

aimed at women and girls. These contributions will assist the Alliance in reaching its goal of spurring the adoption of clean cookstoves in 100 million households by 2020.

Our legislation reinforces the commitment these U.S. agencies have made to the Alliance and requires the Secretary of State in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, and in coordination with relevant international nongovernmental organizations and private and governmental entities to work to advance the goals of the Alliance. In addition, our bill formally authorizes the agency's funding commitments to ensure that these crucial pledges toward preventing unnecessary illness and reducing pollution around the globe are met.

By supporting the work of the Alliance to replace primitive stoves with modern versions that emit far less soot, this legislation would directly benefit some of the world's poorest people and reduce harmful pollution that affects us all.

This measure addresses an important global pollutant and alleviates a serious public health and environmental concern affecting developing nations. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting The Clean Cookstoves Support Act.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2554. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act.

I am pleased that Senator COONS, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator SCHUMER have joined me in this effort. When enacted, this legislation will continue for another five years the lifesaving grant program that Senator Campbell and I authored in 1998. This measure will continue Congress' strong commitment to the safety and security of our Nation's law enforcement officers.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, administered by the Department of Justice, provides financial assistance to State law enforcement agencies to help purchase bulletproof vests. This program is an important part of the Federal Government's overall policy to assist and support State and local law enforcement partners around the country.

In February, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this program and the need for reauthorization to emphasize just how important and effective this program has been. At that hearing, a representative from the Government Accountability Office testified

that since 1987, data shows that body armor has saved the lives of 3,000 law enforcement officers. That is 3,000 men and women who may not otherwise have made it home to their families and loved ones. The BVP Program has assisted State and local jurisdictions with the purchase of nearly one million bulletproof vests since 1999. That is a measure of success all Senators should be proud of. I hope we can support the continuation of this program unanimously, as the Senate did most recently in 2008.

Despite the progress that has been made in the improvement of lifesaving equipment and training, there is much work to be done. The year 2011 was an especially tragic one for the law enforcement community. Last year, 163 State and Federal law enforcement officers lost their lives and thousands were injured or disabled in the line of duty. This is an increase from 2010 and a grim reminder of the sacrifices far too many individuals make in the service of their communities and fellow citizens. The Senate should continue to do its part to help reverse the trend of the last several years.

The safety and support of law enforcement officers across the United States should be something on which we can all agree. As we look toward National Police Week this month, Senators have an opportunity with this legislation to help make a difference and to show the thousands of law enforcement officers and their family members who will be in Washington that the Senate stands with them. I encourage their support and I look forward to the enactment of this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2554

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 "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(23)) is amended by striking "2012" and inserting "2017".

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in SD 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Beyond Mother's Day: Helping the Middle Class Balance Work and Family."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the committee on (202) 224 5441.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2374, The Helium Stewardship Act of 2012.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 6150, or by email to Abigail_Campbell@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Kelly Kryc at (202) 224 0537, or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224 1219.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2146, the Clean Energy Standard Act of 2012.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, room 304 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 6150, or by email to Meagan_Gins@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Kevin Rennert at (202) 224 7826 or Meagan Gins at (202) 224 0883.

NOTICE: PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS

The filing date for the 2011 Public Financial Disclosure reports is Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Senators, political fund designees and staff members whose salaries exceed 120% of the GS 15 pay scale must file reports.

Public Financial Disclosure reports should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510.

The Public Records office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224 0322.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2050, H.R. 2240, H.R. 4628, AND H.R. 4849

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I understand there are four bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2050) to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2240) to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4628) to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

A bill (H.R. 4849) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading en bloc, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be

read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until Tuesday, May 8, at 10 a.m.; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act, with the time until noon evenly divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that following the remarks of the two leaders, the majority control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans control the second 30 minutes; and that following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, the first vote tomorrow will be at

noon on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 7, 2012:

THE JUDICIARY

JACQUELINE H. NGUYEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

AJIT VARADARAJ PAI, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2011.

JESSICA ROSENWORCEL, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2010.

THE JUDICIARY

KRISTINE GERHARD BAKER, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS.

JOHN Z. LEE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.