion on this issue, Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I first thank my colleague from Connecticut, Senator BLUMENTHAL, for his incredible work and leadership on this important bill, the Duty to Report Act, as well as for all of the other work that he has done.

He gets it. He gets that we are about to adjourn this day without passing election security legislation. We had bipartisan election security legislation. We have had that for years. Yet it has been stopped in every step of the way.

Russia invaded our democracy. Let's be clear about that. I don't like it when we use the word "meddle" because that is what I do when I call my daughter on a Saturday night to ask her what she is doing. This foreign country didn't just meddle in our election. They invaded it. They didn't use missiles or tanks. They used a new kind of modern warfare, which is cyber warfare, and they did it to invade our democracy.

Think about this. Our Founders literally set up a country and a Constitution because they wanted to be independent of a foreign country. In this case, it was England. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost their lives on the battlefield fighting for our democracy and democracies across the world. That is what World War I and World War II were about. They were fighting for democracies across the world and fighting for the simple right that people should be able to determine their own destiny and vote.

Yet, in 2016, we know for a fact—we know it from President Trump's own intelligence advisers. Dan Coats, who was once a Senator in this very Chamber and who is someone we are going to miss, is leaving his position. Dan Coats made it clear. He said they are getting bolder. So this is something right in front of us right now, and we must respond to it.

Yet we haven't passed a bill to address it. Yes, Senator LANKFORD and I, along with Senators LEAHY, COONS, SHELBY, and others have worked to get some money, over \$200 million, into the States, which is important. We got that done, but it doesn't really end there because, actually, there were no strings attached to that in terms of what we want to have done in this country, and I will get to that in a minute.

So let's first go back over the facts, because some people in this Chamber seem to have trouble with facts. Let's go over those. Special Counsel Mueller, under oath, just last week and in his report, concluded that Russian interference in our democracy was sweeping and systematic. Those were his words and not my words. We know that they are actively working again to undermine our democracy. In his words, when he was testifying under oath, "they're doing it as we sit here." That is what he said under oath.

The day before Special Counsel Mueller testified in the House, the FBI Director testified in front of the com-

mittee that I am on, the Senate Judiciary Committee. I was there and asked him questions. I asked him whether he thinks having things like paper ballots makes sense in the event that the Russian hacking happens again. He said: Yes, they would be a good thing. This is the FBI Director for the United States of America who was appointed by Donald Trump. Again, he was under oath.

We have multiple pieces of legislation that would require backup paper ballots. There are different versions, but they all really do the same thing. Some of them have different kinds of audits, but the one thing they have in common is the paper ballots.

I am leading one of these bills with Senator WARNER and a number of my colleagues. One of them is a bill we have with Senator WYDEN that is important, and then there is the work that Senator LANKFORD and I have done across the aisle, which is a bipartisan bill, which we continue to work on today.

But what has happened? What do all of these bills have in common? They have been blocked by the leadership on the Republican side and opposed by the White House. That is right. They weren't vetoed because they never got to the White House but because the White House made the move of stopping them in their tracks before they could get to the White House. I know because I am the ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee, and our jurisdiction is elections. Our job was to get that bill through the committee to the Senate floor. It was actually scheduled for a markup, which means you get the bill all done, and you send it to the Senate floor, where I predict it would have gotten at least three-fourths of the Members working and voting for that bipartisan bill.

What happened? The White House made calls. They made calls. The White House counsel actually called Senators on the committee and said that they didn't want it to advance. That is what we call "smoking gun" evidence. That happened. That happened. We know why this bill was blocked. In addition to that, Republican leadership, including the leader, made very clear that they did not want that bill to advance in the Senate.

Our top intelligence officials and law enforcement officers are sounding the alarm about the fact that our elections are a target. Look at what they have done. They have blocked this, despite the best advice from the intelligence officials in the United States of America.

And it doesn't stop there. It doesn't stop there. As to other bills that they will not allow to advance, one of them involves social media. You all know what it is like, when you have your Facebook page or your Twitter feed or you are searching something on Google, something comes up, and an ad pops up. Sometimes it is scarily related to something you were searching for, but, yes, ads pop up.

Well, you know what other kinds of ads pop up? Political ads pop up. Those ads are paid for by some kind of political entity. I see my friend Senator WARNER is here on this floor. He is an expert on this, as the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

As to the fact that actually some of these ads in 2016 were paid for in rubles, this is illegal. A foreign country cannot pay for ads on the internet, but they were doing that because there are no checks and balances.

So what kind of ads are on there? Well, what would you do if you were on a campaign or an issue group and you want to put a bunch of dirty ads out there? Would you do it on TV? No, you wouldn't do it on TV. If you are a foreign country, would you do that? No, because there are rules in place for TV and newspaper and radio that they have to check those ads out, and they have to keep them so people can see them, and they have to show who has paid for them. There are no rules like that on social media.

That is why I have formally introduced, with my friend Senator McCain and now with Senator GRAHAM and Senator WARNER, the Honest Ads Act, which simply puts those rules in place. Literally, if we pass that bill right now, today, before we left for the recess, well, they can get this done in the large platforms. Some of them are voluntarily doing it, but it is a mishmash, and some of them aren't doing it at all. We cannot go into this next election when last time over a billion was spent on them and next time it is \$3 billion to \$4 billion without any rules of the road.

I go back to the same argument I made. Hundreds of thousands of people risked their lives and died on battlefields to protect that right to vote and to not be influenced by foreign countries. Why aren't we doing things to protect that democracy now in this modern age?

Four little girls in a church in Birmingham lost their lives at the height of the civil rights movement. Why? Because people were trying to take away people's rights and because they didn't want them in on this democracy. That is the American history. And yes, these things we are talking about sound newfangled—cyber attacks and ads on social media—but it is actually the same version of what our Founders fought for in the very beginning, and that is why we are making such a big deal out of protecting our democracy.

Everyone remembers the 2000 election. We saw the hanging chads displayed on TVs across the country. That experience taught us that our election systems were outdated. What did Congress do back then? We passed the Help America Vote Act, landmark legislation that provided more than \$3 billion to the States, helping them to update their election structure. That was 17 years ago, before the iPhone existed, and the Federal Government has not made a big investment to update our voting technology since.

The Russians knew that when they attacked us in 2016. Well, we can't do it this way. We are not going to be able to use battleships. What way would work today? What is their big vulnerability? Let's go for the soft spot where they haven't been putting the money in to protect themselves.

They conducted sophisticated influence operations, hacked political committees and campaigns, revealed the emails of the chairman of the Democratic candidate, targeted election administrators and even private technology firms responsible for manufacturing and administering election systems. In Illinois, the names, addresses, birth dates, and partial Social Security numbers of thousands of registered voters were exposed.

Just recently, we learned that the election systems in two Florida counties were hacked by the Russians. The Department of Homeland Security is conducting forensic analysis on computers used in North Carolina after it was revealed in the Mueller report that a voting software company was hacked by Russia.

So we have a common set of facts about what has happened. What we need to do now is to address these facts with purpose. There must be an outcry about this from the American people. This must be done now, not after 2020. It has to be done now. We have a long way to go to make sure our election systems are resilient against attacks.

Here are some more facts to consider. Forty States rely on electronic voting systems that are at least 10 years old. Eleven States have either no or partial backup paper ballots. Sixteen States have no statewide audit requirement.

These are alarming statistics. I am not stating anything secret; the Russians know this today. That is why I have worked with my Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate on legislation that would provide critical election security funding in the coming years, and mostly it would be tied to a requirement that they have backup paper ballots. Otherwise, what are we going to do if we don't have those backup paper ballots if there is a hack? It doesn't even matter if three counties in a swing State were hacked if we can't figure out the results. If it were just their State elections, that would be embarrassing or pathetic, but it is going to be a national Presidential election, and we cannot risk having counties or States hacked into because then we would have chaos and not know the results.

Last week, my bill was offered by Senator SCHUMER on the floor. It could have gone to the President's desk that day. Instead, Leader MCCONNELL objected. During his objection, he said that election legislation must be drafted with "great care" and on a bipartisan basis. We did that.

Senator WARNER is here. He worked on it. We did that with Senator LANKFORD, but we were blocked at the Rules Committee. We were blocked.

That is a documented fact. The markup had been scheduled. It was ready to go. Senator BLUNT had been willing to hold a markup on the bill, and it was stopped.

I am going to tell that story every day until we advance this. I have an opportunity to do that, and I am going to do it because people need to know what is going on. This should not be about partisanship or about what benefits which party.

What were the Founders thinking when they decided to declare independence from a foreign country? They were thinking of our country as one. A ramshackle group of those early Founders, farmers and small business people, came together and said: We love this land, and we don't want to have another country influencing us.

That is exactly what this is about. Election security is national security. It is time we started acting like it. The Federal Government spends more money on military bands every year than it does on election security assistance to the States. I love military bands, but let's get real.

In 2018, we fought to get \$380 million in election funding. That was a first step. That is 3 percent of the cost of one aircraft carrier. Recently, 22 State attorneys general sent a letter asking us to take action to protect the integrity of our election structure, including the attorneys general from States such as Iowa and Mississippi. These are not blue States. They did not see this as a partisan issue. This is not about one election or one party; this is about our democracy and our national security. We need to be a united front, I say to my colleagues, a united front in fighting against those who interfere with our democracy.

I am glad to see Senator WARNER, someone who is on the frontlines every day in his very important position on the Intelligence Committee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, first of all, I want to thank my friend, the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, for her leadership and passion on this issue.

This shouldn't be that hard. I know we addressed some of the legislation she has talked about, and also earlier Senator BLUMENTHAL came to the floor as well. I think the theme you are going to hear from all three of us is that while we may have made some progress, the truth is, we are simply not doing enough to secure our election infrastructure.

There is a series of bills that I think are common sense and, if they got to the floor, would get 75 votes and maybe even more.

Over the past few weeks, I have come to the floor a couple of times to try to move by unanimous consent my legislation known as the FIRE Act. I am not going to do that this morning, but I do want to highlight this bill as one

more example of commonsense, bipartisan election security legislation that unfortunately is not getting its chance to be debated on the floor of the Senate.

The FIRE Act would simply require Presidential campaigns to do the right thing and report offers of foreign assistance—offers which are already spelled out as illegal—to the FBI. Anyone who says it does anything else, such as limiting contacts with the foreign press or limiting contact with foreign diplomats—somebody said it might eliminate communications with Dreamers—is just flat wrong.

If there are ways to improve the bipartisan legislation, I am wide open to that. I don't know how anyone could be against the idea of putting our country over narrow interests or putting our national security concerns over political advantage. In fact, a new poll last week found that 87 percent of Americans support this idea. The same poll found that an extraordinarily large majority of Americans believe that it is wrong for campaigns to accept foreign assistance and that Congress should pass legislation to secure our elections.

Unfortunately, in the nearly 3 years since we uncovered Russia's attack on our democracy, this body has not held a single vote on stand-alone legislation to protect our election security. It is true that we did approve some additional funding to secure the 2018 midterm elections, and I commend the folks at DHS for the job they did. I am proud of that. But we would be making an enormous mistake if we simply patted ourselves on the back and said that because the Russians or others didn't launch a full-frontal attack in 2018, we are safe on a going-forward basis.

Please, don't take my word for it. Let's look at what Special Prosecutor Bob Mueller said last week. He said that the Russians are continuing to attack virtually every day. The bipartisan Intelligence Committee election security report said that we have made progress, but there is more that needs to be done. Christopher Wray, the Director of the FBI, in recent testimony said this is an ongoing challenge. Dan Coats, for whom I have enormous respect and feel it is unfortunate that he left the position of Director of National Intelligence—and maybe he left because he was willing to continue to speak truth to power—said that our election security system is not secure enough. Even Gina Haspel, the Director of the CIA, has continued to point out that Russia and other foreign influences are trying to attack our democracy.

Candidly, it has been a little bit disappointing that some of my colleagues are trying to turn this into a partisan issue. Securing our democracy is not a Democratic or Republican issue. The absurdity of that is like saying: Well, maybe we should think about protecting our power grid as a partisan issue. We know and have seen evidence

of foreign efforts to try to interfere with our power grid. Well, the country steps up and puts security measures in place. Shouldn't we expect the same kind of attention and commonsense approach when we see those same foreign adversaries attack our election infrastructure? I think we do need to take that kind of step and move forward.

Senator KLOBUCHAR already made mention of some of this legislation, and I know my friend the Senator from Georgia is here, so I will try to wrap up.

There was a broad bipartisan group of Senators in the last Congress who introduced the Secure Elections Act—something I was proud to be part of. That bipartisan bill would have provided the additional resources for State and local election officials while still preserving local control of elections. What that legislation would have done was simply say that if local or State election officials want additional help from the Federal Government, they have to meet some basic, de minimis standards. We have to make sure that every polling station in America has a paper ballot backup. We have to make sure that there is appropriate auditing of how we do in our election systems.

I wish the bill would have done more and gone up the food chain to the three private companies that control 90 percent of all of our voter files. Maybe that could be action we could take in the future. If those voter files were hacked into, they wouldn't have to change the vote totals; they simply would have to move people from one voting precinct to another to create chaos on election day.

Senator KLOBUCHAR also mentioned legislation that she, Senator GRAHAM, and I worked on, a bipartisan bill to prevent disinformation—particularly on the internet—called the Honest Ads Act. It would require the same disclosure rules for political ads on Facebook that are already in place for television, radio, and newsprint.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of another bipartisan bill called the DETER Act, sponsored by Senator RUBIO and Senator VAN HOLLEN. They are absolutely right in saying that we need to put in place automatic consequences if Russia or other nations use their 2016 playbook once again to try to interfere in our 2020 elections. Let's warn our adversaries that there will be consequences if they once again try to interfere in our election process.

These are just a few of the largely bipartisan ideas with regard to protecting the United States against foreign attacks on our election systems. I am sure there would be suggestions on how we can improve this legislation. That is fine. That is what we are here to do. Let's debate, vote, and add amendments.

What we should not do is simply pretend this threat is going away. We should not simply assume that because we improved in 2018, we are safe in 2020. We should recognize that local and

State election officials need the kind of assistance, paper ballot backup, and the same responsibility that Federal campaign officials in Presidential campaigns ought to have—an affirmative duty to report. Political ads that pop up on Facebook ought to have the same kind of legal requirements that ads on television have. I don't think this is too much to ask. I think the overwhelming majority of Americans expect us to do our job on this issue.

I hope when the Senate reconvenes in September that maybe people can be refreshed by their voters back in their home States, because I am sure that when you go to whatever State and visit with folks and talk about election security, they will say to the Congress and Senate: Do your job and pass commonsense legislation.

Let's make sure our election security is absolutely as safe as it can be as we move into the 2020 elections.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, in 1974, Congress passed a new Budget Act. It was revolutionary and comprehensive. It was supposed to streamline how Congress appropriates money to fund the business of the Federal Government every year.

Unfortunately, now 45 years later, we know that bill was an unmitigated disaster. Only four times in the last 45 years since that Budget Act was passed has Congress funded the government through the appropriations process before the end of the prior fiscal year—four times.

Today is the end of July. We are about to leave Congress today, hopefully—if our Senate today gets these bills passed. Then we will go back to our States, and we will work in August. We heard a lot of people talking yesterday about what they were planning to do in their States. It is a busy month. I wish it were a vacation month, but it is not—nor should it be—given the things we have to do today.

When we come back in September, there will be 10 working days left before the end of this fiscal year, September 30—10 working days.

As I stand before this body today, this is not a partisan observation. As I stand here today, we have not appropriated \$1 for next year's budget to run the Federal Government of the United States of America. That is an indictment. It is an indictment of the process, an indictment of the Members, and an indictment of the fact that we have no consequences by not funding the government by September 30—not one.

So today we are about to do something that could cause us to actually use a continuing resolution for the 187th time, potentially, since the 1974 Budget Act passed. We now know how draconian these continuing resolutions are. I will talk about that in a minute.

Hopefully, we will vote today on a bill that is a compromise bill that actually sets the stage. It sets the upper

limit. It doesn't do the appropriating at the detail level. It sets the topline number for the fiscal year 2020, which starts October 1, 2019. That number is roughly \$1.375 trillion. I have a debt clock in my office. I can watch the national debt spin about \$100,000 a second—going up every single minute of every single day. This bill actually begins to address that. President Trump had a couple of priorities here.

Before I talk about that, I want to put in perspective what this bill actually does. We talked before about mandatory spending and discretionary spending. Again, the problem is in our Federal Government. This whole budget drama we have seen this year and every year for the last 45 years only deals with the discretionary budget, which is \$1.375 trillion for 2021.

The dotted line here is where we are for the 2019 discretionary budget. Discretionary budget is 30 percent. That is the blue line here.

The green line is the total spending of the Federal Government. Today we spend \$1.3 trillion in discretionary spending. We spend \$3.3 trillion in mandatory spending. That is a total of \$4.6 trillion.

What is in discretionary spending? Military spending and all other discretionary spending is in there: health, education, agriculture, labor, the Attorney General's office, State. All the discretionary spending is in there. Some VA expenses are in there—\$1.33 trillion.

In any business, any enterprise, or your personal budget, if you only dealt with 30 percent of what you spend in your budgeting process, wouldn't we all have a good time? It wouldn't matter how much we did on discretionary spending because we could just go borrow more money. That is what the Federal Government does.

Let me remind everybody today that we are also borrowing about 30 percent of what we spend every year—a little less than that, but we are borrowing between 25 percent and 30 percent.

Mandatory is like your home mortgage, car payment, and insurance payment. It is automatically deducted. So all these mandatory expenses that today are 70 percent of what we spend, get spent with no debate in Congress—none, zero. Why? Because it is mandatory. It gets spent like your home mortgage gets automatically deducted. Once that is done, just a few pennies are left to take care of discretionary.

The point I am trying to make is, all this drama we had this year—and every year—is over a piece of the budget that is totally borrowed. Over 90 percent of what we spend in our Federal Government's military expenses today—our national defense—is borrowed money, by definition.

Right now, what we are talking about is a spending bill that actually reduces spending for discretionary items. We are not even talking about the mandatory side, the 70 percent. If you look at the 70 percent over the



next decade or the next two decades, discretionary spending is relatively flat. These are aggregate numbers—total numbers adjusted for inflation.

The orange line is the mandatory expenses. They are projected to skyrocket here, going from about 70 percent today to almost 85 percent of every dollar the Federal Government spends in the next 20 years—from 70 percent today to well over 80 percent—to almost 85 percent by 2035, 20 years from now. I argue that is the problem. Until we address the mandatory side of our spending and save Social Security and save Medicare, we will never be able to solve this debt crisis we see before us in very real terms today.

Let's move to this bill we have today. I ran for the Senate because of the debt crisis and because of the global security crisis. This debt issue is real. I have been working on it for 4½ years. Yet this bill today actually lowers spending as a percentage of our economy. This bill proposes \$54 billion increases in discretionary spending over 2 years—2 percent per year for the next 2 years. That actually lowers spending as a percentage of our economy. As a matter of fact, since 2011—the last 10 years—what we have seen, if we do this budget, is Federal spending on discretionary items goes from 8.7 percent of our total economy down to 6 percent.

When I ran a business, I looked at my overhead. That is what this is. Overhead is declining on discretionary items as a percentage of what we spend totally and a percentage of our total economy.

President Trump had two goals. One is he wanted to continue to reduce discretionary spending as a percentage of GDP. Check that box. This bill does that. All the so-called debt hawks out there and all the budget hawks who say: I am voting no to any new spending, need to recognize that this bill actually lowers spending as a percentage of the economy.

The second objective the President had—and the Senate is just now coming to realize how draconian these 186 CRs have been over the last 45 years. The Obama administration reduced spending in the military by 25 percent. So readiness had been reduced to a point by January 1, 2017, when President Trump was inaugurated—readiness in the military had been devastated. Two-thirds of our F-18 lead fighter jets could not fly. Only three of our Army brigades could go to war that night. I saw that. I am on the Armed Services Committee. You can see when you travel the world how absolutely gutted our military had been. For the last 2 years, we have been rebuilding that, getting readiness back. In the month of June, the FA-18s got back to 80 percent readiness.

The second thing this bill does is it continues, in the second and third year, to rebuild the military after it had been gutted by the prior administration. Focus of the military today is readiness and recapitalization, which

means rebuilding burned-out equipment and absolutely rationalization.

We had the first DOD audit—thanks to President Trump—in the history of the United States. Last November, President Trump, after telling the DOD we would have that—by the way, there was a law that passed in 1981 that said we would have a DOD audit. President Trump is the first President in U.S. history that provided that. We now have that and understand opportunities to rationalize our spending.

When you look at this vote, you look at making decisions in life. There are two choices—two votes—that lead to three potential outcomes today. A “yes” vote continues to support the military and defend our country at a level that meets the near-peer competitors’ level of volume. When adjusted for purchasing power parity, China, today, is actually spending the same amount on their military as we are. They can get there quicker because they don’t have the regulatory overhang that we have in the United States, but a vote yes means that we continue to do that; we continue to lower discretionary spending as a percentage of our economy; and we set the stage to, then again, begin to have the hard conversation of how we save Social Security and save Medicare. The major thing it does is it avoids the drama around not funding the government. It gives us a chance, anyway, to fund our government before October 1. Remember, September 30 ends this fiscal year.

A “no” vote has two potential outcomes. A “no” vote could lead to a sequestration. People say that cuts 10 percent out of all spending. That sounds good to me. The reality is that happened over the last decade. We see now the draconian impact that had on certain parts of our discretionary spending like military—veterans and so forth—so we had to come back and rebuild. When you come back and have to rebuild it, it costs dramatically much more. That is the point.

If we take a long-term view of this, we have to end up voting yes to this. The second outcome of a “no” vote is actually more of the same.

Well, we will avoid sequestration, but we will pass a continuing resolution and kick the can down the road again for the 187th time. It sounds easy. Everybody gets to go home. We pass a CR. Yet the military gets gutted again—devastated. It disrupts the supply chain and keeps our vendors from hiring people.

Imagine if you are a midcareer military officer or noncommissioned officer—imagine what that tells you about what we think of our military and our men and women. I hear people on both sides beat their chest: “I love our military.” “We have to support our military.” Then they vote no on a bill like this. We cannot let that happen.

Ironically, because of the two alternatives, a “no” vote is actually a vote to increase spending dramatically—not

just a little bit but dramatically—over the next decade or so.

This bill is a compromise. People back home tell us to come here and work with the other side and compromise and make decisions and get to a result. We just did that. President Trump and Speaker PELOSI just did that. That is what this is reflective of. I am here to tell you today that it is our job to back that up.

In closing, it is imperative that we get this bill passed, allow our appropriators to get busy and start appropriating, so by September 30—the end of this fiscal year—we have a chance to get the government funded. We know a “no” vote leads to more spending. It is our responsibility to be fiscally responsible, and I think a “yes” vote here does just that.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Connecticut.

**Mr. MURPHY.** Madam President, I am on the floor today to talk about a crisis overseas.

Before I do, I just want to take one moment. The Senator from Georgia talked about the increases in defense spending that we have done on a bipartisan basis and suggested that it was the prior administration that had gutted defense spending. That is not true. I think we should clear the record about that.

In fact, in the first 3 years of the Obama administration, defense spending was on the rise. It was the election of a Republican Congress that led to what we call sequestration—the downward descent of discretionary spending of both defense and nondefense dollars.

To the extent that my colleagues are worried about what happened to defense spending in the last 10 years, there is only one explanation for that; that is, the election of Republicans to the House of Representatives in 2010 and their demand that in order to vote for an increase in the debt ceiling, discretionary spending had to be slashed. In the first several years of the Obama administration, defense spending was on the rise.

**YEMEN**

Madam President, I am on the floor to once again talk about a dire humanitarian nightmare happening on the other side of the world in a country called Yemen, the U.S. complicity in that horror, and the national security disaster that comes with staying involved in this war.

I could have brought a bunch of much more disturbing charts to the floor to talk about the world’s worst humanitarian disaster—a country in and on the brink of famine and with a cholera epidemic that the world has never ever seen before in recorded history. Instead, I chose to bring you a picture of a child with his back turned to you in order to spare you the worst of this nightmare.

Before we break, I am here to make an urgent plea to my colleagues because, as bad as the situation is today,

it is about to get much worse over the course of the summer and this fall. There are millions of Yemenis who are going to die if we don't make some decisions and pressure our allies to make some decisions in the coming days. The reason for this is simple.

At the beginning of this year, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which are the primary military partners with the United States in Yemen, made a pledge they have made in the past, which is that while they would be dropping bombs and fighting battles on the ground in Yemen, they would be putting up money to make sure that people would be fed and that children would be immunized. They made that pledge at the beginning of this year. We are now halfway through the year, and the UAE and the Saudis have reneged on that pledge.

Saudi Arabia pledged \$750 million to the United Nations. It still owes, today, \$630 million. The UAE pledged \$750 million. It still owes, today, \$500 million. They have always been tough negotiators and have been difficult to get the money from, but this year is different. This year, 6 months in, the Saudis and the Emirates are essentially saying: We are not giving the U.N. its money.

If you meet with them, they will tell you that they are spending that money in other ways, that they are working with other partners inside Yemen to do the same kind of work. Don't let them put that argument over on you. There is no one in Yemen who can do the nutrition work, the healthcare work, or the anti-cholera work that the U.N. can and does. There are no other partners who have the capacity to keep people alive like the U.N. You can't just create and stand up that capacity outside of the United Nations.

If Saudi Arabia and the UAE were not planning on giving the U.N. the money, then they shouldn't have promised it at the beginning of the year. The U.N. went out and built infrastructure. It hired partners based on those pledges. If the Emirates and the Saudis were not planning on giving the money, then they shouldn't have promised it at the beginning of this year.

Let me tell you what is happening right now inside Yemen.

Work has been suspended on 30 new feeding centers in the most famine-stricken parts of Yemen.

Vaccinations have been suspended for 13 million people, which increases the risk for things like measles and malaria.

The procurement of new medical supplies and equipment has been suspended.

UNICEF has stopped its clean water and sanitation services for 8.4 million people, including 3 million kids, which means more cholera, and cholera is already on the rise. There have been more cholera cases reported in the first half of this year than had been reported in all of 2018. There have been half a million new cases of cholera just in the first 6 months of this year.

A U.N.-supported treatment plant that purifies water for agriculture has started to shut down as well, meaning an additional 4 million people could be eating vegetables that are irrigated with dirty water.

Starting very soon, the World Food Programme will not be able to buy vouchers for 3 million people.

Sixty more feeding centers will close in the coming weeks.

The World Food Programme has stopped providing nutrient bars to 2.6 million malnourished women and children, which will tip them now into the category of "severely malnourished," just like this child is.

The U.N. is going to have to stop providing fuel for hospital generators.

There are 35,000 cancer patients who will stop receiving treatment.

I could go on and on and on.

Why are we standing here? Why aren't we all pressing our friends—the Saudis, our allies, the Emirates—to come up with this money? While we all enjoy our August recess, there are going to be millions of children in Yemen who will look like this who don't look like this today. There will be hundreds of thousands who will either die or reach the brink of death all because of a war that the United States has perpetuated and because of funding commitments that can't keep all of these people alive, that can't save all of these children's lives but that could save tens of thousands of lives if our friends, our allies, would simply do the right thing.

I am furious about this, my colleagues, because I don't know what the Trump administration is getting for this bear hug it has put around Saudi Arabia. After the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, we transferred to it more nuclear technology and sold it more weapons. Maybe the hope was, in exchange for that, Saudi Arabia would do something about the humanitarian nightmare, but it is making it worse. Saudi Arabia is getting everything from us, and it is not even feeding the people on the ground in Yemen who are dying as we speak.

At a 2015 campaign rally in Alabama, the President said: I get along great with the Saudis. They buy apartments from me. They spend, like, \$40 million, \$50 million. Am I supposed to dislike them? I like them very much.

From 2016 to 2017, a lobbying firm connected to the Saudi Government paid \$270,000 to the Trump International Hotel in DC. In 2018, a 5-day visit from Saudi officials to the Trump International Hotel in New York City helped to boost the hotel's quarterly revenue by 13 percent.

Boy, I hope this isn't the reason the administration isn't pressing the Saudis harder to come up with their funding commitment, but the President has been pretty clear that the Saudis send him and his family a lot of money. He has been open about that. I hope this is not the reason for our not forcing our partners to step up. This is

life-or-death time right now. If the administration is not going to do it, then we will have to do it. Members of Congress will have to do it.

I hope, before my colleagues go home and enjoy some rest and relaxation over the month of August, they will get on the phone with their friends in the Saudi Government, that they will get on the phone with the Emirates Government, and that they will get on the phone with the Trump administration and tell them that it is time to pony up the money they have pledged.

The United States is the No. 1 donor, but we could do more. The Saudis and the Emirates have come through on a quarter of the money they have promised, and the consequences of that continuing are absolutely nightmarish. So, before we go home for our break, let's do something to make sure that a handful more of these kids are alive when we come back.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

H.R. 3877

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, some say it is irresponsible not to raise the debt ceiling. Well, true fiscal conservatives say it is irresponsible to raise the debt ceiling without any reform of our profligate spending ways. To allow the debt ceiling to go up an infinite amount—as much as Congress can possibly spend and borrow over a nearly 2-year period—is fiscally irresponsible and has never been seen in our history. This may well be the most fiscally irresponsible thing we have done in the history of the United States.

The Federal Government is currently spending nearly \$2 million every minute. Don't let anybody fool you—this is a spending problem. The annual deficit this year will exceed \$1.2 trillion. What is irresponsible is recklessly indenturing our children and our grandchildren. What is irresponsible is binding our kids to this massive burden of debt. What is irresponsible is a Congress that believes it is Santa Claus and that it can be everything to everyone and that everything is free.

At least the Democrats are honest. The Democrats don't care about deficits, and they will tell you that to your face. The Democrats, in fact, are falling all over themselves to propose more than \$50 trillion in new spending in addition to the trillion-dollar annual deficits. They want to add \$50 trillion in spending.

Yet it is not just the Democrats. The Republicans are also guilty—at least the Big Government Republicans who will vote for this monstrous addition of debt. Many of the supporters of this debt deal ran around their States for years and complained that President Obama was spending too much and borrowing too much. These same Republicans now—the whole disingenuous lot of them—will wiggle their way to the front of the spending trough to vote for as much or more debt than President Obama ever added.



Get this. All of those who said the debt was bad under President Obama will today snuggle their way up, wiggle their way up to the spending trough, and they will do exactly what they condemned under President Obama. Shame. Shame on the politicians who have campaigned as conservatives but who have governed as big spenders.

America, wake up. The two parties are often one. The two parties that ostensibly fight are in reality one party of big spenders, separated only by where they want to spend the money.

The media reports of a lack of compromise. The opposite is true. There is too much compromise, and the compromise is always more debt, more porkbarrel spending, and more burden for our kids.

Yet there is another path. There is another form of compromise. Instead of compromising to raise spending for guns and butter, we could compromise to hold the line on all spending. Just a mere 2-percent cut in spending would balance the budget over a 5-year period—1 or 2 pennies out of a dollar. You get to spend 98 percent of what you spent last year, and we balance the budget. Yet that is never enough because these people are not honest with you. They are not willing to hold the line. They want more, more, more. More spending, though, means more debt, and that is what we are getting. So what I offer today is a compromise.

The right would have to deal with less military spending. The right says: Oh, we don't have enough. Perhaps the mission is too big for the budget. It isn't a lack of money. We spend more money on the military than the next 10 countries combined. We spend more money on the military than all of Europe spends. It isn't a lack of money; it is that the mission is too large. Why do we have troops in 50 of 55 African countries? Why are we involved in every civil war on the globe? We need to question what our mission is. The left would have to accept less welfare spending or at least hold the line and get 98 percent of what it spent last year on welfare. The right would have to spend 98 percent of what it spent on the military last year. Guess what. We would balance the budget.

My amendment is called cut, cap, and balance. When the balanced budget is passed and sent to the States, when spending caps are in place and when spending has been cut, then and only then would we raise the debt ceiling. This is the only responsible way of dealing with this. It is irresponsible to give a blank check to a government that has shown itself to be so reckless and for it to so recklessly disregard any kind of sense of sanity with regard to the budget.

Today's votes, though, will be a litmus test for fiscal conservatism. Those Senators who vote for an unlimited increase in the debt ceiling are not and have no right to call themselves conservatives.

America, wake up, watch the votes today, and discover who actually gives

a damn about the future of our country.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 932

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 932.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 932 to H.R. 3877.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2019".

#### SEC. 2. DEBT LIMIT INCREASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date described in subsection (b), the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased by \$500,000,000,000.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The date described in this subsection is the earliest of the date on which the Archivist of the United States transmits to the States S. J. Res. 3 (116th Congress) in the form introduced on January 4, 2019, S. J. Res. 5 (116th Congress) in the form introduced on January 24, 2019, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or a similar amendment to the Constitution of the United States if the amendment requires that total outlays not exceed total receipts, contains a spending limitation as a percentage of the gross domestic product, and requires that tax increases be approved by a two-thirds vote in both Houses of Congress for their ratification.

#### SEC. 3. LIMIT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would cause the total amount of on-budget spending for any of fiscal years 2020 through 2029 to exceed the amount specified in paragraph (2) with respect to such fiscal year.

(2) CAPS.—The amount specified in this paragraph is the following:

(A) With respect to fiscal year 2020, \$3,435,880,000,000.

(B) With respect to fiscal year 2021, \$3,367,160,000,000.

(C) With respect to fiscal year 2022, \$3,299,820,000,000.

(D) With respect to fiscal year 2023, \$3,233,820,000,000.

(E) With respect to fiscal year 2024, \$3,169,150,000,000.

(F) With respect to fiscal year 2025, \$3,232,530,000,000.

(G) With respect to fiscal year 2026, \$3,297,180,000,000.

(H) With respect to fiscal year 2027, \$3,363,120,000,000.

(I) With respect to fiscal year 2028, \$3,430,390,000,000.

(J) With respect to fiscal year 2029, \$3,498,990,000,000.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) SENATE.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

(2) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the House of Representatives only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) POINT OF ORDER PROTECTION.—In the House of Representatives, it shall not be in order to consider a rule or order that waives the application of subparagraph (A).

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Democratic leader is recognized.

H.R. 3877

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a short time the Senate will vote on final passage of a bipartisan agreement to lift the budget caps for 2 years and extend the debt ceiling. It is an agreement that will strengthen our national security and provide our troops with the resources they need to do a very difficult and often dangerous job. Importantly, it will clear the way for critical investments in America's middle class, as well as for those struggling to get to the middle class, in healthcare, education, childcare, cancer research, our veterans, and more.

For too long, the arbitrary, draconian limits of sequester have hampered our ability to invest in working Americans and our military readiness. This deal ends the threat of sequester permanently. That is huge.

As large forces erode the financial security of the middle class—globalization, automation, technological advancement—one of the only forces large enough to push back on the side of the middle class and help them is the Federal Government.

Investing in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and childcare is how we give middle-class Americans greater security and give Americans struggling to get into the middle class a ladder up—something this government has done for decades and decades but hasn't been doing very well since the sequester has been in effect.

The sequester has hamstrung our ability to make investments in the middle class for 8 years—but no longer. Thank God.

Not only does this agreement end the sequester, it includes a significant increase in support for domestic priorities. In fact, the budget deal increases domestic budget authority \$10 billion more than defense. In the 3 years of Trump's Presidency and a Republican Senate, Democrats have secured over \$100 billion in increases for domestic programs. That means additional resources for the States to combat the opioid epidemic; support for VA hospitals caring for our veterans; cancer

research and other critical medical research that have saved the lives of literally millions; climate and clean energy technology; reducing the burden of college debt; infrastructure and transportation improvements.

So this \$100 billion is not abstract. It means jobs; it means ladders up; and it means hope for the American people, who are often pushed around by forces much larger than themselves.

Finally, this legislation lays the groundwork to avoid another government shutdown and will preserve the full faith and credit of the United States.

As my colleagues know well, the House has already passed this legislation and recessed for the State work period. The President supports it. Reportedly he is calling Members to encourage them to vote yes. The final piece to this puzzle is the Senate's stamp of approval.

I want to salute Senator LEAHY, our ranking member, all of the members of the Appropriations Committee, and all of those who came up with this bipartisan agreement.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote yes. Let's give our military, our middle class a boost before the Senate adjourns 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

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

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

#### VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 932

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the Paul Amendment No. 932.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 23, nays 70, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 260 Leg.]

#### YEAS—23

Barrasso	Ernst	Risch
Blackburn	Fischer	Romney
Braun	Johnson	Rubio
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sasse
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Young
Enzi	Paul	

#### NAYS—70

Alexander	Hassan	Reed
Baldwin	Hawley	Roberts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Jones	Shaheen
Capito	Kaine	Shelby
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Sullivan
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Thune
Cortez Masto	McSally	Tillis
Cotton	Menendez	Udall
Cramer	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Gardner	Perdue	Wyden
Graham	Peters	
Grassley	Portman	

#### NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Harris	Warren
Booker	Isakson	
Gillibrand	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 23, the nays are 70.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 932) was rejected.

The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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 Calendar No. 165, H.R. 3877, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

Lamar Alexander, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Susan M. Collins, Tom Cotton, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Bill Cassidy, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Rob Portman, Lisa Murkowski, Mitch McConnell.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 3877, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985,

to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Leg.]

#### YEAS—67

Alexander	Graham	Portman
Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Roberts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Shaheen
Cantwell	Jones	Shelby
Capito	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Markey	Sullivan
Collins	McConnell	Thune
Coons	McSally	Udall
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Cramer	Moran	Whitehouse
Crapo	Murkowski	Wicker
Duckworth	Murphy	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	Young
Ernst	Perdue	
Feinstein	Peters	

#### NAYS—27

Bennet	Gardner	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Johnson	Rubio
Carper	Kennedy	Sasse
Cotton	Klobuchar	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lee	Tester
Enzi	Manchin	Tillis
Fischer	Paul	Toomey

#### NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Harris	Sanders
Gillibrand	Isakson	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 67, the nays are 27.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I support the bipartisan budget deal that will extend the debt ceiling and lift the current budgets caps for the next 2 years.

This important deal will avoid harmful cuts to domestic priorities, prevent a default on our Nation's debt, and finally allow appropriators to get to work on this year's appropriations bills to fund the government.

Despite proposing draconian cuts in his budget, I am glad that President Trump has agreed to join Democrats in permanently ending the threat of sequester.

For too long, sequestration has handcuffed Congress's ability to make investments in middle-class priorities that advance the health, financial security, and well-being of the American people.

I am pleased that this agreement goes even further than previous budget deals by increasing nondefense spending by \$10 billion more than defense spending.

With this budget deal, Democrats have secured an increase of more than \$100 billion in funding for domestic priorities since President Trump took office.

I am especially pleased that this budget deal will allow us to continue making the big investments in medical research conducted at the National Institutes of Health, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that will improve and save lives.

Because of NIH funding, new treatments have been developed that reduced cancer deaths more than 25 percent over past two decades.

Thirty years ago, HIV was a death sentence. Because of NIH funding, that is no longer the case.

Because of NIH-funded research, deaths from heart disease and stroke have fallen by nearly 80 percent since 1970.

Because of NIH funding, we are on the verge of curing—yes, curing—sickle cell anemia.

Consider this: Between 2010 and 2016, the Food and Drug Administration approved more than 200 new drugs and treatments for use in the United States; every single one of them was developed with NIH dollars.

Congress has recognized the importance of NIH, which is why we have, on a bipartisan basis, provided the NIH with \$9 billion in additional funding over the past 4 years, a 30 percent increase in that time.

This agreement will allow us to continue those vital investments.

Most importantly, this agreement will help prevent another harmful government shutdown from occurring this fall.

While not perfect, this budget deal will finally allow Congress to get to work on this year's appropriations bills and invest in the programs that the American people rely on.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in passing this agreement with overwhelming bipartisan support.

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

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Alexander	Graham	Portman
Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Roberts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Shaheen
Cantwell	Jones	Shelby
Capito	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Sullivan
Coons	McConnell	Thune
Cornyn	McSally	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cramer	Merkley	Warner
Crapo	Moran	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Ernst	Murray	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	
Gillibrand	Peters	

NAYS—28

Bennet	Gardner	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Johnson	Sasse
Carper	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Tester
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	Paul	
Fischer	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Isakson	Warren
Harris	Sanders	

The bill (H.R. 3877) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam 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.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, when the Senate gavels out at the end of this day, Members will head home for the August work period to spend time with our constituents and family. I, for one, am eager to get back home to Texas and spend time with folks in about every region in my State. I have the honor of representing roughly 28 million people, and it takes a little bit of time and effort to get around the State, but I am looking forward to it.

I will have the chance to highlight some of the work that we have been

doing here in Washington and, yes, hear from my constituents, my fellow Texans, on what they care most about, what they agree with, what they disagree with, and everything in between.

With the passage of this bipartisan budget deal, we have now taken care of our final piece of business for this work period. The funding agreement we just passed will provide stability for our Nation through 2020 and deliver on some of the administration's key priorities. It has been the result of extensive negotiations between President Trump and Speaker PELOSI and represents a compromise between two sides that typically don't agree on much, and, yes, "compromise" is still not a dirty word. It is the only way things get done around here.

Obviously, this agreement is not perfect. That is the nature of compromise and the hallmark of responsible government. By passing this funding agreement, we are avoiding the possibility of a government shutdown again this fall. Instead, it provides us the time and space for wide-ranging debate about our government's spending habits. As our national deficit continues to grow, that could not be more critical.

I was glad to see that through the President's tough negotiations, it prevents 30 poison pills—or policy riders—from reaching the President's desk. It is no secret that our friends across the aisle have tried their best to eliminate the Hyde amendment, which, since 1976, has defined a consensus that no taxpayer funds be provided for abortions. That argument is over until 2020.

We also know there will be no Green New Deal done—no undoing of the President's regulatory reform through the backdoor.

Most importantly though, this funding agreement invests in our military. If there is one priority for what we ought to be doing here as elected representatives in the Federal Government, it is to provide for the common defense and for our national security.

This funding agreement provides the Pentagon with the predictability and flexibility they need in order to keep our country safe today and tomorrow. A predictable and steady budget gives our military leaders the ability to plan for the future and allows them to invest in the innovative and cutting-edge tools our servicemembers need and ensure that when the call comes, we are ready.

I was proud to support this funding agreement, and I am glad it is now headed to the White House for the President's signature.

## DEBBIE SMITH ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the last few months, I have spoken at length on the Senate floor about a bill I introduced earlier this year to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act—legislation to help us end the nationwide rape kit backlog.

This legislation carries the name of a fierce and courageous woman—a sexual

assault survivor whose advocacy was born of her personal experience.

Three decades ago, Debbie Smith was taken from her home and taken to a wooded area where she was robbed and raped by an unknown attacker. She reported the crime to police and went to the emergency room for a forensic exam, but because of the rape kit backlog, she had to wait 6½ years before finally receiving the call that her attacker had been identified through a DNA test.

During that time, she lived in constant fear, wondering who he was, where he was, and whether he would return to hurt her again. Identifying offenders through DNA evidence is critical to providing not only justice but peace of mind for those assaulted and delivering justice to victims, and, yes, even exonerating the innocent. The power of DNA testing is such that it can essentially rule out people from being the alleged assailant or the actual assailant. So this is really important for a number of reasons.

Sharing this information across State lines through the Federal system can help us identify repeat offenders who would otherwise go undetected. Knowing the potential impact, Debbie became one of our Nation's most vocal advocates for eliminating rape kit backlogs, including the reprehensible rape kit backlog I have been speaking about.

In 2004, a bill that carries her name was signed into law to help local and State crime labs partner with Federal law enforcement to receive resources to end the Federal DNA evidence backlog. It is because of the Debbie Smith Act that more than a billion dollars has been provided to forensic labs across the country.

Since 2005, more than 860,000 DNA cases have been processed, accounting for 43 percent of all forensic profiles in the FBI's DNA database.

The Debbie Smith Act has also been central in eliminating the rape kit backlog in my home State of Texas, which had reached the point of more than 20,000 untested kits at one point earlier this decade.

As I said at the beginning, I introduced the Debbie Smith Act of 2019 to reauthorize this important funding stream that supports the auditing, testing, and sharing of DNA evidence so we can eliminate that backlog and ensure that it will not grow again in the future. The benefits of continuing the programs created under the original Debbie Smith Act cannot be overstated, and we must get this important legislation to the President's desk before it expires at the end of September.

Since it was first enacted in 2004, the Debbie Smith Act has never lapsed or expired, and there is no excuse for allowing it to expire or lapse this year. This bill is not controversial; it is not partisan; and it is not divisive. In fact, when it came to the Senate floor, not a single Senator voted against it.

Since we passed the legislation in May, the House of Representatives has

sat on its hands and has done nothing. After repeated requests from myself, our other colleagues, and countless victims' advocates, Speaker PELOSI has refused to bring the Debbie Smith Act up for a vote.

Earlier this week, the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents more than 348,000 members, sent a letter to Speaker PELOSI and Leader MCCARTHY urging the House to move this legislation.

We also heard from the National District Attorneys Association, RAINN, the Sergeants Benevolent Association, and several other law enforcement and victims' rights groups which are fully supportive of this legislation. All of us are ready for the House to act.

I urge Speaker PELOSI to take up the Debbie Smith Act once the House returns to Washington in September and before it expires or lapses. It is simply unconscionable to let unrelated partisan bickering stop a bill that brings justice to victims.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, first, I want to compliment the leadership in being able to come together on a budget agreement. This was a good day for the Senate, a good day for Congress, and a good day for the American people.

We now have predictable spending caps not only for the fiscal year that begins October 1 but for the following year. This is good news. It provides the predictability we need in order to have early process for the consideration of the appropriations bills. When we return in September, it is our anticipation that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will be hard at work, and we will have an opportunity to get our work done prior to the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1.

I want to explain why I think this was the right vote and why I proudly supported it. It provides a reasonable growth rate for discretionary spending. If you look at the trend line over several decades, you will find that discretionary spending has become a smaller and smaller part of the Federal budget. We held back on discretionary spending in this country, whether it is defense or nondefense needs, and those needs have grown.

We have not kept up with the needs of funding these programs. This budget agreement will now give us the opportunity to set priorities and move forward with many important programs that are funded by discretionary spending. Once again, discretionary spending has grown much slower than the growth rate of our budget, generally.

It is a reasonable expectation that we can meet the needs of the people of this country by allowing some growth. What does it mean? Well, this past week, the Environment and Public Works Committee has recommended a

transportation reauthorization bill for service transportation that would grow by about 10 percent. I think everyone in this Chamber understands that we have tremendous unmet needs in transportation infrastructure in this country. These caps give us a better opportunity of meeting those types of needs.

Tomorrow I will be in the city of Bowie—which is not far from here—meeting with the mayor who has a simple request: His drinking water pipes need major maintenance or replacement. There is not enough capacity within the ratepayers in order to be able to do that work. He needs the Federal partnership, State-revolving funds, or other areas in order to help fund a modern water infrastructure so we have safe drinking water in our community.

These budget caps, again, give us the opportunity to move forward on programs like that so the Federal Government can help us meet our needs.

I am proud, in the State of Maryland, that we have the National Institutes of Health located and headquartered in our State. We are all very proud of the work they do. They are unlocking the mystery of diseases in this country. We need to fund them. At the present time, so many worthwhile grant applications go unmet and unfilled that could discover how we could deal with some of the most dreaded diseases in our country. Funding NIH is in our national interest, but we have been held back because of the budget caps that have been in place. This allows us now to move forward with that priority.

This is the year we prepare for the census. We only do that every 10 years. We take the census of our country. This budget will allow the Census Bureau to have the tools so we can accurately count the people in this country. Why is that important? The Constitution says it is important. It is important so we have proper legislative representation in the congressional districts as well as in the State legislatures. That gives us the numbers so the communities are properly represented and so their voices can be adequately heard. It is also used for distribution of Federal funds so proper distribution can be made to the people of this country. I can go on with a whole list of issues that are important. Each one is important.

We will set the priorities, whether it is childcare or dealing with our veterans. We all talk about how we want to do what is right for our veterans. We know there are a lot of unmet needs. This budget will allow us to move forward in that area.

I am proud to represent the State of Maryland that has major urban centers. This bill will allow us to deal with some of the challenges we have in our urban centers.

I also represent rural Maryland. This bill will allow us to move forward with their needs. We will be able to move forward on education, which should be our top priority. It is a great equalizer in this country.

Now the appropriators have to make those judgments on the priorities, and we will have to reconcile between the House and Senate and get the President's signature.

That is what we should be doing—setting the priorities for our country but having a reasonable pool of money to deal with discretionary spending. We have been denied that for many years. Now we have the opportunity to do what Congress should do and set the priorities for this country.

In addition, we have the drug problems. I probably have more meetings in my State on dealing with the drug crisis. It is in every community in Maryland and this Nation. I hope we will see increased Federal participation in that area.

Another part of the budget agreement was to extend the debt limit for 2 years. This, to me, is one of the absurdities of what we do on debt limits. We incur money—we incur debt—and then we put a limit as to whether we will pay for the bills we incurred. You don't default on your debt. That is not what America is about. We have to control what we spend, but we have to pay for what we spend. We have to honor our debt. Our credit ratings were at risk. The Secretary of Treasury made this one of his top priorities. I agreed with him on this issue. Now we no longer have the fear that America will not honor its debt.

The bill also gets rid of sequestration. Good riddance. This was put in as a placeholder for us to deal with the budget deficit. It didn't work in that way. All it did was cause uncertainty, and in many respects, it would have required across-the-board cuts. That is not the way we should do business. We have to make decisions. Sequestration could have been used for us to avoid making the tough decisions. We have to do that ourselves.

The bottom line is the budget agreement gets rid of that and gives us a much better chance of avoiding a government shutdown, which makes absolutely no sense at all, and of, hopefully, not having to deal with continuing resolutions. Continuing resolutions put us on autopilot because we can't pass a budget. Now, I hope we will be able to pass budgets and avoid not only shutdowns but continuing resolutions.

I want to emphasize this point. Discretionary spending has become a smaller part of the overall budget of this country. It has been a shrieking song. So why do we have growing deficits? By the way, discretionary spending is at historically low levels in this country. Revenues, unfortunately, are also at historically low levels. In other words, we are not raising the traditional amount of revenue that is necessary for us to pay our bills.

I come from a family who believes you have to pay your bills. I think it is wrong for us to spend money today and ask our children and grandchildren to pay for our current spending. We should have the courage to provide the

revenues that are necessary to pay our bills. Instead, what have we done? We have cut revenues again and again so our deficit today is not sustainable. We have to deal with it.

The major culprit has been these irresponsible tax cuts, the last of which went primarily to the wealthiest people in the country. According to the Congressional Budget Office, it will add \$1.9 trillion to the deficit over the next decade. That is the culprit of the deficits, and that is what we should be dealing with.

I have heard a lot of my colleagues come in here and lament this agreement. They have said it is going to add to the deficit. Some of these people are the same people who voted for the tax cut. Let's be direct about this. We have to have the revenues that are necessary to pay for what we incur in spending.

Yes, there is another area in which we can do better, and that is in healthcare spending, much of which is mandatory spending, not discretionary spending. These are the appropriations that have to be made. We can do a much better job of reining in the cost of healthcare. We had a chance to do that this week, but we didn't take full advantage of that.

I am a member of the Senate Committee on Finance. We passed a bill to deal with the escalating costs of prescription drugs. Today, in Maryland, I have been told one out of every four healthcare dollars is spent on medicines. We pay so much more in America for medicines than do the other industrialized nations of the world.

Yes, we have recommended to the Senate body a bill to deal with the cost of prescription medicines. It will deal with the issue of putting a cap on the escalation of the current drug prices. It will put a cap on the out-of-pocket costs that the people on Medicare Part D will have to pay. That is good. Those are two good things.

We had a chance to really make a difference by eliminating the prohibition in the current law that prevents Medicare from negotiating the costs of medicines. Think about that for one moment. Where else do we do that? We tell businesses they can't leverage all of their buying to get the lowest possible prices, and we tell Medicare it can't leverage the total market it is paying in order to get the best price on prescription medicines.

What does that mean? That means we are overpaying. Whether you are paying it in Part D premiums, whether you are paying it in private insurance premiums, or whether you are paying it as a taxpayer, we are paying too much for medicines. It is the primary reason the international price on medicines is so much lower than what we pay in America.

We had a chance to deal with it this week, and we didn't. We will have another opportunity when the bill comes to the floor, and I hope we will do the right thing by removing the prohibi-

tion that is in the current law on negotiating price.

I am very pleased we got this budget agreement done. No, I am not pleased about the deficit, but I recognize that we need to deal with revenues and that we need to deal with costs like prescription drugs, which were not part of today's vote. I hope, when we return in September, the good will we have used in order to get this budget agreement done will continue and that the appropriators will be able to reconcile their appropriations bills before October 1 so we will not need continuing resolutions and so there will be no threat of a government shutdown.

I hope we will have the same type of bipartisan commitment by which people have expressed their outrage on the growth of the deficit in order to deal with the real causes of the deficit. We will have a chance on prescription medicines to deal with those costs. Let's have the courage to sit down and make sure we raise the revenues we need in order to pay for our expenses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST MICHAEL ISAIAH NANCE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise on my behalf and on the behalf of Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH to express my condolences to the family of SPC Michael Isaiah Nance. He and fellow paratrooper, PFC Brandon Jay Kreischer, of Ohio, gave their lives in service to our country on July 29 in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

The early reports on their deaths are that they were shot by an Afghan soldier at a military base—a so-called green on blue attack. The incident is under investigation. Isaiah was 24 years old. Isaiah was the 96th Illinois servicemember to have been killed in Afghanistan since our invasion began in 2001, and he is 1 of 2,289 American troops who have died there since that invasion. He was a proud and outstanding member of the 82nd Airborne. Since enlisting in 2017, he earned the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge, and he qualified as a Basic Parachutist.

As a member of the Nance family noted, "He loved his country and wanted to serve his country. He died doing something that he loved."

Isaiah arrived in Afghanistan just a few weeks ago, shortly after a trip to Europe with his mother Shawn Gregoire. He and thousands of other Americans who are still there were deployed in support of our NATO-led mission to train, advise, and assist the Afghan Army, a mission known as Operation Freedom's Sentinel. As fate would have it, when uniformed Army personnel arrived at his house to break this terrible news to his family, much of the family had already gathered after having attended the funeral of the Nances' great-grandfather, Sam

Forest, Jr., who had served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war.

As one member of Isaiah's family noted, "It was the worst day in our family's history."

Isaiah was raised by his mother and grandparents in Chatham, which is on the South Side of Chicago. He attended college in Florida. After 2 years, he insisted to his mother that he wanted to join the Army. He wanted to continue his family's tradition of military service not only as his great-grandfather had but also as several members of his family still do in the Chicago Police Department.

He told his mother he wanted to pursue his dream. He promised her that after it was over, he would finish his degree. Shortly after enlisting, he completed basic training and earned his wings at the Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA. He became an Automatic Rifleman who was assigned to Company B, First Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the storied 82nd Airborne Division.

The motto of the 82nd Airborne is "Airborne all the way." Isaiah lived every bit of this motto in his faithful service to America and with his family and friends. He enjoyed wrestling, traveling the world, and cheering for his beloved Chicago White Sox. He was a foodie. He loved good soul food. Perhaps, most especially, he loved spending time with his younger brother.

As a member of his family noted, he was "energetic, athletic, funny, humble"—all of the things you would want your kid to be.

Every Member of the Senate would be proud to have a son like Isaiah. All of the Members join me in expressing their condolences to his family at this painful moment and in grieving with them over Isaiah's bright light—ended all too soon.

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

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

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, we just had our last vote here in the Senate before going into the August recess, and I am looking forward to being home in Ohio during the week. I come here during the week and go home on the weekends, but during this August recess period, it gives me a chance to get all around the State because we are home during the workweek.

I will be in a few dozen counties by the end of the recess, but I am going to start by being at the Ohio State Fair tomorrow. Tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m., we have the biggest ag event in the State, which is our annual ag

breakfast. I will be hearing from farmers from all over the State.

It has been a tough year for us in Ohio. Because of all the water, we have had lots of farmers who weren't able to plant their crops, and, therefore, there are some fields that are bare. Others who did plant their crops have found that their crops aren't doing very well because of all of the water damage early in the year.

So it has been a hard year, and, frankly, it has been a hard few years in terms of the price, particularly, of corn and soybeans. On top of that, we have less exports of soybeans, which I hope is now being addressed with the new agreements being made with relation to China in particular, but that has put pressure on price, because without having those additional overseas markets, it has had the effect of lowering the price, particularly for soybeans and corn. On top of that, it has just been generally a tough time in farm country in terms of the price of inputs going up and the price of the product being flat.

So my hope is that tomorrow I will get more input from farmers all across the State, and we will be able to continue to talk about the things we are doing.

I supported the U.S. Department of Agriculture providing some emergency loans and grants to Ohio farmers to get us through this season to avoid bankruptcies and to get people back on their feet. That money is now beginning to flow, I am happy to say. We are beginning to see some progress. The new farm bill is helping.

So my hope is that we will see better weather here going into the end of the season for these crops, that the harvest season will be better, and that we will be able to get back on our feet.

Also tomorrow, after touring the fair, I will be having some meetings with the business community, talking about what is working and what is not working in terms of regulations and taxes.

I will also be meeting with business leadership about how to get these new opportunity zones in the tax bill up and going. At those meetings, we will have community leaders and we will have people from neighborhoods that have had a tough time. Even during the economic growth, we have seen that some neighborhoods have been left behind. They still have relatively high unemployment, and they still have real problems of stubborn poverty. These opportunity zones are a perfect example there. This actually puts money into these communities by lowering and sometimes removing altogether the capital gains taxes for people if they agree to invest.

I will be talking to small businesses and housing advocates who are excited about this and see how this is working in Columbus, OH.

I will also be in Youngstown, OH, early next week, talking about this same topic, as well as some other economic development issues we have

there in terms of how we deal with the Lordstown plant, the plant that General Motors, unfortunately, has chosen to walk away from, which is very discouraging.

So we will be all over the State.

On Saturday, I will be at the largest gathering in the country of watercraft, which is the annual Paddlefest, with more kayaks and canoes on the Ohio River than any other event in the country. I will be participating in a charity race—I think this is an 11-mile race this year—with my son, going down the Ohio River, all for a good cause. I look forward to that as well.

I will be all over the State. It is an opportunity to visit the State, talk to constituents, hear what is going on, and try to be more helpful here in Washington to address the real concerns we have in Ohio.

One of the things I will be doing next weekend is visiting the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I will be touring the park, looking at what some of their maintenance needs are, and talking to the Park Rangers.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is actually the 13th most visited national park in America. You probably haven't heard of it, unless you are from Ohio. But if you are from Akron or Cleveland, you certainly know about it because it is nestled right in between these two big cities, and it gets a lot of visitors and a lot of school kids. It is an incredible park because it is really a suburban and urban, as well as rural, park all at once. There is a lot of outdoor education going on there. There is a beautiful river that runs through it, the Cuyahoga River. There is also a train that can commute you back and forth. I will be there with Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, doing a kayak trip down the river, again looking at some of the needs the park has.

This leads me to a topic I had hoped to discuss on the floor yesterday, but because of a string of votes we were unable to do so. I was going to be out here on the floor giving a colloquy with some of my colleagues—Senator ALEXANDER, Senator WARNER, Senator KING, and others. We were going to talk about the need for us to provide more repairs in our national parks.

Unfortunately, Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of those parks badly in need of it. We have about a \$48 million maintenance backlog. What does that mean? It means that every year we do fund the parks, but we don't fund these capital expenses that are needed. In the case of Cuyahoga Valley, as an example, there is an old railroad bridge they use for pedestrian traffic that is falling apart, and they may have to close it off soon. For every year that you don't attend to this deferred maintenance, things get worse and worse. Think about your own home. If you stop taking care of the roof, what happens? You get a leak, and then you have drywall damage. Then, you have paint damage. So the Federal Government over time has not taken care of



the parks and not provided the right stewardship in terms of these longer term deferred maintenance projects. Yes, we fund the naturalist programs and we fund the immediate needs of the park, but these, frankly, more expensive items, like deferred maintenance, do not get funded. My hope is that we will pass legislation to do that.

For more than a century, we have been blessed as Americans to have these National Parks. They are amazing. Some of you have experienced the majesty of the Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Grand Tetons of the world. They are amazing. There are some more modest ones, like the boyhood home of William Howard Taft in Ohio, that maybe you don't know as well, but they are all important. A lot of them are focused on history, in terms of the historic homes. There are now 84 million acres of national parks and historical sites. They attract over 330 million visitors every year. Think about that. That is more than the population of our country.

Again, we have eight of those parks in Ohio. We are proud of those. And 2.7 million visitors go to Ohio's National Parks every year. They are part of our history and part of our culture. This \$12 billion backlog of long-delayed maintenance needs is a real concern, though. It is \$12 billion now. These parks are treasures, but they have unfortunately been allowed to deteriorate to the point that some of the assets in these parks are totally unusable.

If you go to a park today, you might find out that a trail is closed or a visitors center can't be visited. We have a visitors center in Ohio that had to be closed down because the roof was leaking. They didn't have the funds to replace the roof. They had funds to run the programs within the visitors center, but these long-term maintenance problems are a real problem. You may find that some of the overnight lodging facilities are not available.

In a way, our parks are crumbling from within. They may look good on the outside, but they have serious problems.

I mentioned the fact that we have long-term maintenance problems at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We also have that at others, to the point of about \$100 million in backlogs.

Last August, I visited Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial on the shores of Lake Erie, which was established on Lake Erie to honor those who fought in the famous Battle of Lake Erie during the war of 1812, as well as to celebrate the now long-standing peace we have had between Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. There, I saw \$48 million in long-delayed maintenance needs at the site, primarily a seawall. There is a seawall on Lake Erie to keep Lake Erie from destroying the park, and it is cracking. There are actually sinkholes around it. So you can't walk near the seawall for fear of falling into a sinkhole. This is something that needs attention, and it

needs it now. Yet think of the expense of replacing a huge seawall, about a \$48 billion project, when you add to that the need to make the visitors center accessible under the ADA, or the Americans with Disabilities Act. That is an example.

I mentioned President Taft's first place. The house was in pretty good condition, and, unfortunately, it now has some problems. It has roofing problems, and about \$2 million worth of repairs are necessary and needed there.

I also visited Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe. There you see millennia-old burial sites from pre-Columbian times. Again, there are about \$3.5 million in unmet maintenance needs at the site, including repairs to the exterior of the visitors center that was absolutely needed. You can see why when you go there, because there are construction signs in front of it. You can go in the Visitors Center, but pretty soon you will not be able to at all.

Our parks have had a lot of issues that have built up over time. This deferred maintenance is really important. So we have legislation to address that. It is important that we do it now because if we don't, the costs just go higher. For taxpayers, it is a good deal to move now to make these improvements so that the costs don't compound and you make the situation even worse.

This is at a time when more and more people want to go to our parks. Visitation over the last 10 years has increased by about 58 million people. That is putting a lot of pressure on the parks, of course. But it is good that people want to go to our parks. Our national treasures are a great place to go with your family, but we can't keep the parks healthy through bandaids alone. We need this legislation.

Along with my colleagues Senators MARK WARNER, LAMAR ALEXANDER, and ANGUS KING, about whom I spoke earlier—two Republicans, one Democrat, and one Independent—we have proposed what is called the Restore Our Parks Act. It is a commonsense solution.

Specifically, the legislation creates what is called a legacy restoration fund, which will get half of all the annual energy revenues over the next 5 years that are not otherwise allocated to be used for these priority deferred maintenance projects. This money would come from royalties from our offshore and onshore energy projects.

By the way, the Trump administration is doing more energy exploration and development. So there is actually more funding coming out of here. The funding and the royalty would go to this purpose to the extent it is not being used for other purposes. The bill caps deposits into the fund at \$1.3 billion annually, which would provide a total of \$6.5 billion for deferred maintenance over the next 5 years.

You might notice that \$6.5 is not the \$12 billion we need, but, No. 1, it is a

great start. No. 2, we have asked the Park Service to give us a specific list of what are the most urgent problems, and that is about \$6.5 billion. We will continue to work on this, but right now we need that funding badly because, again, if we don't provide it, not only will the parks not be there for people to enjoy, with certain assets off limits, but also the costs only get higher and higher. It is a historic step in the right direction.

Last Congress, we proposed this legislation and we got a lot of support. We had a total of 40 cosponsors here in the Senate, more than one-third of this Chamber. There was a House bill also offered, companion legislation in the House, that actually got 302 Members supporting it. So these are totally bipartisan approaches. That is two-thirds of the House of Representatives.

We also got it through our committee here in the Senate last year. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed a bill on a bipartisan basis by a vote of 19 to 4.

Importantly, we also received support from all over the country. As people found out about this legislation, people who love the parks stepped forward. It includes the Pew Charitable Trusts, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Outdoor Industry Alliance, the National Trust for Public Land, and others. During the legislation hearing last year, the director of the Pew Charitable Trusts agreed, saying: "Supporting this bipartisan bill is a wise investment for our National Parks System and has overwhelming support from the American public, generates hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars for the economy each year and provides access to world class recreation opportunities and helps preserve our nation's history." That is all true.

This is a critical piece of legislation that we can actually all agree on here on a bipartisan basis. We urge that it be moved quickly.

As we enter the August recess, a lot of my colleagues are going to go to one of our national parks or more. Some of them live, as one told me recently, in the shadow of one of our national parks. Folks who live in places like Montana and Wyoming see the parks all the time. As I said, I will be at our largest park, Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This is a time for us to see the parks, tour the parks, find out what the needs are, and, hopefully, come back here to Congress in September and do something about this deferred maintenance.

I urge my colleagues, first, on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, to take this bill up. Let's mark it up, again, as soon as possible after the recess. Let's not wait any longer until things get worse. I look forward to working with my colleagues to get this legislation on the floor of the Senate, to get it voted on, and to have a companion bill that is still being worked on in the House voted on as

well. Let's get something done and send it to the President for his signature so we can ensure that these treasures, our national parks, are there for generations to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from New Jersey.

#### EBOLA ERADICATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to the growing risks of an Ebola epidemic in Central Africa and to urge the Senate to take up and pass S. 1340, my bipartisan bill authorizing USAID to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This legislation passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June, and it is time for the full Senate to act.

On July 17, the World Health Organization declared this Ebola outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern," with experts predicting the outbreak will last well into 2020.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, or the DRC, as it is known, has been battling an Ebola outbreak for exactly 1 year as of today. Despite the best efforts of the Congolese, the World Health Organization, and international partners, this outbreak is now the second worst in history. More than 1,800 people are dead and more than 2,600 confirmed and probable cases have been identified.

It took just over 7 months to reach 1,000 cases of Ebola, but only 2 months to reach 2,000. According to the World Health Organization, up to 25 percent of all infections may be going unreported.

The scope of the outbreak continues to grow. Just today, press reports indicate that there is a third case in the city of Goma, home to over 1 million people.

Imagine the consequences of an unstrained outbreak in a city of over 1 million people. Under the best of circumstances, it would be difficult, but not impossible, to control the outbreak. However, we are not dealing with ideal circumstances. Today's Ebola outbreak is unfolding amid a noxious mix of political mistrust and overall insecurity.

Consider that eastern Congo has been plagued for years by armed opposition groups and militias. Dozens of armed groups opposed to the government operate in the areas most affected by Ebola, periodically preventing health officials from reaching communities in need of treatment and prevention. Likewise, criminal gangs operating with near impunity have made it dangerous for healthcare workers to travel to Ebola-affected villages without security.

To complicate things further, we have witnessed community resistance specifically to the Ebola response. Long marginalized by the capital of the DRC, Kinshasa, communities in east-

ern Congo remain skeptical that the crisis is real. They fear the government is using the disease as another tool of disenfranchising them, especially after the former government canceled elections. Some actors even oppose medical interventions and promote disinformation and conspiracy theories questioning the existence of the Ebola outbreak.

To date, there have been more than 100 attacks on health facilities, severely hampering the response of the DRC and the international community. Misinformation, mistrust of the government, and fear of violence at health centers has resulted in between 25 and 50 percent of new Ebola deaths taking place outside treatment facilities. This means infectious patients are less likely to receive lifesaving treatment and more likely to infect others.

We no longer have the luxury of half-hearted international engagement. We need a multifaceted, multisectoral, international response to get this under control. We know all too well that infectious diseases have no borders. It is one airplane flight away from coming to our own country. That has happened in the past.

It is in our national and international interest to ensure the United States uses every resource available to get this outbreak under control. To date, however, the White House response has not only been inadequate but downright counterproductive.

In early May, USAID developed a new strategy focusing on basic assistance for disenfranchised communities to help build trust and improve access for healthcare workers. This strategy would, for example, support health interventions for anyone who comes to a healthcare center in need of care, even if not totally related to Ebola.

USAID also proposed new programs to increase education, provide clean water and sanitation in communities, and improve conditions in Ebola-affected communities. These programs were designed to build trust and promote resilience in at-risk communities so that health workers can better stop the spread of the disease.

These were good ideas. Instead of embracing them, the administration has effectively tied its own hands in promoting a sensible, sustainable response to the Ebola crisis.

As we all know, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which I have been a champion of on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, having worked with the former chairman, Bob Corker, who felt passionately about these issues, railed against the administration when they didn't put countries in tier 3, the most significant consequence under our law, because they were playing politics with that country for other reasons and not observing the essence of the law, and made sure that the TIP Report was transparent and honest in its assessments. So I am supportive of the harsh sanctions for countries that fail to adequately combat human trafficking.

As a tier 3 country under the law, the DRC is therefore severely restricted from receiving U.S. aid. But let's use some common sense here. This legislation was never, never intended to hurt the most vulnerable in society or to be used as an excuse to ignore a deadly epidemic with international implications. In fact, Congress foresaw the need for exceptions to these sanctions in extraordinary cases in 22 USC, chapter 78, section 4 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This language that I just cited allows the United States to waive sanctions and provide assistance when it is in our national interest to do so. Indeed, the law specifically says: "The President shall exercise the authority"—"under section (4) when necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children."

According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola virus disease has a 50-percent mortality rate. No one can deny its effects on vulnerable populations. If the people of eastern Congo, including women and children, are not vulnerable, then I don't know who is.

Yet the White House has refused to exercise the waiver. That is why we need the Ebola Eradication Act. This simple legislation directs the USAID Administrator to immediately provide assistance, including multisectoral, nonhumanitarian, and nontrade related foreign assistance, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other vulnerable countries to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak, notwithstanding the sanctions required by the Trafficking and Victims Protection Act.

Make no mistake, President Trump could have done this himself months ago. But as a Bloomberg editorial published today points out, President Trump has failed to respond with urgency. As a result, needless delays and inaction have hampered our response.

In mid-June, the administration had granted exceptions for all Ebola-related activities proposed under USAID's new plan, but they have yet to be launched. To make matters worse, those exceptions were granted only for fiscal year 2018 money.

Finally, the exception is not a country waiver, creating loads of redtape for future activities related to combating Ebola. In other words, we are shooting ourselves in the foot with unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles that serve no purpose and slow down our response even as the disease continues to kill more and more people.

Fortunately, the DRC and bordering countries, together with the World Health Organization, have lessened the overall impact by successfully vaccinating more than 120,000 people. They have also administered experimental treatment regimens to over 300 people, which, if caught in time, can save more lives. But this is a case where, in fact, America can and must do more.

While there is no magic wand we can wave to change the security situation,

we can certainly step up the U.S. response and our support for local and international efforts. We have a moral obligation to help contain and combat this outbreak before it becomes an epidemic. Likewise, we have an obligation to protect the safety and security of the American public. Our goal must be to save lives and prevent the spread of Ebola before it stands a chance of reaching America's shores. Ultimately, we ignore the tragedy unfolding in the Congo at our own peril. It is time for this body to act.

USAID Administrator Mark Green testified in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year and expressed strong support for this legislation as it is currently written.

I urge my colleagues to work with me in passing S. 1340, the Ebola Eradication Act of 2019, as it is currently drafted and as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed it in June.

This is an opportunity to ultimately save lives. It is an opportunity—something we don't always get in this Chamber—for us to actually save lives. It is an opportunity to stop an epidemic. It is an opportunity to preserve our own interests by making sure Ebola doesn't come to the shores of the United States. It should be a no-brainer.

I hope we can work through the one objection I understand that exists with our colleague from Utah so that we can actually control the epidemic, save lives, and ultimately ensure our own interests.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order of July 31 with respect to district judges be modified to allow for confirmation votes notwithstanding rule XXII.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 421.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033 to be Admiral: Vice Adm. Michael M. Gilday?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 57 and 58.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of M. Miller Baker, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade; Timothy M. Reif, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Baker and Reif nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 296 and 297.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Randolph J. Stayin, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United

States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2026; Amy Karpel, of Washington, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2023.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stayin and Karpel nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN892, PN492, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Matthew Keenan, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020; Julie Reiskin, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2019 (Reappointment); Robert J. Grey, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020 (Reappointment); Abigail L. Kuzma, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2019; Abigail L. Kuzma, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2022 (Reappointment); John G. Levi, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020 (Reappointment); John

G. Malcolm, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020; Frank X. Neuner, Jr., of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2019; Frank X. Neuner, Jr., of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2022 (Reappointment); and Gloria Valencia-Weber, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020 (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 241, 242, and 338.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Ron A. Bloom, of New York, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2020; Roman Martinez IV, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2024; and John McLeod Barger, of California, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bloom, Martinez, and Barger nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 391 and 392.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Ann C. Fisher, of the Dis-

trict of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2024, and Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2024, en bloc.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fisher and Poling nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 80, 413, and 414.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Mark Schultz, of Nebraska, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education; Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years; and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Schultz, Gustafson, and Burrows nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 68, 70, 71, 72, 75, 79, PN10, PN7, PN8, P9, PN11, PN13, PN14, PN16 PN15, PN12, and PN172.

There being no objection the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Kathe Hicks Albrecht, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024; Keegan F. Callanan, of Vermont, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024; David Armand DeKeyser, of Alabama, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020; Kim R. Holmes, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022; Phyllis Kaminsky, of Arizona, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020; and Jean M. Yarbrough, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022; Marjorie Fisher Furman, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022; Russell A. Berman, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020; William English, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024; John Fonte, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020; Claire Griffin, of Washington, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022; Adair Margo, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022; Matthew Rose, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020; William Schneider, Jr., of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020; Joyce

Malcolm, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020; and Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 366.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Wilmer Ocasio, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Marshal for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 114.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas McCaffery, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 245.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Eric Wooten, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN21, PN563, and PN963.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2024 (Reappointment); Michael J. K. Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and Robert L. Sumwalt III, of South Carolina, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of three years (Reappointment) en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 373.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 243, 244, 388, and 389.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of James A. Crowell IV, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; Jason Park, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; Rainey R. Brandt, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; and Shana Frost Matini, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the

Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Crowell, Park, Brandt, and Matini nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 293, 158, and 7.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; and Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Toro, Dunbar Jones, and Faulkender nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 115.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa M. Schenck, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Military Commission Review. (New Position)

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if con-

firmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motion be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 178, 181, 395, 397, 400, 401, 404, 405, 406, and 361.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Kenneth S. George, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; W. Patrick Murphy, of Vermont, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Cambodia; Richard K. Bell, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire; Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt; Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States; Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Libya; Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Colombia; Jessica E. Lapenn, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Fed-

eral Republic of Nigeria; and Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the George, Murphy, Bell, Cohen, Landau, Norland, Goldberg, Lapenn, Leonard, and Pedrosa nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 403.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike



Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Thune.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 5.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

Mitch McConnell, Steve Daines, John Thune, John Cornyn, James M. Inhofe, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Jerry Moran, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Johnny Isakson, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 174.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Akard,

of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Thune, John Hoeven.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 246.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 294.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 333.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Jerry Moran, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 335.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security. (New Position)

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security. (New Position)

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

#### 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.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 407.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Thune.

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.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 337.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of William B. Kilbride, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2023.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO JANE TSCHETTER LUCAS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jane Tschetter Lucas. This month, she is leaving government service after serving her home State of South Dakota as a member of my staff for 10 years and, most recently, serving in the executive branch for the last 2 years.

In 2007, Jane graduated from South Dakota State University, SDSU, in her hometown of Brookings, where she was a Briggs Scholar and a student athlete.

After graduating from SDSU, Jane moved from South Dakota to Washington, DC, to take a position as a staff assistant in my office.

In the 12 years since then, a lot has happened for her both personally and professionally. She quickly moved on from the front office and went on to serve on my legislative team in several capacities, including as a legislative assistant, health policy counsel, and finally as legislative director.

Jane was a fierce advocate for rural healthcare and education priorities, and I know many South Dakotans benefited from her tireless work on these issues.

While working full time in my office, through healthcare debates and education reform, and all that came with them, Jane earned her law degree from Georgetown University. In 2017, Jane and her husband Chris welcomed a future SDSU Jackrabbit, their daughter, Grace. During that time, she transitioned to a senior role at the Department of Health and Human Services. Shortly after, she accepted a role in the White House Counsel's office. For the last 13 months, she has served the administration as a special assistant to the President in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

Since her days as an intern in the South Dakota State Legislature, Jane has demonstrated an affinity for public service and a knack for developing solid public policy. She is a natural leader, a patient mentor, and thoughtful and thorough in her work. I would like to thank her for her decade of

service to my office and the State of South Dakota and for her service to the American people.

I wish her continued success in her new endeavors,

#### DREAM CENTER

Mr. DURBIN.

"We've got a friend in Trump;  
He's lifting us out of our slump;  
We were down—and life was rough;  
Too many regs, were way too tough;  
After so many years;  
We'd just had enough, but;  
Now, we've got a friend in Trump."

Mr. President, that was a song, sung to the tune of Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me," written by a former lawyer for Dream Center Education Holdings about the prospects for their for-profit college enterprise under a Trump administration.

Earlier this month, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott sent a letter to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos which revealed damning new details about just how far Dream Center's "friends" at the Trump/DeVos Department of Education would go to assist as they collapsed.

Details, including that catchy little ditty, were later reported by the New York Times in an article entitled, "Emails Show DeVos Aides Pulled Strings for Failing For-Profit Colleges."

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, July 23, 2019]

#### EMAILS SHOW DEVOS AIDES PULLED STRINGS FOR FAILING FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

(By Erica L. Green and Stacy Cowley)

WASHINGTON.—Dream Center Education Holdings, a subsidiary of a Los Angeles-based megachurch, had no experience in higher education when it petitioned the federal Education Department to let it take over a troubled chain of for-profit trade schools.

But the organization's chairman, Randall K. Barton, told the education secretary, Betsy DeVos, that the foundation wanted to "help people live better lives."

The purchase was blessed despite Dream Center's lack of experience and questionable finances by an administration favorable to for-profit education. But barely a year later, the company tumbled into insolvency, dozens of its colleges closed abruptly and thousands of students were left with no degree after paying tens of thousands of dollars in tuition.

Making matters worse, the college is accused of enrolling new students and taking their taxpayer-supported financial aid dollars even after some of its campuses had lost their accreditation, which rendered their credits worthless.

Company emails, documents and records show that part of why Dream Center kept going is that it thought the Education Department, which under Ms. DeVos has rolled back regulations on for-profit education, would try to keep it from failing. Mr. Barton emailed other Dream Center executives that the department's head of higher education policy—Diane Auer Jones, a

former executive and lobbyist for for-profit colleges—had pulled strings to help the company's schools in their effort to regain a seal of approval from an accreditor, despite their perilous positions.

In another instance, Dream Center's chief operating officer told faculty at an endangered campus that Ms. Jones was changing departmental regulations to help the schools obtain accreditation retroactively.

Although the Trump administration did eventually cut off federal aid to the chain of colleges and precipitate their collapse, Democrats say the department failed to respond to warning signs.

Representative Robert C. Scott, a Virginia Democrat who is the chairman of the House Education Committee, unveiled a trove of documents, including internal communication between executives from Dream Center, in a letter to Ms. DeVos this month. He said the documents suggest that Ms. Jones misled Congress about her efforts to help shield Dream Center from its misdeeds.

"The actions of Dream Center and the Department of Education's execution of its responsibility to protect students raise grave concerns," Mr. Scott wrote.

Instead of requiring Dream Center to take action, "the department informed Dream Center executives that it would work to retroactively accredit the institutions during the periods they had lied to students—rewriting history to erase Dream Center's deceptive marketing practices," Mr. Scott wrote.

The Education Department has maintained it did nothing wrong.

"This story is based entirely on a wrongful premise," the department wrote in a statement. "The full and complete timeline shows Dream Center did not receive any unique benefits from policy decisions made by the department. We simply worked to try and get as many students into a new program as possible. While we did not achieve a perfect outcome, our actions helped thousands of students land on their feet."

In a response letter to Mr. Scott on Monday, the department's acting general counsel, Reed D. Rubinstein, submitted documentation that he said contradicted the committee's "unfair suggestions" that the department tailored its policies to assist Dream Center and was not forthcoming with Congress. "The Department categorically rejects these allegations," he wrote.

"Dream Center's management received no special treatment," he said.

President Trump has moved to deregulate any number of industries, from mining and offshore oil exploration to chemicals and Internet providers. But Ms. DeVos's efforts to get the government off the backs of for-profit colleges have come under particular scrutiny, in part because of the spectacular implosions of for-profit college chains only a few years ago, in part because people who once worked in the sector have led the DeVos deregulatory push.

Dream Center's collapse was the first of the new deregulatory era. Yet Education Department officials insisted, repeatedly, that its demise had nothing to do with the administration's policies or efforts. Ms. Jones told Congress that she did not even know of Dream Center's accreditation problems at the time the company said she was working to get it out of its jam. She also told lawmakers the policy change extending retroactive accreditation had "nothing to do with the Dream Center."

Those assurances are now being questioned.

"The documents further suggest that department officials were not forthcoming to Congress and the public about the information they had about Dream Center's status

and practices," Mr. Scott wrote. He is requesting emails, text messages and interviews with several department officials, including Ms. Jones.

The letter and documents "raise questions about whether the department took steps to allow Dream Center to mislead students," Mr. Scott said.

From the start, the Education Department overlooked red flags when, in late 2017, Dream Center took control of more than 100 campuses with 50,000 students from a for-profit higher-education company, Education Management Corporation. Around that time, Dream Center's accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, notified the organization that it was about to change two of its schools' accreditation status. Two Education Department officials, including the agency's director of accreditation, were copied on the letter.

In January 2018 the accreditor published a notification on its website stating that the two Dream Center schools were not accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. It ordered Dream Center to tell students that their courses and degrees "may not be accepted in transfer to other colleges and universities or recognized by prospective employers."

Yet for five months, Dream Center kept advertising, "We remain accredited."

By July 2018, Dream Center was running out of cash and knew its accreditation problems could worsen its financial strain. Emails from that month obtained by the House Education Committee indicate that Dream Center officials believed that the Education Department was maneuvering to help it stave off catastrophe.

In written responses to questions from Congress, the Education Department said Ms. Jones was first made aware that the two Dream Center institutions were not accredited on July 10, 2018. She was unaware of the public notice that the Higher Learning Commission had issued nearly six months earlier, according to the agency. She was notified a week later that the institutions were misrepresenting their accreditation status and ordered them the next day to stop, the department said.

Ms. Jones was asked during a House Oversight Committee hearing this spring whether a policy she had issued later that month that allowed accreditations to be granted retroactively was aimed at helping Dream Center. "Absolutely not. It had nothing to do with the Dream Center," she answered.

But in company emails, Dream Center executives indicated the Education Department tipped them off on July 3, 2018, that a new retroactive accreditation policy was coming, a week before Ms. Jones said she even knew Dream Center had a problem.

"We just got off the phone with DOE," Mr. Barton wrote. "It appears HLC is in sync with retro" accreditation.

He said Ms. Jones—whom he directly cited by name—had worked with accreditors, and "they will all agree to one plan with department blessing."

Mr. Barton did not respond to requests for comment on his emails.

On July 11, Dream Center's chief operating officer told faculty in a meeting on an Illinois campus that the department would allow the schools' accreditor to grant retroactive accreditation. He said department officials "changed their regulation to open the door to letting it happen," according to a recording of the meeting obtained by the committee. He referred to a conversation with Ms. Jones the week prior where "she said everybody was going to be accommodating."

Weeks later, on July 25, Ms. Jones finalized the plan allowing retroactive accreditation, which was a major win for Dream Center.

While the schools were already slated for closure, retroactive accreditation would have shielded the company from legal action for making misleading statements about its accreditation status.

Ms. Jones said she had begun to revise that guidance months earlier to allay long-standing concerns about the department's policy stemming from a dispute involving an accreditor of a nursing program. The retroactive policy would have also allowed students to more easily transfer their credits if they were earned at an accredited institution.

In response to Mr. Scott's accusations, Ms. Jones said, in a written statement to The New York Times, "The retroactive accreditation policy—which had been under discussion long before I arrived at the department—decided not whether Dream Center would live or die, but whether or not students could transfer their credits for the hard work they had completed."

In August, after it became public that the two schools would close, Dream Center's head of regulatory and government affairs wrote an email to other Dream Center officials reminding them that communication should be kept confidential because "Diane is really working behind the scenes to help guide us and keep the accreditors aligned."

Ms. Jones did not directly address the July 3 and July 11 communication from Dream Center officials, but acknowledged that she had worked with accreditors. She called the Dream Center accreditation issue a "messy and complex situation" and said the accreditor had sent mixed messages about the status of Dream Center's schools.

Ms. Jones had acknowledged to Congress that she had concerns about the organization's capacity to manage its closures, and was in regular communication with a group of accreditors to devise a plan to allow Dream Center students to complete their degrees, known as a "teach-out," after their campuses closed.

"My goal was to get as many of the more than 8,000 students to new institutions where they could complete their programs," she said. "I stand firm in my decision to work collaboratively with accreditors to hold Dream Center accountable. That Dream Center executives characterize this as being about them is disingenuous but not surprising. They were trying to make it appear they had control of the mess they had made."

A group of students, represented by the National Student Legal Defense Network, filed a lawsuit last year, saying Dream Center issued "false and misleading" statements about its accreditation status, which broke state laws and caused "substantial harm" to more than 1,000 students.

Mr. Scott also pointed to emails documenting the steps the Education Department took to help Dream Center get hold of some much-needed cash to prop up its failing campuses.

In an October 2018 email, Dream Center officials were preparing to request funding from an escrow account managed by the department.

The funds were intended to offset taxpayer liabilities if some of the chain's schools closed or failed. Dream Center wanted to use part of the money to pay for expenses associated with closing campuses and helping current students complete their degrees. The department had in August agreed to release up to \$50 million; Dream Center wanted more.

Dennis Cariello, a Dream Center lawyer, sent an email to company executives before a meeting with A. Wayne Johnson, who headed the department's office of financial aid. At the meeting, Mr. Cariello planned to deliver a "list of the asks" that amounted to \$75 million.

Mr. Cariello communicated that Mr. Johnson "asked that I review the draw requests—there are a few we can't have in there—bonuses and future rental payments were issues for him."

Mr. Cariello declined to comment on the exchange. The department had released a total of \$40 million from the escrow account to Dream Center by the end of last year, according to records it sent in response to questions from Congress.

Education Department officials have maintained that they worked tirelessly to mitigate the fallout of the Dream Center collapse. The department restricted the schools' cash flow from federal student loans after Dream Center went into receivership in January, barely a month before it cut off federal student loan funds to Argosy University. That final move was considered the death knell for the company.

But until then, Dream Center executives had reason to believe they had friends at the Education Department. In January 2018, just as Dream Center's schools lost their accreditation, Ronald L. Holt, a regulatory lawyer on the Dream Center team, sent a presentation to Dream Center executives on the state of higher education a year into the Trump administration.

It included a song he wrote titled, "You've Got a Friend in Trump," to the tune of Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me," used in the movie "Toy Story."

We've got a friend in Trump  
He's lifting us out of our slump  
We were down—and life was rough  
Too many regs, were way too tough  
After so many years  
We'd just had enough, but  
Now, we've got a friend in Trump

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, back in 2017, Dream Center Education Holdings, the spinoff of a Christian charity with no previous experience in higher education, announced its intention to acquire the campuses of the failing for-profit giant Education Management Corporation, EDMC, and convert them to nonprofit status.

Among EDMC's most notable brands were the Art Institutes and Argosy University.

I joined several of my Senate colleagues at the time, raising concerns about Dream Center's ability to effectively manage this higher education enterprise in the best interests of students and taxpayers.

Despite our concerns, Secretary DeVos's Department of Education gave its preliminary approval to the transaction in October 2017, without conditioning that approval on any restrictions or protections for students and taxpayers.

The Department's failure to protect students and taxpayers at this critical juncture set up a chain of events that left thousands of students harmed and millions in taxpayer dollars wasted.

In November 2017, as part of its own approval of that transaction, the Higher Learning Commission, HLC, removed accreditation from Dream Center's newly acquired Art Institute of Colorado and the Illinois Institute of Art effective January 20, 2018.

HLC transitioned these schools to "candidates for accreditation," during which time they could still receive Title IV funds.

HLC noted that the loss of accreditation could have serious consequences for current and prospective students and that students "should know that their courses or degrees are not accredited by HLC and may not be accepted in transfer to other colleges and universities or recognized by prospective employers."

Because of these risks, HLC required Dream Center to provide students with "proper advisement and accommodations."

But Dream Center failed to comply with these requirements and instead continued to falsely advertise to students that these institutions "remain accredited."

In June 2018, when several news articles brought the misrepresentation to light, I wrote to the Higher Learning Commission asking them to investigate.

I also sent a copy of that letter to the Department of Education.

Then, in August 2018, an article by David Halperin alleged that the top DeVos postsecondary education official, Diane Auer Jones, directed Dream Center to continue to represent the Illinois and Colorado campuses as accredited while she worked behind the scenes to orchestrate retroactive accreditation.

As Chairman SCOTT put it in his recent letter, it was an attempt at "re-writing history to erase Dream Center's deceptive marketing practices."

And, it required changing Department regulations.

I wrote to Secretary DeVos in August about these troubling accusations.

In a December 4, 2018, response, signed by then-Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs Peter Oppenheim, the Department denied the allegations.

Instead, Mr. Oppenheim's letter asserts that Ms. Jones didn't learn about the misrepresentation until July 17, 2018.

In response to subsequent written questions, Secretary DeVos further stated to me that Ms. Jones first learned that HLC had withdrawn accreditation from the Illinois and Colorado campuses on July 10, 2018.

But, according to emails obtained and released by Chairman SCOTT, Ms. Jones appears to have been already working to change Department regulations to allow Dream Center to obtain retroactive accreditation before these dates.

A July 3, 2018, internal Dream Center email reads, "We just got off the phone with [the Department of Education]. It appears HLC is in sync with retro-[accreditation]."

Diane Jones is specifically mentioned in the email as being the Department official working with accreditors to facilitate this.

As reported by the New York Times, in a recorded meeting on July 11, 2018, Dream Center's chief operating officer told faculty in Illinois that the Department was working to change its regulations to allow retroactive accreditation.

As evidence, he specifically referred to a conversation the week before with Ms. Jones.

These revelations raise the prospect that Secretary DeVos, Ms. Jones, and other Department officials may have misled me and other members of Congress in their responses to questions on this matter.

Ultimately, the Dream Center debacle led to thousands of students being lured into a predatory enterprise on the verge of collapse.

The question is, to what extent did the DeVos Department of Education, and Ms. Jones in particular, inappropriately aid and abet Dream Center's exploitation of students and bilking of taxpayers as the company collapsed.

In February of this year, House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman ROSA DELAUNO and I asked the Department's Office of Inspector General to investigate the Department's role in the Dream Center collapse.

Now, the revelations accompanying Chairman SCOTT's letter, raise serious questions about the Department's truthfulness with Congress and a potential attempt to cover up inappropriate involvement by Ms. Jones or others.

In his letter, Chairman requested transcribed interviews with several Department officials, including Ms. Jones, and a host of documents and correspondence.

I call on Secretary DeVos to immediately comply with these requests, to direct her Department to fully cooperate with Chairman SCOTT without delay. Anything less and we will be forced to ask what exactly Secretary DeVos is trying to hide.

#### TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW BLADE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to tell you about a remarkable young man from my hometown of Springfield, IL. His name is Matthew Blade. In late May, Matthew graduated from Lutheran High School in Springfield as his class valedictorian. He was also the president of his senior class, president of his school's Spanish Honor Society and an Illinois State scholar. He was involved in theater and Madrigal singers and his school's praise band. He was a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions. Outside of school, Matthew volunteers at a local food pantry, and he is an Eagle Scout.

If Matthew Blade had done nothing more, he would be exceptional. What makes Matthew's accomplishments even more extraordinary is that Matthew Blade spent half of his high school years battling bone cancer.

He first felt the pain in his left arm when he was 15 years old, a sophomore. At first, he thought he might have pulled a muscle playing soccer. When the pain didn't go away, Matthew went in for x rays, then an MRI. The same day he underwent the MRI, Matthew

and his parents, Doug and Tricia, received the devastating diagnosis. The pain in Matthew's arm was not a sprained muscle; it was most likely osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

What Matthew did next tells you a lot about his character. He went to school, didn't tell anyone about his diagnosis, took a biology exam—and aced the test.

But Matthew wasn't able to keep his diagnosis private for long. Over the next 9 months he underwent 18 grueling chemotherapy treatments. Each time, he had to be hospitalized for 4 or 5 days. His mom Tricia never left his side. Matthew lost his hair and his eyelashes. When he was up to it, he went to school, often pulling an I.V. bag on a pole. When he was too sick for school, he kept up with his lessons from home or from his hospital bed.

What got him through those hard times, he said, was his faith, prayers, the love of his family, and "great doctors and nurses" at St. John's Hospital in Springfield and Children's Hospital in St. Louis. His other saving grace, he says, were his friends, who never treated him differently and helped him to feel like a normal kid, even at his sickest.

Matthew undergoes scans every 6 months to monitor his health. His latest scans, in June, showed "no detectable cancer." These days, his hair has grown back. He is playing soccer again. He is working this summer as a counselor at a church summer camp, working with little kids, ages 5 to 7.

But the cancer changed Matthew in some ways. Early in his treatment, he had to have a 6-1/2 inch section of his left humerus bone—the long bone in his upper arm—removed, so he can no longer lift his left arm above his head. After the surgery, Matthew had to wear a sling, which made playing his guitar impossible, but Matthew adapted. He learned how to play the ukulele.

Before his diagnosis, Matthew wanted to be a lawyer. Now, he wants to be a pediatric oncologist, to help other kids with cancer. He is looking forward to starting college in the fall at St. Louis University.

In his valedictory remarks, Matthew told his classmates: "Life—like a hike through the mountains—is full of peaks and valleys. The more time you spend in the valleys, the sweeter the peaks will seem." By his example, Matthew Blade has taught his classmates—and really, our whole town of Springfield—how to endure life's valleys, and how to cherish its peaks.

I want to wish Matthew all the best on his accomplishment, and I know I am not alone in saying that I can't wait to see what he does with the rest of his remarkable life.

#### HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, anyone who follows the situation in Honduras, as I and many Vermonters do, cannot help but be disappointed and concerned

by what is happening there. I won't take the time to discuss in detail the lengthy litany of circumstances that have resulted in the deep social and political divisions, the rampant corruption, violence and insecurity, the prevalence of threats and assassinations by gangs, the dysfunctional justice system, and the sense of desperation and hopelessness that so many Hondurans are feeling, but I do want to mention several that should concern every Senator.

To put the situation there in perspective, it is important to keep in mind what is happening in our own country.

For purely political reasons, President Trump has directed his wrath and contempt on the thousands of Central American migrants seeking entry to the United States, many of whom are women and children and many of whom are from Honduras. Regrettably, his xenophobic attacks have encouraged other extreme voices demonizing migrants and asylum seekers. They have apparently forgotten that America is fundamentally a nation of immigrants.

There is no question that our government is woefully unprepared to humanely and expeditiously handle this influx and that there is a humanitarian crisis at our southern border. We are each aware of the appalling treatment to which many of these desperate migrants have been subjected, both during the harrowing journey from their home countries to the U.S. border and in our government's custody—human beings trafficked, robbed, and sexually abused by unscrupulous smugglers; defenseless, impoverished people crammed into grossly overcrowded detention facilities; frightened children forcibly separated from their families and sleeping on cement floors in wire cages; a backlog of hundreds of thousands of asylum applications; and if that were not enough, racist and disparaging Facebook posts by U.S. Border Patrol officers about the people in their custody.

This, not the Statue of Liberty, is what awaits the Hondurans who have abandoned their impoverished, violence-ridden communities in search of safety and a better life for themselves and their children. Yet they continue to come because remaining in Central America is a worse option.

While the White House justifies its mistreatment of Central American migrants by falsely labeling them all as criminals who have engaged in asylum fraud, it has rightly asked Congress for millions of dollars to help care for refugees from Venezuela who are fleeing economic collapse, violence, and political chaos in that country. The similarities of the factors that are motivating the exodus of Hondurans and Venezuelans are far greater than their differences, which illustrates the blatant hypocrisy and unfairness of the administration's incoherent policies.

Honduras has been in a state of convulsion since the coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya in 2009 and

the 2013 election that was plagued with vote buying, violence, and fraud and that ended with President Hernandez declared the winner. The situation was exacerbated by the 2017 election that was widely regarded as flawed before it even took place. After President Hernandez secured the support of the National Assembly, the electoral commission, and the Supreme Court, each of which was beholden to him, to change the Constitution so he could run for a second term, the election was marred by reports of egregious vote counting irregularities.

Given these circumstances, after being sworn into office a second time, President Hernandez would have been wise to appoint a politically, ethnically, and geographically diverse cabinet and to promote policies designed to rebuild confidence and trust with the opposition and civil society. Instead, he and his government have often embraced policies and practices that have further deepened divisions in an already polarized society.

Popular protests over election fraud, corruption, land disputes, and seemingly intractable poverty have been met with the indiscriminate use of live ammunition by the police and armed forces resulting in multiple deaths, arbitrary arrests, beatings, and prolonged detention without trial. Despite repeated appeals by the international community, including the United Nations and the U.S. Embassy, to the Honduran Government to respect the rule of law and use restraint against protesters, the situation has not improved, and those responsible have not been held accountable. The country is afflicted by near daily confrontations, and the number of people seeking refuge outside the country continues unabated.

Many of us also remember the emblematic case of Berta Caceres, a courageous indigenous environmental activist who was repeatedly harassed and threatened and ultimately assassinated for opposing the illegal construction of a hydroelectric plant. After the police tried to cover up the crime, it was only thanks to international outrage that seven individuals, including an employee of the DESA hydroelectric company, a former security chief for the company who was an ex-U.S.-trained army lieutenant, another U.S.-trained special forces major, and a former special forces sergeant, were arrested and convicted. Yet more than 3 years after that horrific crime, none of them has been sentenced. The prosecution of an eighth individual, David Castillo, the former DESA president who was also a U.S.-trained former military intelligence officer, has been stalled for months. It is also widely believed that there are other coconspirators who have not been charged. Scores of similar assassinations of social activists and independent journalists in the past 10 years have never even been investigated, much less resulted in prosecution or punishment. By its inaction,

the Honduran Government is sending the unmistakable message that impunity for these crimes is acceptable.

For many years, Vermont and Honduras were “sister states.” I have traveled there, as have many Vermonters, including some who have served as volunteers providing primary health care, education, and other humanitarian services to isolated rural communities. So I have a longstanding interest in Honduras and its people, and over the years I have supported hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. assistance for Honduras.

Yet today Honduras faces every imaginable problem. It is a transshipment point for Colombian cocaine and a haven for ruthless drug gangs. Millions of Hondurans live in dangerous, squalid conditions with no hope for the future. The police have a history of corruption and are mistrusted. Violent crimes are common and almost never result in conviction. And the government is plagued by corruption, its officials often seeming to be more concerned with staying in power and enriching themselves than addressing the needs of their people.

Why is this? There are obviously many factors, but one is undoubtedly a failure of leadership in Honduras and in the United States. For too long, successive U.S. administrations made excuses for and continued to support Honduran Governments that were corrupt, ineffective, unaccountable, and whose commitment to fundamental rights and democratic principles was lacking. It was a waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars and a disservice to the Honduran people.

In a reversal, the White House has suspended assistance for Honduras and the other Northern Triangle countries because President Trump says they have not done enough to stop the exodus of migrants. The President seems to believe that the Honduran Government should somehow prevent its citizens from leaving, even though they have a legal right to. At the same time, there is no doubt that the Honduran Government can and must do far more to address the violence, poverty, corruption, and injustice that cause people to seek refuge elsewhere. That includes firing corrupt officials, enacting and implementing the plea bargaining legislation that has been pending for years, strengthening the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity instead of weakening it, as the Honduran Government is trying, and defending civil society activists who are frequently harassed, threatened, arbitrarily arrested, and even assassinated.

The United States has not had an Ambassador in Tegucigalpa for more than 2 years. The message this sends to the Honduran people is that it doesn't matter, that Honduras is not important. That is wrong. We need an ambassador who is a strong voice for good governance, for human rights, for accountability, and for defending the

independence of the judiciary and other democratic institutions against fraud, exploitation, or improper influence.

Those who were involved in conceiving, carrying out, and attempting to cover up the assassination of Berta Caceres should be brought to justice without further delay. The Honduran people also need to see justice done in the cases of excessive, deadly force against protesters by Honduran military police following the 2017 election. There needs to be fair trials of the protesters who were arrested and who have languished in jail without due process for a year and a half. Justice delayed is justice denied YET, unfortunately, that is the norm in Honduras.

Finally, it is the Honduran Government's urgent responsibility to take whatever steps are necessary to reform Honduras election laws and procedures. The Honduran people need to have confidence that the next election—only 2½ years away—will be unlike the 2017 election, free and fair and will not result in more social upheaval, more excessive force by the police, more impunity, and a further exodus of people seeking safety and a better life.

#### CIVIL AFFAIRS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this scholarly article “Civil Affairs, Winston Churchill, and the Power of Paying Attention,” originally published in *Small Wars Journal*, which analyzes the value of Civil Affairs to supported commands and agencies through the lens of Winston Churchill's conception of generalship and statesmanship. Its author, CPT Andrew J. Bibb, U.S. Army, is from Santa Fe, NM.

Although often overlooked, our civil affairs forces contribute to the ability of policymakers and military commanders to understand the full landscape and make fully informed decisions. Civil Affairs units also help us navigate conflicts where we more frequently confront civilians than combatants. As the article puts it, Civil Affairs “helps the commander understand the factors that contribute to civil unrest and make societies vulnerable to nefarious actors [and] enables them to make decisions that not only defeat threats but prevent them from arising in the first place.”

I want to thank our men and women in Civil Affairs and let them know we value and appreciate their often unheralded work.

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

CIVIL AFFAIRS, WINSTON CHURCHILL, AND THE POWER OF PAYING ATTENTION CAPTAIN ANDREW J. BIBB, U.S. ARMY

Readiness, the top priority of the U.S. military in the 21st century, begins with awareness. This applies from the individual all the way up to the national and international levels, from the tactical level to the operational and strategic. In this context,



awareness is defined as the state of consciousness in which one attains a functional realization of the state and nature of reality. It is achieved when one pays attention to a given situation and the factors that contribute to it, analyzing and examining until he or she achieves an actionable level of understanding. When the observer understands the problem well enough, the solutions present themselves.

Clinical psychologist Dr. Jordan Peterson explains, "If you identify things, with careful attention and language, you bring them forward as viable, obedient objects, detaching them from their underlying near-universal interconnectedness. You simplify them. You make them specific and useful, and reduce their complexity." This process of enabling awareness and understanding in support of readiness is what Army Civil Affairs (CA) does best.

This paper aims to show the value of CA to both the statesman and general as they are understood by Winston Churchill in Dr. Larry P. Arnn's scholarly work *Churchill's Trial: Winston Churchill and the Salvation of Free Government*. Although Churchill uses the term "general" to refer to commanders, CA's value is by no means limited to flag officers. The CA team, the lowest-echelon CA element, is a battalion-level asset and can inform tactical decisions as well as operational and strategic ones. Similarly, CA support to statesmen is not limited to elected officials, as fostering partnerships within and supporting the various branches of government fall directly within the purview of Civil Affairs.

There are at least three good reasons to use Winston Churchill's concepts of statesmanship and generalship as the lens through which to analyze the value of CA. First, the purpose of all Civil Affairs Operations (CAO) is to enable and execute the decisions of commanders (generals) and policy makers (statesmen). Second, of all of the world leaders in the past hundred years few are as qualified to speak authoritatively on both of these topics as Winston Churchill. Third, none of these world leaders were as prolific as Churchill at recording their perspectives, so through his work we are able to clearly see what the general and statesmen need that CA can provide.

Churchill served as Prime Minister of Great Britain during and after World War II, as well as in numerous other government positions, including First Lord of the Admiralty at the outbreak of World War I. Throughout his long and distinguished career he learned that the duty of statesmen and generals was to comprehend a given situation and act in concert with reality to produce the desired outcome. The ability to do this in large part depends on having an accurate, complete, and nuanced understanding of the situation and its attending circumstances.

Fortunately for both the statesman and the general, this is where CA excels. CA not only serves as the informational and relational link between military and civilian entities, but also paints an accurate picture of the on-the-ground reality for the commander. CA focuses specifically on the civil component of the operational environment (OE), and since the non-threat (civil) aspect makes up the vast majority of the OE a proper understanding of that aspect is critical to both military and political success. Additionally, "Military operations always have a degree of involvement (assistance, interference, or influence) with the civil component," so a dedicated force oriented to that component is necessary to every operation.

#### DEFINING THE PARTICULARS

Churchill believed that the "right thing to do depends on the circumstances," but those

circumstances must be defined in order to determine what the right course of action is. CA's most critical function is to establish and maintain awareness of both the raw civil data and its aggregate significance. Civil Affairs Activities (CAA), the core competency of which CA is the proponent, are "enduring capabilities that increase the commander's understanding of, deliberate interaction with, and planning for the civil component." While CA forces are capable of supporting Military Governance Operations and other joint activities, such as Foreign Assistance and Populace and Resources Control, CAA define CA as the commander's asset. The five CAA functions are Civil Reconnaissance, Civil Engagement, Civil Information Management, Civil-Military Operations Center, and Civil Affairs Operations Staff Support.

CAA make CA an invaluable asset to the commander because an accurate picture of the on-the-ground reality frees the commander to make timely decisions confidently. Without that picture every decision is a gamble. In Churchill's mind, the specifics surrounding each individual circumstance should drive military decisions. For him, "Circumstances alone . . . decide whether a correct conventional maneuver is right or wrong." That these circumstances "are many in number and constantly moving" only emphasizes the need for CA input into the commander's common operational picture (COP).

Policy makers benefit from this civil information as well, as it enables them to make decisions in light of their real-world implications. Churchill believed that, although the "statesman lives and judges amidst the details of action," he "serves a master beyond all particulars." For the policy maker to rise above the particulars someone else must gather, process, and disseminate the detailed information that drives policy decisions. Someone else must pay close attention to the specifics of a given civil situation. CA forces meet the civil information requirements of both the general and the statesmen in this regard and are uniquely "trained in understanding" the particulars of "foreign cultures, socio-economic dynamics, and governance structures."

Army CA has only two tactical mission tasks in its doctrine, and both of them are oriented toward defining the particulars of the civil component. Civil Reconnaissance (CR) and Civil Engagement (CE), which are also the first two CAA functions, are dedicated to gathering the raw civil data in a given area of operations. These two "CA specific tasks answer key information gaps in which no other staff section specializes." CA Forces are able to focus their attention on the "dynamic relationship" between "friendly forces, enemy forces, and populations as . . . a host of other factors contend to influence the OE on a daily basis."

CR, the first tactical task, is the "targeted, planned, and coordinated observation and evaluation of specific civil aspects of the environment." CA forces are capable of conducting CR in any environment the commander deems necessary by "deploying to semi- and non-permissive environments, and operating in places where traditional military and civilian agencies cannot." For this reason, among many others, Marine COL Jeffrey Lipson concludes that tactical CA units are "employed to their best effect" when they are tasked "to gain an accurate picture of a region in addition to what is gleaned from traditional intelligence sources."

CR is proactive in nature, not reactive. It continually refines the commander's picture of the OE instead of waiting for specific information requirements to be published, although CA forces are perfectly capable of answering those as well. CA forces base their

CR on civil information collection plans, which are specific enough to economize CA efforts but broad enough to allow for flexibility depending on the circumstances. The result is quality civil information gained at a negligible cost. COL Lipson explains, "When properly gathered, analyzed, deployed, civil reconnaissance will 'push' information to commanders to help them tailor their operations. Without it, the same information is 'pulled' through interrogations, patrols, or other more time- and resource-intensive means and perhaps with less efficacy."

Churchill believed that those "who cannot talk to each other are likely to fight like roosters." CA has an answer to this problem as well. Civil Engagement (CE), the second tactical mission task, are "the planned and targeted activities in which CA forces deliberately focus on the interaction with the IPI [indigenous populations and institutions], unified action partners, and other civil entities."

Churchill knew first-hand that fostering relationships leads to a clearer understanding of the circumstances. While serving as a war correspondent in South Africa during the Boer War in the late 1890s, Boer fighters captured Churchill as well as a number of British soldiers. Churchill, unwilling to stand passively by, built relationships with his captors, befriended them, and then leveraged these relationships to gain valuable information that led to his daring and successful escape.

Although he did not refer to it as such, Churchill conducted CE to gain access to and influence with his guards, and, as a result, gather the necessary information for his plan. Aside from the fact that his engagements were with enemy combatants, it is no different than what CA does every day with non-threat entities. The CE function provides a host of capabilities to the supported commander, who may employ "this task to obtain or disseminate information, mitigate civilian-military interference, foster legitimacy, gain civil cooperation, build partner capacity, and obtain unified action."

CE is a tactical level task that can have strategic effects. Dr. David Kilcullen and Marine COL (Ret.) Curtis Lee observe, "Civilians are active participants in all conflicts, making engagement with civil government, civil society organizations, and community leaders a critical combat function." The commander has in CE the capability to reach directly down to the level of boots-on-the-ground and thereby influence key partners to achieve his end-state, as well as fill critical information gaps with data that can only be acquired through face-to-face interactions. As Dr. Peterson observes, "It's amazing what people will tell you if you pay attention." The commander finds in CA forces a tool to employ "in the information environment that can be used to create effects and operationally desirable conditions."

#### A SINGLE UNITY OF CONCEPTION

Churchill was not only a soldier, statesman, and writer. He was also a painter. Painting was his favorite leisure activity and he used the principles of painting to illustrate the proper conduct of war as he saw it. He saw many similarities between the painter, the general, and the statesman, but the most critical of these similarities was the need for "a single unity of conception."

Churchill describes this single unity of conception as an "all-embracing view which presents the beginning and the end, the whole and each part, as one instantaneous impression retentively and untiringly held in the mind." In both painting and warfare the "details," or, for CA, the data points gathered through CR and CE, "are essential to

the problem presented by each," however these "details have no order without" this single unity of conception.

Perhaps CA as a branch is best seen, using Churchill's language, as a master painter who accurately depicts the civil component of the OE in the commander's COP, reflecting reality but also vividly emphasizing the most relevant aspects in the foreground. The CA professional is like the art, movie, or food critic who is so familiar with his or her craft that he or she grasps details that would slip by the average consumer unnoticed as the significant particulars they are. Properly trained, CA forces are so intimately familiar with the social and political nuances of a given region that they recognize factors that others would consider inconsequential. Their "cultural orientation, regional expertise, linguistic capabilities, advisory ability, and civilian-acquired professional skills" enable them to discriminate between priority and ancillary data points.

For CA forces, the COP is the canvas and the pieces of civil information gathered through CR and CE are the colors on the palette. Information management systems and practices are the brushes that feed the information into the overall COP. Civil Information Management (CIM), the third CAA function, is the process by which the colors are blended and arranged on the canvas to reflect reality. In this process "data relating to the civil component of the operational environment is gathered, collated, processed, analyzed, produced into information products, and disseminated." CIM is how the particulars become actionable to the general and the statesman.

The purpose of the COP is to enable the commander to achieve a single unity of conception. In a properly "painted" picture of the civil component of the COP, every detail, "however distant, however subordinate, is set forth naturally and in its true proportion and relation." This is vital because, "Like the details, the conception of the work must be true. For the painter, nature appears on the canvas with 'startling obedience,' but only when the painter studies it attentively and faithfully." The civil information gathered during CR and CE must be accurate, but their aggregation must not skew any aspect or make it any more or less significant than it is. Reality as communicated by the data, not preconceived notions, must drive the COP.

Preconceived notions, or assumptions that have not been confirmed or denied, amount to nothing more than theories. Churchill believed, "The painter's art—and also that of the general . . . and the statesman—does not consist in admiration for or faith in theories." Theories are valuable as a starting point, but the role of CA includes verifying or refuting these assumptions to produce hard data that concurs with reality.

The CIM process and the resulting COP is "a service to the truth as it is to be observed in nature." The verified details that feed into the COP are crucial, but the COP "is more than and different from the details of which it has been composed. The nature of the thing seems to bring in qualitative factors, factors that are apparent only in the details, but factors that are not the same as the details." The aggregate significance of the COP, not just reliable bits of information, is both built by the details and also becomes a separate entity. The resulting single unity of conception drives military and policy decisions.

According to Churchill, both the general and the statesman "must see things as they relate to one another in magnitude, significance, and causality. Seeing in this way is not just seeing the details but seeing the order in the details." The civil component,

perhaps the most ambiguous and constantly shifting of all aspects of the OE, is also the one that requires the most persistent engagement. Army CA doctrine recognizes, "The land domain is the most complex of the domains, because it addresses humanity—its cultures, ethnicities, religions, and politics." The information gathering and production process helps the "superior" commander "bring these shifting details into order and comprehension," thus emphasizing the actionability of the data, and avoid the danger of becoming merely an "intelligent scribe."

#### ACTIONABILITY AND COOPERATION

The CIM process produces actionable information of a kind that Churchill referred to as "practical knowledge," the purpose of which is "not knowing, but doing. The result of prudential reasoning is a choice and the result of a choice is an action." Churchill recognized that the "business of statesmanship," as well as generalship, "was choosing." Due to the constant flux of circumstances, the statesman and general must "choose at the moment when choices are possible, in the present when the future 'though imminent is obscure.'"

Statesmen and generals, policy makers and commanders, bear the burden of making consequential decisions. For this reason, the purpose of CIM is not academic but action-oriented. In the CIM process, "The data is used as civil considerations input into possible courses of action to determine the impact of military operations on the civil component of the OE," as well as to describe "how the civil population affects military operations."

In Churchill's experience, "War actually calls forth the most intense forms of cooperation." War "is not only a cooperative and political event: it is the supreme event of that kind." He discerned that the "maneuver which brings an ally into the field is as serviceable as that which wins a great battle." CA not only provides the commander with actionable information through the COP, but also forges partnerships within and without the U.S. military. CA forces engage "IPI and unified action partners to establish and maintain relationships and communication channels in order to enhance and influence the relationship between military forces and the civil component." The nexus of this coordination is the Civil-Military Operations Center (CMOC).

The CMOC, the fourth CAA function, is the workhorse of the CA branch. It is "a primary capability for coordination of the activities of the Armed Forces of the United States with unified action partners, IPI, and interagency." When necessary, the CMOC can also be augmented with relevant specialists, such as engineers, military police, medical, and transportation to provide the supported commander with a one-stop-shop for subject-matter experts.

Reflecting the proactive nature of CAA, CMOCs may provide Civil Liaison Teams (CLT) to key partners. The CLT guards against miscommunication and allows for constant coordination and near-instantaneous synchronization. It also "provides the supported CMOC with a CR and CE capability for . . . coordination without interfering with the regular staff functions." These capabilities make CA "the Joint force of choice to work with many civilian agency, non-governmental, civil society, and private sector actors whose capacities best mitigate drivers of conflict and instability and promote peace."

#### ULTIMATE PRACTICAL ACCURACY

For Churchill, success "on the battlefield cannot be 'calculated on paper alone, and never copied from examples of the past.' The

solution must be 'evolved from the eye and brain and soul of a single man,'" with the goal of "achieving an 'ultimate practical accuracy.'" This is especially true in the 21st century and, as COL Lipson asserts, "There has never been a more pressing need to understand the importance of the integration of civil information into operational planning." Fortunately, the commander need not be alone in his pursuit of "ultimate practical accuracy."

Civil Affairs Operations Staff Support, the fifth and final function of CAA, provides the commander with civil-military experts who are "aware of cultural nuances, divergent world views, biases, prejudices, and stereotypes that affect both the civil component and military operations." CA staff, in conjunction with and supported by the CMOC, provides "support during the military decision-making process (MDMP) and the joint planning process." CA staff also "synchronizes, integrates, and coordinates the civil component with the commander's CMO [Civil-Military Operations] responsibilities and operational plans."

Input from CA staff supports whom Churchill would consider the "great" general. In Churchill's view, "Generals are supposed to add something to war to bring it to the right conclusion and to mitigate its effects. 'Battles are won by slaughter and maneuver. The greater the general, the more he contributes in maneuver, the less he demands in slaughter.'" He believed that the greatest "contribution" of the general is to achieve victory while suffering "few casualties," leaving "the enemy puzzled as well as beaten." Churchill's generals were challenged to "find easier ways other than sheer slaughter of achieving the main purpose."

CA staff, more so than traditional command staff positions, contribute to preventing the loss of human life, property, and social capital. Rather than simply solve problems after they have been created, CA staff helps the commander mitigate or defeat sources of instability well before kinetic action is called for. The fact is that "in today's dynamic world, it's likely that a conflict can arise before the presence of an enemy is even fully understood." These conflicts "can only be won at the civil-military level," where "coming to grips with the deep internal divisions and tensions of the host country, and the pressures from outside states, are critical."

CA staff acts as the commander's conduit to CIM and facilitate its integration into his COP. Rather than react to one threat after another, CA staff helps the commander understand the factors that contribute to civil unrest and make societies vulnerable to nefarious actors. Facilitating the commander's single unity of conception, CA staff enables him to make decisions that not only defeat threats but prevent them from arising in the first place. When kinetic operations are the priority, CA staff provides solutions to reduce "the friction between U.S. forces and the local populations," as well as mitigate "their impact on military operations."

The effects produced by CA staff are felt well above the level of their supported command. "Policy, doctrine, and strategy have increasingly leaned on the information gleaned from nontraditional sources . . . such as through social actions, internet, and private sector partners to create a more accurate view of the area of responsibility." Just as "generals must prioritize when they fight," they must prioritize how they train. CA staff provides these real-world inputs to enable the U.S. military in its entirety to train as it fights, further contributing to its readiness.

#### THE RIGHT WAY OF WARFIGHTING

In Churchill's mind, setting these conditions culminates in war being fought the

right way. He saw war and politics as two extremes on the same spectrum, in which “the real work of politics begins where war ends—and ends where war begins.” He found that “the distinction between politics and strategy diminishes as the point of view is raised. At the summit true politics and strategy are one.”

This being the case, for Churchill it was “not enough to win. One must win in the right way in order to serve the purposes of peace, which are the purposes of politics.” The greatest generals were those who “conducted war in ways that were compatible with the aims of politics.” They “manage to make the gravest choices well because they combine the functions of statesman and general,” meaning that they account for both the military and political consequences of their decisions.

Churchill’s analysis holds true in today’s geopolitical climate. Dr. Kevin Melton and COL (Ret.) Christopher Holshek acknowledge, “Ultimately, neither stability nor security are ends within themselves, but a way to foster an environment necessary for enhancing social cohesion, governance, economic livelihood that comprise the grand strategic goal of peace.” Consequently “the U.S. can neither afford—fiscally nor politically—to engage in perpetual warfare, nor to ignore simmering dynamics that have the potential to eventually threaten national or global security.” It is in this reality that CA forces are best positioned to prove their value, because the end of all CA efforts is to translate military victory into political gains.

In 2016, then-Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster “described war as essentially political, human, and uncertain—and thus the key role Civil Affairs plays in managing those determinants.” In shoring up the civil foundation of a given society, CA forces lay the groundwork for stable and sustainable governance well before kinetic operations have begun and long after they have ended. They do this “by building and sustaining relationships with host nation and non-state partners, and proactively engaging in activities such as supporting local governance, education and employment programs, and elevating moderate voices in civil society through active engagement.”

While emphasizing the ethical need to fight wars the right way to bring about the desired political effects, Churchill also stressed the economic necessity of doing so. He found, “Wars fought strategically are cheaper, in both men and materiel. They happen faster, and so they economize the time spent in conflict.” Both the low-cost and non-kinetic nature of CA contribute to economy of time and resources, as does the prevention of economic loss among the civil populace. Described by COL (Ret.) Holshek as the “low-tech solution to low-tech problems,” CA forces produce effects disproportionate to their cost.

#### CONCLUSION

An accurate and complete grasp of the truth, the on-the-ground reality, in both the particulars and as a single unity of conception, enables both statesmen and generals to make those consequential decisions pertaining to the national security of the United States. Danielle Pletka of the American Enterprise Institute agrees that the recipe for success is clear: “Understand the reality. Look at the problems. Identify the solution. Keep an eye on dangerous currents. And remember that any solution that does not lead back to the true roots of stable governance will be no solution at all in the long run.” Army CA forces are single-mindedly committed to supporting those efforts, and they start by simply paying attention.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CONGRATULATING THE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEN’S BASEBALL TEAM

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, as a fellow Commodore and former Vanderbilt athlete, I would like to congratulate the Vanderbilt University baseball team on winning the 2019 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men’s College World Series, the second championship title for the baseball program and the fifth national championship in Commodore athletic history.

Tim Corbin, in his 17th season as head baseball coach, has built a program that not only contends each year for college baseball’s top prize, but has developed a culture of excellence among his athletes, both on the field and off. En route to their second national title, Coach Corbin’s team, also referred to as the Vandy Boys, broke the Southeastern Conference record with 59 total victories, while also winning both the regular season and tournament titles. Without Vanderbilt’s seven-member senior class, the Commodores’ success could not have been possible. These seniors provided leadership and stability to a program that had a target on its back throughout the season.

This achievement is due to the hard work, talent, and teamwork of the following outstanding student-athletes: Harrison Ray, Cooper Davis, Philip Clarke, Tate Kolywck, Isaiah Thomas, Ethan Paul, Matt Hogan, Dominic Keegan, Kiamu Fentress, Austin Martin, Walker Grisanti, Pat DeMarco, Stephen Scott, Ty Duvall, Tyler Brown, Julian Infante, Ethan Smith, Patrick Raby, Sterling Hayes, Hugh Fisher, Erik Kaiser, Zach King, Jackson Gillis, John Malcom, Jake Eder, Justyn-Henry Malloy, Austin Becker, Mason Hickman, Chance Huff, AJ Franklin, JJ Bleday, Joe Gobillot, Drake Fellows, Kumar Rocker, and Jayson Gonzalez.

These student-athletes were coached and mentored by a dedicated team of coaches and athletic department staff, including: Head Coach Tim Corbin, Associate Head Coach Scott Brown, Assistant Coach Mike Baxter, Volunteer Coach David Macias, Athletic Trainer Tracy Campbell, Strength and Conditioning Coach Chris Ham, Director of Baseball Operations Brooks Webb, Director of Player Development Brandon Barak, Video Coordinator Josh Ruchotzke, Equipment Manager Kevin Collins, and Student Managers Jack Goodrum, Chase Casali, Jackson Kelley, and Ethan Stem.

I would also like to acknowledge Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos, Vice Chancellor for Athletics and University Affairs and Athletics Director Malcolm Turner, Deputy Athletics Director Candice Storey Lee, and Associate Athletic Director Phillip Brown for their leadership.

Anchor Down, Commodores. We are proud of you.●

##### TRIBUTE TO CRYSTAL GADDO

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Crystal Gaddo of Gallatin County for her excellence in public service.

Crystal serves as a registered nurse at the Bozeman VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. A veteran herself, Crystal spent 8 years as a Medic in the U.S. Army.

She is an exemplary employee at the VA. In her role as a registered nurse, Crystal was nominated for the Daisy Awards for excellent performance twice. Crystal has also recruited and mentored other nurses to help fill critical positions in the VA system. In addition, Crystal participated in multiple committees to better serve our veterans and support nursing practices.

In October of 2019, Crystal was flying to Atlanta for a training, when one of the passengers began to choke. She quickly stepped into action and saved his life. Because of her swift actions, the passenger was able to walk off the plane harm-free.

I thank Crystal for her service to our country and her service to the veterans of Bozeman. It is my distinct honor to recognize her character and life of service as a shining example of the best Montana has to offer.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ROGER HUTSON

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a giant of Denver and Colorado’s business and philanthropic community, Mr. Roger Hutson. Mr. Hutson is the president and CEO of HRM Resources III, which is headquartered in Denver and produces energy in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Kansas.

Mr. Hutson has a servant’s heart. He has offered his business acumen and leadership experience to serve others in Colorado for decades. Mr. Hutson graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a bachelor of science in geological engineering in 1982, one of the Nation’s leading engineering schools. In 2004, Governor Bill Owens appointed Mr. Hutson to the school’s board of trustees, and he was reappointed in 2009 by Governor Bill Ritter. During his two terms of service, he served as president of the board of trustees and chairman of the finance and audit committee. He has served on many other boards and commission at both the State and local levels.

Because he is passionate about business, education, economic development, and public policy, Mr. Hutson was the first oil and gas executive asked to join the exclusive business organization known as Colorado Concern. There, he works with top Colorado executives who are interested in enhancing and protecting our State’s business climate, a business climate that is widely recognized as the best in the

Nation thanks to the work of people like Mr. Hutson.

He has no doubt touched countless lives in Colorado as he has provided his time, talent, and resources to advance the causes he cares deeply about. He served as a mentor for the Denver Petroleum Club in 2013 and helped a group of young industry professionals raise more than \$700,000 for the Wounded Warriors Project. He has also supported the Children's Hospital, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the Tennyson Center, and the Newman Center.

Mr. Hutson will be honored next week at the Navy Seal Foundation's Denver Evening of Tribute. He is worthy of this recognition, and I thank him for serving and impacting so many people in the State of Colorado.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ERIK BECKER

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Erik Becker of Lancaster, NH, as August's Granite Stater of the Month for his dedication to improving the community he grew up in and for lending support to those in need.

As the Student Assistance Program coordinator at Groveton High School—the very same high school that he graduated from—Erik sees firsthand how important it is to ensure that students have both emotional and material support throughout the year, not just during the school months.

During the summer, kids usually lose the relationship that they have formed with teachers during the school year. To prevent his relationships from weakening during the summer, Erik spends 15 hours a week at the school helping to distribute free lunches to kids in need, while also acting as a “big brother” for students who just need someone to talk to.

Erik also works at the community homeless shelter, Tyler Blaine House. He started out as a support staff member but moved his way up to a full-time case manager position to help individuals seeking to break the cycle of homelessness and get back on their feet.

In addition, Erik is the founder of the Black Crow Project, which he and a few friends founded after seeing how the substance misuse epidemic had negatively affected their community. The Black Crow Project seeks to act as a support system for those impacted by substance abuse. Right now, the group is working to revitalize the Lancaster/Groveton Crowsation, a community coalition that provides support, training, and guidance to individuals suffering from addiction. In 2016, the group also helped put on one of the largest Narcan kit distribution/awareness events in New Hampshire.

One of Erik's favorite projects as part of his work with the Black Crow Project is the Small Town Loud Fest, an annual event that brings people of all ages together to combat substance

misuse, all while listening to area bands in a substance-free space.

To top off all of this community involvement, Erik also acts as a recovery coach for those battling addiction.

In New Hampshire, we have a tradition and ethos of seizing the initiative in order to make a difference, and Erik's activism and engagement exemplifies what it means to be a Granite Stater. His passion and dedication to improving the lives of the people who he grew up with is making a difference and will spur and enable others to do the same. New Hampshire is lucky to have him.●

#### RECOGNIZING TAPPAN CHAIRS

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the 200th anniversary of Tappan Chairs of Sandwich, NH.

One of the first settlers of Sandwich, Abraham Tappan first created a ladder-backed Tappan chair in 1819. The chairs became an iconic and treasured part of the town's history, with subsequent generations of the Tappan family crafting chairs from stout rock maple and hardy white ash and selling and trading them throughout the region.

In the 1930s, the business moved out of the family and was run by various members of the Sandwich community. The business continued in affiliation with the Sandwich Home Industries, an original incarnation of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. Tappan Chairs almost disappeared in the early 1960s but was saved at auction. In the 1980s and 1990s the company was revitalized once again by Gunnar Berg, who established a national market for this unique type of furniture.

Currently, the business is run by Adam Nudd-Homeyer, who has dedicated himself to studying the chairs' story, design, and build, bringing older models back into production and expanding the selection of the furniture's materials. Adam has also continued the tradition of using Tappan Chairs to help raise money for local, regional, and national nonprofits.

Tappan Chairs is the only commissioned chairmaker in the world for the living Shaker community and is developing a limited edition historic reproduction piece with the foremost Shaker museum in the country. This iconic business and pillar of the community is now housed in the former Sandwich General Store building, having transformed the space into an open workshop, showroom, and history exhibit.

For 200 years, Tappan Chairs has crafted high-quality, beautiful chairs, innovating in numerous ways while also staying true to techniques and designs that have stood the test of time. As the business has passed from one maker to the next over, from generation to generation, this wonderful company has encouraged Granite Staters to treasure our past and embrace the future.

Mr. President, I hope you will join me in honoring the 200th anniversary

of a treasured New Hampshire business, Tappan Chairs.●

#### 132ND ANNIVERSARY OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

● Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, on August 15, 1887, 2 years after the end of the Civil War, history was made in Florida, when a group of newly freed slaves voted to incorporate the town of Eatonville on 122 acres of land. With its founding, Eatonville became the first African-American incorporated city in America. I want to congratulate Eatonville as they celebrate their 132nd anniversary and Founders Day this August. The story of Eatonville is one that all Americans should be proud of, and it stands today as an example to our Nation and the world.

This town started as a tightly knit community, built around church, school, and family, and they have maintained that heritage through over a century of growth and development. They share the challenges faced by all of our communities: the need for good jobs, a great education for their children, and a safe community.

Eatonville is famous for being the home for two influential authors, Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker. Zora Neale Hurston wrote about Eatonville in her 1937 novel, “Their Eyes Were Watching God.” Forty-five years later, Alice Walker would write “The Color Purple,” which shared similar themes. Today, Eatonville and Zora Neale Hurston are recognized in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

In 2018, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded Eatonville the prestigious Culture of Health Prize for their efforts to address the high rates of diabetes in their community. This is an honor awarded to just a handful of communities across the Nation each year, with only 4 winning cities out of 200 entries.

To address the health needs of the entire community, they created the Healthy Eatonville Initiative and established a diabetes education and research center, the Healthy Eatonville Place, where residents can come to learn how to improve diet and exercise habits. They improved access to fresh fruits and vegetables. They built safe sidewalks and bike paths and placed historical markers along the way for all residents to learn and take pride in their rich history.

I am proud of the community spirit of Eatonville and the work they have put in to make the community so successful. As Governor and now as Senator, it is an honor to work with partners like the Town of Eatonville to make Florida the best place to live, work, and raise a family, and I look forward to their future achievements.●

## 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRAWFORD PATH

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Crawford Path on its 200th year of continuous operation. As the first trail to the summit of 6,288-foot Mount Washington, the Crawford Path has provided adventure, physical challenge, and fantastic alpine views of the White Mountains for two centuries of hikers and travelers.

Ethan Allen Crawford, for whom the trail is named, first proposed the idea for a path to the peak of Mount Washington. Ethan and his father Abel operated the Crawford House, a modest wayside inn which provided shelter and accommodations for travelers at the inception of the tourism industry in the White Mountains. As an early entrepreneur, he realized he could make a little extra money serving as a mountain guide to these travelers. After seeing and hearing how difficult it was to move through the thick mountain brush, Ethan and Abel set out to cut some trees and build a footpath that offered better access to the Northeast's highest peak. Their path snaked through the woods, eclipsed the tree line, and traversed ridges and peaks on its way to the summit. The finished product as among the first hiking trails in the United States and established Ethan as an early mountain guide.

The Crawford Path capitalized on growing interest in the wilderness, and more and more travelers viewed the mountains as an outlet for recreational experiences. On one of Ethan's guided treks to the top of Mount Washington, he led a group that named the surrounding peaks—Mount Adams, Mount Jefferson, Mount Madison, Mount Monroe, Mount Franklin, and Mount Pleasant, now famously known as the Presidential Range.

The family continued to cut trails on the mountain, including a bridle path in the 1840s that led horse riders to the summit. Abel—by then in his seventies—became the first person to ascend Mount Washington on a horse. Years later, the mountain pass where they worked was renamed “Crawford Notch” as a tribute to the family's contributions to the region.

Generations of hikers have walked along the path first forged by the Crawfords, and generations of trail crews have maintained the 8.5-mile route for the enjoyment of the public. The Crawford Path carries day hikers as well as thru-hikers tackling the Appalachian Trail. Each is instantly connected to 200 years of experiences and adventures.

The White Mountains are now a thriving, well-known, four-season tourist destination, where travelers in numbers Abel and Ethan could not have imagined come to observe unparalleled natural beauty.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in recognizing the Crawford Path on its 200 year anni-

versary and in thanking its many stewards for preserving the oldest continually-used mountain trail in the United States.●

## TRIBUTE TO JAYDEN BIES

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Jayden Bies, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Jayden is a graduate of St Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, where she is majoring in government with an emphasis in legal studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

## TRIBUTE TO ALLYSON MONSON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Allyson Monson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Allyson is a graduate of Clark High School in Clark, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, where she is double majoring in political science and communication studies and minoring in legal studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

## TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE TAYLOR

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Katherine Taylor, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Katherine is a graduate of George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church, VA. Currently, she is attending Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, where she is majoring in finance. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

## TRIBUTE TO EDA UZUNLAR

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Eda Uzunlar, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the

hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Eda is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Yale University in New Haven, CT, where she is pursuing a degree in global affairs. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

## RECOGNIZING THE WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1969

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, on Saturday, June 29, 2019, more than 125 members of the Class of 1969 of Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD, held their 50th graduation class reunion celebration. Over the years, Walt Whitman High School has been recognized as one of the best high schools in the Nation. The WWHS class of 1969 is an outstanding representation of that excellence.

The Mighty Sixty-Niners, as they call themselves, have earned the characterization of “mighty.” From its beginning in 1962, Walt Whitman High School was experimental and forward-looking. The original school setting included a Buckminster Fuller-type geodesic dome that served as the school's main gymnasium and auditorium and as its unique visual focal point. For years afterwards, WWHS was locally and proudly known as “The Home of the Dome.”

The WWHS class of 1969 contributed much to the rich history of the school. In 1968, a time of heightened racial tensions throughout the country, Whitman students and faculty established an exchange program with several high schools in the District of Columbia. Participating Whitman students lived for a week and attended classes at DC's McKinley High School and Cardozo High School. The following week, the McKinley and Cardozo students spent a week at WWHS with their Whitman counterparts. Those exchanges helped develop greater understanding between the participants.

The WWHS class of 1969 also instituted a weeklong Experiment in Free Form Education. This novel educational program gained nationwide media attention and accolades, including a tribute on the floor of the U.S. Senate on April 25, 1969, by then-U.S. Senator Joseph Tydings of Maryland.

The Mighty Sixty-Niners have served our Nation in many productive ways, and they continue to do so, excelling in many fields—the arts, politics, government, education, literature, engineering, law, business and publishing, among others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our very best wishes and congratulations to the Walt Whitman High



School class of 1969 on the occasion of its 50th reunion.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2695. An act to rename the Success Dam in Tulare County, California, as the Richard L. Schafer Dam.

H.R. 3253. An act to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3877. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

## 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-2169. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2170. A communication from the Chief of the Environmental Management Division, Office of Procurement and Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Product Categories for Federal Procurement" (RIN0599-AA26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2171. A communication from the Acting Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2172. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of

Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Global Terrorism Sanctions Regulations; Transnational Criminal Organizations Sanctions Regulations; and Hizballah Financial Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Parts 566, 590, and 594) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2173. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of 'Employer' Under Section 3(5) of ERISA—Association Retirement Plans and Other Multiple-Employer Plans" (RIN1210-AB88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2174. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Low-Ranked Projects Secure Affordable Housing Funds"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2175. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Some Progress Made But More Improvement Needed In Management of Personally Identifiable Information"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2176. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "D.C. Schools Shortchange At-Risk Students"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2177. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Panel Meets Most Requirements for Domestic Violence Fatality Review"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2178. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Trademark Rules of Practice to Mandate Electronic Filing" (RIN0651-AD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2179. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2180. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones; Port of Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Port of Miami, and Port of Key West, Florida" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2181. 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; Ohio River, Brookport, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0486)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2182. 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; Cumberland River, Grand Rivers, KY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0514)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2183. 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; Beaufort Water Festival Air Show, Beaufort, SC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0521)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2184. 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; Allegheny River, Mile 0 to Mile 0.6, Pittsburgh, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0621)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2185. 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 St. Charles Riverfest, Missouri River, St. Charles" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0581)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-124. A resolution adopted by the Board of the Village of Tivoli, New York urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-125. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to the construction and maintenance of physical barriers between the United States and foreign nations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2302. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

\*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Michael M. Gilday, to be Admiral.

\*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. TESTER:

S. 2412. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of addiction counselor services under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEE, Mr. JONES, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2413. A bill to exclude the imposition of duties and import quotas from the authorities provided to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2414. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 2415. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a grant program for training wind technicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2416. A bill to provide States with the option of applying for and receiving temporary waivers for the States to experiment with new approaches that integrate Federal programs in order to provide more coordinated and holistic solutions to families in need, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2417. A bill to provide for payment of proceeds from savings bonds to a State with title to such bonds pursuant to the judgment of a court; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JONES, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2418. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to modify a definition and the disposition and authorized uses of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues under that Act and to exempt State and county payments under that Act from sequestration, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2419. A bill to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Coconino National Forest land in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2420. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require a DNA test to determine the familial relationship between an alien and an accompanying minor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2421. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

ance Act to improve accountability of disaster contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2422. A bill to advance the integration of clean distributed energy into electric grids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2423. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for purposes of the tax on private foundation excess business holdings to treat as outstanding any employee-owned stock purchased by a business enterprise pursuant to certain employee stock ownership retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2424. A bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2425. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the CHP Technical Assistance Partnership Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2426. A bill to establish a new timeline for certain State implementation plan and attainment requirements for the Fairbanks North Star Borough of the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2427. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2428. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain reforms with respect to Medicare supplemental health insurance policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2429. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. PERDUE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2430. A bill to provide an exemption from certain requirements for federally funded projects and activities in areas not in metropolitan statistical areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 2431. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations requiring voice service providers to provide consumers opt-out call-blocking programs by default and free of charge; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 2432. A bill to require Amtrak to place at least 1 station agent in every State in which Amtrak operates; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 2433. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2434. A bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 2435. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs relating to servicing the public debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2436. A bill to establish in the States of North Carolina and South Carolina the Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 2437. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for parents who take leave from employment following the birth or adoption of a child; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2438. A bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2439. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the licensing of a mark for use by a related company may not be construed as establishing an employment relationship between the owner of the mark, or an authorizing person, and either that related company or the employees of that related company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SASSE:

S. 2440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand permissible distributions from an employee's health flexible spending account or health reimbursement arrangement to their health savings account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SASSE:

S. 2441. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals who are not enrolled in a high deductible health plan to have access to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2442. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND  
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 303. A resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its kwan-li-so political prison labor camp system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COONS, Mr. Kaine, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 304. A resolution designating September 2019 as "National Workforce Development Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 305. A resolution designating the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as "National Estuaries Week"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 179

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 179, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 373

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to provide for the retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 457, a bill to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 511

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 586

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 706

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. JONES), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 706, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to require certain agencies to develop scientific integrity policies, and for other purposes.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 903

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes.

S. 934

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr.

BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 934, a bill to prohibit mandatory or compulsory checkoff programs.

S. 938

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 938, a bill to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 952

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to provide funding for federally qualified health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1015

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1015, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes.

S. 1047

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1047, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

S. 1102

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to promote security and energy partnerships in the

Eastern Mediterranean, and for other purposes.

S. 1126

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1126, a bill to provide better care for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers, while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure.

S. 1141

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1141, a bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment.

S. 1157

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1157, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program for educators of rural students and provide for loan forgiveness for rural educators, to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide professional development grants for rural elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of Inclusivity and Sexual Health and a rural outreach grant program carried out by that Office, and for other purposes.

S. 1161

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to support the education of Indian children.

S. 1168

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1168, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1307

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to amend the Richard B.

Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve nutrition in tribal areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1357

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1357, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1391

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1391, a bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes.

S. 1403

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 1475

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1475, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 1563

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, and for other purposes.

S. 1564

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1564, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agencies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes.

S. 1601

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1601, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a child safety alert system, and for other purposes.

S. 1612

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1612, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.

S. 1615

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1615, a bill to amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to provide compensation and credit for retired pay purposes for maternity leave taken by members of the reserve components, and for other purposes.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1625, a bill to promote the deployment of commercial fifth-generation mobile networks and the sharing of information with communications providers in the United States regarding security risks to the networks of those providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1723

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1723, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account.

S. 1782

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 1886

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to restrict security assistance to Lebanon, and for other purposes.

S. 1974

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1974, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2001

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2001, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2026

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 2038

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2038, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property, and for other purposes.

S. 2039

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2039, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the issuance of exempt facility bonds for zero-emission vehicle infrastructure.

S. 2040

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2040, a bill to establish a working group on electric vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2041

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2041, a bill to establish the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Initiative to facilitate the installation of zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure on National Forest System land, National Park System land, and certain related land, and for other purposes.

S. 2108

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2108, a bill to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, and for other purposes.

S. 2112

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to enhance the rights of domestic workers, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2203, a bill to extend the transfer of Electronic Travel Authorization System fees from the Travel Promotion Fund to the Corporation for Travel Promotion (Brand USA) through fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes.

S. 2238

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2238, a bill to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State and Indian tribe grants for community colleges and grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2260

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2260, a bill to provide for the improvement of domestic infrastructure in order to prevent marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2303

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2303, a bill to allow United States citizens and legal residents to travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 2330

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name and the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2330, a bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide for congressional oversight of the board of directors of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and to protect amateur athletes from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2330, *supra*.

S. 2353

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2353, a bill to direct the

Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 2355

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2355, a bill to eliminate racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 2364

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to enhance domestic marine debris response, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2389

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2389, a bill to provide access to counsel for children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2390

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2390, a bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 2403

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2403, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to provide loans for the acquisition of electric buses and related infrastructure.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 298

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 298, a resolution concurring with the decision to withdraw the United States from the INF Treaty, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 299

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Washington

(Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 299, a resolution designating the first week in August 2019 as "World Breastfeeding Week", and designating August 2019 as "National Breastfeeding Month".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 2435. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs relating to servicing the public debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today the Senate passed disastrous legislation that I opposed, which increases spending by \$322 billion with few offsets and suspends the debt limit for 2 years with absolutely no reforms to bring fiscal sanity to Washington. According to the Congressional Budget Office, in 2029, the net interest on our debt will near \$1 trillion. The cost of our debt is a pending crisis but current rules for scoring the cost of legislative proposals do not tell the full story, like how much the bills will increase the debt and the subsequent cost of interest on that debt. This bill would require that information be included, which in turn would increase transparency for taxpayers, who will eventually foot the bill for this reckless spending. I urge my colleagues to join me in this commonsense proposal.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 303—CALLING UPON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO DISMANTLE ITS KWAN-LI-SO POLITICAL PRISON LABOR CAMP SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 303

Whereas the public has long been aware of the labor camp system in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through continuous eye-witness and survivor accounts, and now publicly available satellite technology;

Whereas, according to the Hidden Gulag IV report, the Government of North Korea runs 2 kinds of prison camps, the kwan-li-so and the kyo-hwa-so, as well as "various types of short-term forced labour detention facilities";

Whereas the most heinous camps, the kwan-li-so, are known as Prison Camp 14, 15, 16, and 25, which contain roughly 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners;

Whereas the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisons Report of 2017, prepared by the War Crimes Committee of the International Bar Association, states that "hundreds of thousands of inmates are estimated to have died" in the kwan-li-so camps;

Whereas, from 1981 to 2013, an estimated 400,000 people out of 500,000 imprisoned were killed in these labor camps;

Whereas persons who are sent to these labor camps are forcibly disappeared and intended to die, and the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea wrote in 2014 that "the unspeakable atrocities" committed in the kwan-li-so camps "resemble the horrors of camps that totalitarian states established during the twentieth century";

Whereas the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea found that "the inmate population has been gradually eliminated through deliberate starvation, forced labour, executions, torture, rape and the denial of reproductive rights enforced through punishment, forced abortion and infanticide";

Whereas up to 3 generations of a "violinist's" family will be sent to the labor camps even if no "wrongdoing" is found;

Whereas, according to the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisons Report of 2017, the Government of North Korea regularly and routinely commits crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, enslavement, forcible transfer, imprisonment, torture, sexual violence, persecution, enforced disappearances, and other inhumane acts;

Whereas, according to the best available evidence, some of the specific crimes identified by the Inquiry are as follows:

(1) "Christians are heavily persecuted and receive especially harsh treatment in prison camps, with one former prison guard testifying that 'Christians were reactionaries and there were lots of instructions...to wipe out the seed of reactionaries'".

(2) Multiple witnesses watched prisoners tortured and killed on account of their religious affiliation.

(3) A prisoner was raped by a security officer, after which the officer stuck a wooden stick inside her vagina and beat her lower body, resulting in her death within a week of the rape.

(4) An abortion was induced by 3 men standing on a wooden plank placed on a pregnant prisoner's stomach.

(5) Another witness lost consciousness after enduring a beating designed to trigger premature labor, with prison officials killing her baby before she could regain consciousness.

(6) Rape victims who feared being killed after becoming pregnant engaged in self-induced abortions by eating dirt and poisoning themselves with flower roots.

(7) Other rape victims self-induced abortions by inserting a rubber tube in their vaginas.

(8) Rape of teenage girls and their subsequent attempts to commit suicide by jumping in the Dae-dong-gang River were so common that prison guards were deployed to the river to thwart them.

(9) Four pregnant women were executed for protesting the fact guards forced them to run down a mountain in a failed effort to induce miscarriages.

(10) Twelve prisoners were shot and killed in the commotion that ensued after the execution of the 4 pregnant women referenced in paragraph (9), and a former prison guard witnessed a prisoner's newborn baby, most likely fathered by a high-ranking official, fed to guard dogs and killed.



(11) Female prisoners suspected of being impregnated by non-Korean men (namely Chinese men) are subjected to especially harsh treatment, with one witness describing a prisoner being injected with a labor-inducing drug and having to watch as a guard suffocated her newborn to death with a wet towel.

(12) A former North Korean army nurse testified that she saw multiple abortions performed by injecting Ravenol (a motor oil) into the wombs of pregnant women and that babies born 3 to 4 months premature were “wrapped in newspapers and put in a bucket until buried” behind the detention center.

(13) Deliberate starvation, malnutrition, and overwork are extremely common, resulting in the deaths of countless prisoners.

(14) At one prison camp, 1,500 to 2,000 prisoners, mostly children, are believed to have died each year from malnutrition, while many other prisoners were beaten to death for failing to meet production quotas.

(15) Starving prisoners are regularly executed when caught scavenging for food.

(16) At one prison camp, starving prisoners who were found digging up edible plants on a mountainside were shot to death.

(17) At another camp, a witness saw a fellow inmate executed for stealing potatoes, while in a separate camp a witness described the execution of numerous prisoners caught scavenging for leftover food in prison guards’ quarters.

(18) A prisoner was beaten to death for hiding stolen corn in his mouth.

(19) Public executions by firing squads or other means are common, especially for prisoners caught attempting to escape.

(20) The existence of mass graves is well documented, including detailed descriptions of mass burial sites at or near prison camps, as well as testimony about bodies being “dumped” on mountainsides near prison camps.

(21) An undisclosed location near a prison camp was regularly used for nighttime executions, with gunshots clearly audible.

(22) At a 1990 prison riot, approximately 1,500 prisoners were shot and killed, their bodies discarded in a closed mine.

(23) In order to satisfy production quotas, inmates—including teenagers—were forced to perform 15 to 16 hours of hard labor per day.

(24) One witness was forced to perform hard labor (carrying logs) when he was 9 years old.

(25) At one mine in particular, prisoners were forced to work 20 hours per day, with a witness testifying that approximately 200 prisoners died each year at that mine alone.

(26) A soldier supervising a forced labor site at a political prison rolled a log down a steep mountainside, killing 10 prisoners as they were carrying logs up the mountain.

(27) The bodies of some prisoners who died as a result of forced labor or torture were thrown into the cells of prisoners in solitary confinement and later strung on barbed-wire fences where they were eaten by crows.

(28) One witness described a torture chamber with blood and flesh on the walls and decaying corpses of past victims placed in the chamber in order to instill fear in the next prisoner.

(29) Psychological abuse in political prisons is pervasive, with gruesome acts, including executions, carried out in plain view of fellow prisoners in order to terrorize them.

(30) Torture is a routine feature of life in political prisons, with a 2014 report by Amnesty International concluding that “North Korea’s prison camps are very possibly home to some of the most appalling torture in the world”;

Whereas officials of the Government of North Korea continually deny the existence of the labor camps;

Whereas the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisons Report of 2017 found that North Korea’s labor camp system “has no parallel in the world today”; and

Whereas the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea found that the government continually commits crimes against humanity and will not cease, “because the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their root remain in place”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the international community to—

(A) demand that the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea dismantle its labor camp system;

(B) create a special tribunal with jurisdiction to investigate and remedy crimes against humanity committed by the Government of North Korea;

(C) consider targeted sanctions against those individuals who have committed such crimes against humanity; and

(D) ban import of goods made by prisoners in the North Korean labor camp system;

(2) calls on the leadership of the Government of North Korea to—

(A) immediately cease human rights abuses;

(B) release the roughly 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners;

(C) halt the ongoing arrests of North Koreans on political and religious grounds;

(D) allow the International Committee of the Red Cross entry into the camps to assist with the release and rehabilitation of prisoners;

(E) allow entry to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea to monitor the situation and assist with the rehabilitation;

(F) comply with international standards of food distribution and monitoring and allow full access to international humanitarian agencies; and

(G) end the exportation of North Korean forced labor consistent with obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2397 (2017);

(3) strongly condemns the use of forced labor by the Government of North Korea; and

(4) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) consider additional sanctions to the extent possible against those individuals responsible for the North Korean kwan-li-so labor camp system, including individuals administering such labor camps; and

(B) continue to raise awareness in the international community of the kwan-li-so labor camps and the continuing atrocious crimes being committed in the labor camps.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 304—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COONS, Mr. Kaine, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO,

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 304

Whereas investment in the education, training, and career advancement of the workforce in the United States, known as “workforce development”, is crucial to the ability of the United States to compete in the global economy;

Whereas collaboration among Governors, local governments, State and local education, workforce, and human services agencies, community colleges, local businesses, employment service providers, community-based organizations, and workforce development boards provides for long-term, sustainable, and successful workforce development across traditional sectors and emerging industries;

Whereas middle-skill jobs, which require more than a high school diploma but not a 4-year degree, comprise 53 percent of the labor market, but only 43 percent of workers in the United States are trained at that level, creating a discrepancy that may limit growth in changing industries such as health care, manufacturing, and information technology;

Whereas 76 percent of business leaders say that greater investment in skills training would help their business;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) with overwhelming bipartisan support in recognition of the need to strengthen the focus of the United States on the skills necessary to fill jobs in local and regional industries;

Whereas the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) supports employment, training, and support services for individuals with barriers to employment, including—

- (1) individuals who are low-income;
- (2) individuals who are out of work, including the long-term unemployed;
- (3) individuals displaced by outsourcing;
- (4) individuals living in rural areas or areas with persistently high unemployment;
- (5) individuals looking to learn new skills; and
- (6) individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the more than 550 workforce development boards and 2,500 American Job Centers are a driving force behind growing regional economies by providing training, resources, and assistance to workers who aim to compete in the 21st century economy;

Whereas ongoing State and local implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) provides unprecedented opportunities to develop the skills of workers in the United States through access to effective workforce education and training, including the development and delivery of proven strategies such as sector partnerships, career pathways, integrated education and training, work-based learning models, and paid internships;

Whereas, in 2018, programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)—

- (1) served nearly 6,000,000 young people and adults;
- (2) exceeded employment targets across all programs; and
- (3) helped more than 1,500,000 individuals, including English language learners, gain skills and credentials to help the individuals succeed in the labor market;

Whereas State programs established under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.)—

- (1) ensured that more than 5,400,000 unemployed workers, including more than 500,000 veterans, had access to career services through American Job Centers in 2018; and



(2) are a foundational part of the workforce development system;

Whereas workforce development programs will play a critical role in addressing the expected 2,400,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs during the 10-year period following the adoption of this resolution;

Whereas community colleges and other workforce development training providers across the United States are well-situated—

- (1) to train the next generation of workers in the United States; and
- (2) to address the educational challenges created by emerging industries and technological advancements;

Whereas participation in a career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) program decreases the risk of students dropping out of high school, and all 50 States and the District of Columbia report higher graduation rates for CTE students, as compared to other students;

Whereas community and technical colleges operate as open access institutions serving millions of students annually at a comparatively low cost;

Whereas the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Public Law 115-224) supports the development and implementation of high-quality CTE programs that—

- (1) combine rigorous academic content with occupational skills; and
- (2) served approximately 12,000,000 high school and college students from 2016 to 2017;

Whereas there are more than 500,000 registered apprentices in the United States, and there is growing and bipartisan support for expanding earn-and-learn strategies to help current and future workers gain skills and work experience;

Whereas the federally supported workforce system and partner programs—

- (1) have helped rebuild the economy of the United States and provide increased economic opportunities; and
- (2) provide a pathway into 21st century jobs that support families while ensuring that businesses in the United States find the skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

Whereas workforce development is crucial to sustaining economic security for workers in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) designates September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month”;;
- (2) supports Federal initiatives to promote workforce development; and
- (3) acknowledges that workforce development plays a crucial role in supporting workers and growing the economy.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

United States but contain nearly 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of the jobs, and nearly 50 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 1,700,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2016—

- (1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated more than \$212,000,000,000 in sales and contributed \$100,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;
- (2) 9,800,000 saltwater anglers took recreational fishing trips; and
- (3) saltwater recreational fishing supported 472,000 jobs, generated \$68,000,000,000 in sales impacts across the economy, and contributed \$39,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for—

- (1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and
- (2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the original 13 colonies;

Whereas the ecosystem functions of some coastal wetlands in the United States have become severely impaired by excess nutrients, chemical wastes, marine debris, invasive species, coastal subsidence and sea level changes, or upstream water and sediment management practices;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health, and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to some estuaries;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain the—

- (1) chemical, physical, and biological integrity of estuaries;
- (2) water quality;
- (3) a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and
- (4) recreational activities in estuaries;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 27 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) designates the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;;
- (2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;
- (3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;
- (4) recognizes that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;
- (5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;
- (6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and
- (7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

Whereas the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

Whereas the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

Whereas the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quality and productivity of estuary resources;

Whereas the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

Whereas the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 935. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 936. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

SA 937. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, *supra*.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 935. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, beginning on line 12, strike “Notwithstanding section 110” and all that follows through “2018” on line 20 and insert the following: “The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall provide assistance, including multi-sectoral, non-humanitarian, and non-trade related foreign assistance, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 20 2018, following certification from the Secretary of State pursuant to section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101) that each such country receiving assistance meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking or is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with such standards”.

On page 8, after line 13, add the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be constructed as preventing humanitarian assistance from being

S. RES. 305

provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**SA 936.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Rebuilding Small Businesses After Disasters Act”.

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SUNSET FOR COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS.**

Section 2102(b) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “4 years” and inserting “7 years”.

**SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON DEFAULT RATES.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report comparing—

(1) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) during the period—

(A) beginning on January 1, 2000; and

(B) ending on the date on which the Small Business Administration began making loans in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–88; 129 Stat. 690); and

(2) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–88; 129 Stat. 690).

**SA 937.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 2 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 ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 2019, at time to be determined, to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1,

2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing on the nomination of W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice.

**REPORTING AUTHORITY**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate’s adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Friday, August 16, 2019, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

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

**SIGNING AUTHORITY**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader and the senior Senator from Texas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on August 1 and August 2, 2019.

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

**APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

**NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 304, 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. 304) designating September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month”.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that 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 preamble was agreed to.

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

**NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 305, submitted earlier today.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 305) designating the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to consider 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. 305) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution with its preamble is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 44, S. 394.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 394) to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments. (The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldfaced brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 394

*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 “Presidential Transition Enhancement Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “upon request,” and all that follows through “including” and inserting “upon request, to each President-elect, each Vice-President-elect, and, for up to 60 days after the date of the inauguration of the

President-elect and Vice-President-elect, each President and Vice President, for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President necessary services and facilities, including"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting ", or an employee of a committee of either House of Congress, a joint committee of the Congress, or an individual Member of Congress," after "any branch of the Government"; and

(ii) by inserting ", or in the case of an employee in a position in the legislative branch, with the consent of the supervising Member of Congress" after "with the consent of the head of the agency";

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) The Administrator shall expend funds for the provision of services and facilities under this section—

"(1) in connection with any obligation incurred by the President-elect or Vice-President-elect, or after the inauguration of the President-elect as President and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President incurred by the President or Vice President, during the period—

"(A) beginning on the day after the date of the general elections held to determine the electors of the President and Vice President under section 1 or 2 of title 3, United States Code; and

"(B) ending on the date that is 60 days after the date of such inauguration; and

"(2) without regard to whether the President-elect, Vice-President-elect, President, or Vice President submits to the Administrator a request for payment regarding services or facilities before the end of such period.";

(3) in subsection (h)(2)(B)(ii), by striking "computers" and inserting "information technology"; and

(4) By adding at the end the following:

"(i) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1 of a year during which a Presidential election occurs, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into a memorandum of understanding with each eligible candidate, which shall include, at a minimum, the conditions for the administrative support services and facilities described in subsection (a).

"(2) EXISTING RESOURCES.—To the maximum extent practicable, a memorandum of understanding entered into under paragraph (1) shall be based on memorandums of understanding relating to previous Presidential transitions.

"(3) TRANSITION REPRESENTATIVE.—

"(A) DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR INQUIRIES.—Each memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall designate a representative of the eligible candidate to whom the Administrator shall direct any inquiries or legal instruments regarding the records of the eligible candidate that are in the custody of the Administrator.

"(B) CHANGE IN TRANSITION REPRESENTATIVE.—The designation of a new individual as the transition representative of an eligible candidate shall not require the execution of a new memorandum of understanding under this subsection.

"(C) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The designation of a transition representative under a memorandum of understanding shall terminate—

"(i) not later than September 30 of the year during which the inauguration of the President-elect as President and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President occurs; or

"(ii) before the date described in clause (i), upon request of the President-elect or the Vice-President-elect or, after such inauguration, upon request of the President or the Vice President.

"(4) AMENDMENTS.—Any amendment to a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall be agreed to in writing.

"(5) PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF DEVIATION.—Each party to a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall provide written notice, except to the extent prohibited under another provision of law, not later than 3 days before taking any action that deviates from the terms and conditions agreed to in the memorandum of understanding.

"(6) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible candidate' has the meaning given that term in subsection (h)(4)."

(b) AGENCY TRANSITIONS.—Section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) the term 'nonpublic information'—

"(A) means information from the Federal Government that a member of a transition team obtains as part of the employment of the member that such member knows or reasonably should know has not been made available to the general public; and

"(B) includes information that a member of the transition team knows or reasonably should know—

"(i) is exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or otherwise protected from disclosure by law; and

"(ii) is not authorized by the appropriate government agency or officials to be released to the public; and";

(2) in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(3), by inserting "serving in a career position" after "senior representative";

(3) by striking subsection (f)(2) and inserting the following:

"(2) ACTING OFFICERS.—Not later than September 15 of a year during which a Presidential election occurs, and in accordance with subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, the head of each agency shall ensure that a succession plan is in place for each senior noncareer position in the agency."; and

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "November 1" and inserting "October 1"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) ETHICS PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1) shall include an agreement that the eligible candidate will implement and enforce an ethics plan to guide the conduct of the transition beginning on the date on which the eligible candidate becomes the President-elect.

"(B) CONTENTS.—The ethics plan shall include, at a minimum—

"(i) a description of the ethics requirements that will apply to all members of the transition team, including any specific requirement for transition team members who will have access to nonpublic or classified information;

"(ii) a description of how the transition team will—

"(I) address the role on the transition team of—

"(aa) lobbyists registered under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and individuals who were former lobbyists registered under that Act; and

"(bb) persons registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), foreign nationals, and other foreign agents;

"(II) prohibit a transition team member with conflicts of interest similar to those applicable to Federal employees under section 2635.402(a) and section 2635.502(a) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, related to current or former employment, affiliations, clients, or investments, from working on particular matters involving specific parties that affect the interests of such member; and

"(III) address how the covered eligible candidate will address his or her own conflicts of interest during a Presidential term if the covered eligible candidate becomes the President-elect;

"(iii) a Code of Ethical Conduct, which each member of the transition team will sign and be subject to, that reflects the content of the ethics plans under this paragraph and at a minimum requires transition team members to—

"(I) seek authorization from transition team leaders or their designees before seeking, on behalf of the transition, access to any nonpublic information;

"(II) keep confidential any nonpublic information provided in the course of the duties of the member with the transition and exclusively use such information for the purposes of the transition; and

"(III) not use any nonpublic information provided in the course of transition duties, in any manner, for personal or private gain for the member or any other party at any time during or after the transition; and

"(iv) a description of how the transition team will enforce the Code of Ethical Conduct, including the names of the members of the transition team responsible for enforcement, oversight, and compliance.

"(C) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The transition team shall make the ethics plan described in this paragraph publicly available on the [Internet] internet website of the General Services Administration the earlier of—

"(i) the day on which the memorandum of understanding is completed; or

"(ii) October 1."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 394), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 394

*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 "Presidential Transition Enhancement Act of 2019".

#### SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "upon request," and all that follows through "including" and inserting "upon request, to each President-elect, each Vice-President-elect, and, for up to 60 days after the date of the inauguration of the

President-elect and Vice-President-elect, each President and Vice President, for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President necessary services and facilities, including"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting " , or an employee of a committee of either House of Congress, a joint committee of the Congress, or an individual Member of Congress," after "any branch of the Government"; and

(ii) by inserting " , or in the case of an employee in a position in the legislative branch, with the consent of the supervising Member of Congress" after "with the consent of the head of the agency";

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) The Administrator shall expend funds for the provision of services and facilities under this section—

"(1) in connection with any obligation incurred by the President-elect or Vice-President-elect, or after the inauguration of the President-elect as President and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President incurred by the President or Vice President, during the period—

"(A) beginning on the day after the date of the general elections held to determine the electors of the President and Vice President under section 1 or 2 of title 3, United States Code; and

"(B) ending on the date that is 60 days after the date of such inauguration; and

"(2) without regard to whether the President-elect, Vice-President-elect, President, or Vice President submits to the Administrator a request for payment regarding services or facilities before the end of such period.";

(3) in subsection (h)(2)(B)(ii), by striking "computers" and inserting "information technology"; and

(4) By adding at the end the following:

"(i) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1 of a year during which a Presidential election occurs, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into a memorandum of understanding with each eligible candidate, which shall include, at a minimum, the conditions for the administrative support services and facilities described in subsection (a).

"(2) EXISTING RESOURCES.—To the maximum extent practicable, a memorandum of understanding entered into under paragraph (1) shall be based on memorandums of understanding relating to previous Presidential transitions.

"(3) TRANSITION REPRESENTATIVE.—

"(A) DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR INQUIRIES.—Each memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall designate a representative of the eligible candidate to whom the Administrator shall direct any inquiries or legal instruments regarding the records of the eligible candidate that are in the custody of the Administrator.

"(B) CHANGE IN TRANSITION REPRESENTATIVE.—The designation of a new individual as the transition representative of an eligible candidate shall not require the execution of a new memorandum of understanding under this subsection.

"(C) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The designation of a transition representative under a memorandum of understanding shall terminate—

"(i) not later than September 30 of the year during which the inauguration of the President-elect as President and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President occurs; or

"(ii) before the date described in clause (i), upon request of the President-elect or the Vice-President-elect or, after such inauguration, upon request of the President or the Vice President.

"(4) AMENDMENTS.—Any amendment to a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall be agreed to in writing.

"(5) PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF DEVIATION.—Each party to a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall provide written notice, except to the extent prohibited under another provision of law, not later than 3 days before taking any action that deviates from the terms and conditions agreed to in the memorandum of understanding.

"(6) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible candidate' has the meaning given that term in subsection (h)(4)."

(b) AGENCY TRANSITIONS.—Section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) the term 'nonpublic information'—

"(A) means information from the Federal Government that a member of a transition team obtains as part of the employment of the member that such member knows or reasonably should know has not been made available to the general public; and

"(B) includes information that a member of the transition team knows or reasonably should know—

"(i) is exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or otherwise protected from disclosure by law; and

"(ii) is not authorized by the appropriate government agency or officials to be released to the public; and";

(2) in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (e)(3), by inserting "serving in a career position" after "senior representative";

(3) by striking subsection (f)(2) and inserting the following:

"(2) ACTING OFFICERS.—Not later than September 15 of a year during which a Presidential election occurs, and in accordance with subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, the head of each agency shall ensure that a succession plan is in place for each senior noncareer position in the agency."; and

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "November 1" and inserting "October 1"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) ETHICS PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1) shall include an agreement that the eligible candidate will implement and enforce an ethics plan to guide the conduct of the transition beginning on the date on which the eligible candidate becomes the President-elect.

"(B) CONTENTS.—The ethics plan shall include, at a minimum—

"(i) a description of the ethics requirements that will apply to all members of the transition team, including any specific requirement for transition team members who will have access to nonpublic or classified information;

"(ii) a description of how the transition team will—

"(I) address the role on the transition team of—

"(aa) lobbyists registered under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and individuals who were former lobbyists registered under that Act; and

"(bb) persons registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), foreign nationals, and other foreign agents;

"(II) prohibit a transition team member with conflicts of interest similar to those applicable to Federal employees under section 2635.402(a) and section 2635.502(a) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, related to current or former employment, affiliations, clients, or investments, from working on particular matters involving specific parties that affect the interests of such member; and

"(III) address how the covered eligible candidate will address his or her own conflicts of interest during a Presidential term if the covered eligible candidate becomes the President-elect;

"(iii) a Code of Ethical Conduct, which each member of the transition team will sign and be subject to, that reflects the content of the ethics plans under this paragraph and at a minimum requires transition team members to—

"(I) seek authorization from transition team leaders or their designees before seeking, on behalf of the transition, access to any nonpublic information;

"(II) keep confidential any nonpublic information provided in the course of the duties of the member with the transition and exclusively use such information for the purposes of the transition; and

"(III) not use any nonpublic information provided in the course of transition duties, in any manner, for personal or private gain for the member or any other party at any time during or after the transition; and

"(iv) a description of how the transition team will enforce the Code of Ethical Conduct, including the names of the members of the transition team responsible for enforcement, oversight, and compliance.

"(C) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The transition team shall make the ethics plan described in this paragraph publicly available on the internet website of the General Services Administration the earlier of—

"(i) the day on which the memorandum of understanding is completed; or

"(ii) October 1."

## REBUILDING SMALL BUSINESSES AFTER DISASTERS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 54, S. 862.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 862) to repeal the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Kennedy 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. 936), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rebuilding Small Businesses After Disasters Act".

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SUNSET FOR COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS.**

Section 2102(b) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “4 years” and inserting “7 years”.

**SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON DEFAULT RATES.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report comparing—

(1) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) during the period—

(A) beginning on January 1, 2000; and

(B) ending on the date on which the Small Business Administration began making loans in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88; 129 Stat. 690); and

(2) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88; 129 Stat. 690).

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 862), as amended, was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Kennedy title amendment be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 937) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.”.

**HOUSE BILLS**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills, en bloc: H.R. 2336, H.R. 2938, H.R. 3304, and H.R. 3311.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills, en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2336) to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of “family farmer”.

A bill (H.R. 2938) to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

A bill (H.R. 3304) to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of

the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

A bill (H.R. 3311) to amend chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, to address reorganization of small businesses, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills, en bloc, be considered read a third time.

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

The bills were ordered to a third reading and were read the third time, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bills, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the bills pass, en bloc?

The bills (H.R. 2336, H.R. 2938, H.R. 3304, H.R. 3311) were passed, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1340**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, no later than Thursday, September 26, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 102, S. 1340; I further ask that the Lee amendment No. 935 be the only amendment in order; that there be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees followed by a vote on adoption of the Lee amendment with a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption; finally, following disposition of the Lee amendment, the committee substitute as amended, if amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

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

**ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019, THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, August 2, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, August 6, at 9 a.m.; Friday, August 9, at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, August 13, at 12:30 p.m.; Friday, August 16, at 3 p.m.; Tuesday, August 20, at 9 a.m.; Friday, August 23, at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesday, August 27, at 10 a.m.; Friday, August 30, at 5 p.m.; Tuesday, September 3, at 1 p.m.; and Friday, September 6, at 8:30 a.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, September 6, it next convene on Monday, September 9; and 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Craft nomination; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, September 9.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW AT 1 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 3:15 p.m., adjourned until Friday, August 2, 2019, at 1 p.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID CAREY WOLL, JR., OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE NEAL J. RACKLEFF.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

NATALIE E. BROWN, OF NEBRASKA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uganda.

ROBERT S. GILCHRIST, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Lithuania.

STEVEN CHRISTOPHER KOUTSIS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chad.

ALINA L. ROMANOWSKI, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

JOVITA CARRANZA, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE LINDA E. MCMAHON.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate August 1, 2019:

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MICHAEL FAULKENDER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

## THE JUDICIARY

M. MILLER BAKER, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. TIMOTHY M. REIF, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

KATHE HICKS ALBRECHT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024.

KEEGAN F. CALLANAN, OF VERMONT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024.

DAVID ARMAND DEKEYSER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

KIM R. HOLMES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

PHYLLIS KAMINSKY, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

JEAN M. YARBROUGH, OF MAINE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARK SCHULTZ, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

MARY ANNE CARTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THOMAS MCCAFFERY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

LISA M. SCHENCK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF MILITARY COMMISSION REVIEW.

## UNITED STATES TAX COURT

COURTNEY DUNBAR JONES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KENNETH S. GEORGE, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

W. PATRICK MURPHY, OF VERMONT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA.

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

RON A. BLOOM, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2020.

ROMAN MARTINEZ IV, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2024.

## THE JUDICIARY

JAMES A. CROWELL IV, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

JASON PARK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL ERIC WOOTEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY.

## UNITED STATES TAX COURT

EMIN TORO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

## UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

RANDOLPH J. STAYIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2026.

AMY KARPEL, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2023.

## TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

WILLIAM B. KILBRIDE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2023.

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

JOHN MCLEOD BARGER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2021.

## INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ELIOT PEDROSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WILMER OCASIO, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MARK LEE GREENBLATT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

## THE JUDICIARY

RAINEY R. BRANDT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

SHANA FROST MATINI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

ANN C. FISHER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 14, 2024.

ASHLEY JAY ELIZABETH POLING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2024.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD K. BELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE.

JONATHAN R. COHEN, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT.

CHRISTOPHER LANDAU, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

RICHARD B. NORLAND, OF IOWA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LIBYA.

PHILIP S. GOLDBERG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLUMBIA.

JESSICA E. LAPENN, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE AFRICAN UNION, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

MARY BETH LEONARD, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SHARON FAST GUSTAFSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2023.

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8033:

*To be admiral*

VICE ADM. MICHAEL M. GILDAV

## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

ROBERT J. GREY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

ABIGAIL L. KUZMA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019.

ABIGAIL L. KUZMA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2022.

JOHN G. LEVI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

JOHN G. MALCOLM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

FRANK X. NEUNER, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019.

FRANK X. NEUNER, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2022.

GLORIA VALENCIA-WEBER, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

JULIE REISKIN, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019.

MATTHEW KEENAN, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

RUSSELL A. BERMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

WILLIAM ENGLISH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024.

JOHN FONTE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

MARJORIE FISHER FURMAN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

CLAIRE GRIFFIN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

JOYCE MALCOLM, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

ADAIR MARGO, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

MATTHEW ROSE, OF IOWA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024.

WILLIAM SCHNEIDER, JR., OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

NOEL VALIS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J.K. KRATSIOS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

JENNIFER L. HOMENDY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

ROBERT L. SUMWALT III, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

## WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on August 1, 2019 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF IDRIS M. DIAZ, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON APRIL 10, 2019.