

confirmations. So this argument of obstruction, of delay, and of unfairness doesn't hold up.

I remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle of the obstructionism, delay, and filibusters, which they perfected. The history of President Bush's nominees to the ninth circuit provides some very important examples.

President Bush nominated nine individuals to the ninth circuit. Three of those nominations were filibustered. Two of those filibusters were successful. The nominations of Carolyn Kuhl and William Gerry Myers languished for years before being returned to the President. A fourth nominee, Randy Smith, waited over 14 months before finally being confirmed after his nomination was blocked and returned to the President. After being renominated, he was finally confirmed by a unanimous vote.

President Obama, on the other hand, has nominated six individuals to the ninth circuit. Only one of those nominees was subject to a cloture vote. After that vote failed, the nominee withdrew. If confirmed, Mr. Watford will be the fourth nominee of President Obama nominated to serve on the ninth circuit. Those four confirmations took an average of about 8 months from the date of nomination.

For all of President Obama's circuit nominees, the average time for nomination to confirmation is about 242 days. For President Bush's circuit nominees, the average wait for confirmation was 350 days. Given this history that I have spelled out, one might wonder then why President Bush and his nominees were treated differently and so much more unfairly than President Obama's nominees.

Mr. Watford received his B.A. from University of California, Berkeley in 1989 and his J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law in 1994. Upon graduation, he clerked for Judge Alex Kozinski on the Ninth Circuit and then for Justice Ginsburg on the Supreme Court. In 1996, he began working as an associate in the Litigation Department at the Los Angeles law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olsen. From 1997-2000, Mr. Watford was an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, in Los Angeles, handling a variety of criminal prosecutions, such as immigration, narcotics, firearms trafficking, bank robbery, computer fraud, mail and wire fraud, and securities fraud.

In 2000, Mr. Watford returned to private practice as an associate in the appellate practice group at Sidley & Austin's Los Angeles office. In 2001, he rejoined Munger, Tolles & Olsen as an associate, becoming a partner there in 2003. His practice focuses primarily on appellate litigation, specifically business and commercial disputes. Mr. Watford has also taught a course on Judicial Opinion Writing at the University of Southern California's Gould

School of Law for three semesters (2007, 2008, and 2009).

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him as Well Qualified for this position.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. 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. 3187

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 400, S. 3187, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, be vitiated; that at 2:15 tomorrow, Tuesday, May 22, the motion to proceed be agreed to; that the Harkin-Enzi substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, and the bill, as amended by the Harkin-Enzi substitute, be considered original text for the purposes of further amendment, and that the majority leader be recognized at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, based on this, we will have a vote that should start in 5 minutes, which will be the only vote of the day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time and ask unanimous consent that the vote start now.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Paul J. Watford, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) would have voted "nay."

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

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 104 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Akaka	Graham	Murray
Alexander	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Inouye	Pryor
Bennet	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Bingaman	Kerry	Reid
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kohl	Sanders
Brown (MA)	Kyl	Schumer
Brown (OH)	Landrieu	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lautenberg	Snowe
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Levin	Tester
Casey	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Collins	Lugar	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Manchin	Warner
Coons	McCain	Webb
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	
Gillibrand	Murkowski	

NAYS—34

Ayotte	Enzi	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Hutchison	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Coburn	Johanns	Thune
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Corker	Lee	Wicker
Cornyn	McConnell	
Crapo	Moran	

NOT VOTING—5

DeMint	Kirk	Vitter
Heller	McCaskill	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader is recognized.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act, and that the Senate proceed to its consideration; that the Johnson of South Dakota-Shelby substitute amendment, which is at the desk and is the text of Calendar No. 320, S. 2101, the Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Human Rights Act, as reported by the Banking Committee, be considered; that a Johnson of South Dakota-Shelby amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the consent request?

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I would like to thank both leaders for their hard work in getting what I believe is one of the more important sense-of-the-Senate resolutions achieved here. It is very difficult. I think words matter. The fact that this resolution points out that we need a comprehensive policy that includes economic sanctions, diplomacy in military planning, capabilities, and options; that this objective is consistent with the one stated by President Barack Obama in the State of the Union Address where he said, "Let there be no doubt: America is determined to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and I will take no options off the table to achieve that goal"—I think this is an important resolution. I thank the majority leader.

I also point out that the final part of it says that nothing in the act shall be construed as a declaration of war or an authorization of the use of force against Iran or Syria.

First of all, it is not an authorization. Second of all, I wonder if we ought to include Canada and maybe Brazil and other countries along with that since this resolution contemplates in no way anything concerning Syria, but I guess we could probably throw it in. However, I will not ask for a unanimous consent to amend to add Canada, although the Canadians are very upset because they have no teams in the finals of the National Hockey League Stanley Cup championship series.

Again, I thank both the Senate majority leader and the Republican leader for the work they did and also our friend Senator MENENDEZ, who was also an important factor in getting this done.

I do not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, to the majority leader, well done. I think we are going to be able to voice vote a resolution that states the policy of our country and our President very clearly.

To the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, great job on the sanctions. I hope the Senator understands why I wanted to put in all options. I hope the sanctions will work. This is a clear statement by the Senate backing up our President that when it comes to Iran having nuclear capabilities, there will be more than sanctions on the table, and the Iranians need to know that.

I hope we can end this peacefully for Israel's sake, for our sake, and for the world's sake as we approach beefing up the sanctions with the Banking Committee, with Senator MENENDEZ's and Senator KIRK's leadership, and others, who have done a great job. If you are on the Banking Committee, you did a great job. I don't even know who is on it.

The bottom line is I think the sanctions were really well drafted and will enhance the President's hand, so to

speak. We cannot leave this debate without making a very simple unequivocal statement that the goal is to get it right. And if sanctions can lead to getting it right, God bless. If the sanctions will not get us to where we want to go, everything is on the table, including the use of military force, because this country—Republicans and Democrats—is not going to allow the Iranian regime to develop nuclear capability that will put the world into darkness.

To everybody who negotiated this outcome, thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

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

The amendment (No. 2123) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.") The amendment (No. 2124) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The substitute amendment, as amended, was agreed to.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on passage of the bill as amended.

The bill (H.R. 1905), as amended, was passed.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD in the appropriate place as if read.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, before we leave here this evening, I must mention the good work done by the Banking Committee. Senator JOHNSON of South Dakota has been stalwart in this issue. He and Senator SHELBY worked together. It has been very heartwarming.

I appreciate Senator MENENDEZ, who has been a loud voice in making sure we do something on this legislation about which he feels so strongly.

The most important thing for me is Iranians need to know we mean business, particularly with the next round of international negotiations taking place the day after tomorrow.

I am glad we resolved our differences and everyone realizes how important it is to advance these measures to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. They should be aware that there is still more we can do. I am very happy with what we have done at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, I rise to discuss today's unanimous, bipartisan approval of the Senate Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Human Rights Act. With this action, we are adding additional

tough, targeted sanctions against the Iranian Government, making it clear to the Iranian Government that they must stop their illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons or face increased pressure on their economy.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a longer statement of mine on the bill plus a summary be included in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. JOHNSON. The bill the Senate adopted today passed the Banking Committee earlier this year by a unanimous bipartisan vote. Among its other provisions, this legislation will have important effects because it requires intensified targeting of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, sanctioning energy and uranium mining joint ventures with Iran, and mandating sanctions for those who supply Iran with weapons and other technologies used to commit human abuses, including those used to impose an electronic curtain of censorship on Iran's citizens. In addition, this legislation gives the President additional authority to sanction the Assad regime in Syria.

Today the Senate has shown that we can still act in a bipartisan way on important priorities. I thank every Member for supporting passage of this bill today. In particular, I thank all the members of the Banking Committee for their work, including Ranking Member SHELBY and Senators MENENDEZ, KIRK, SCHUMER, and BROWN. In addition, I thank Majority Leader REID for his determination to get this legislation through the Senate.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to quickly come together on a final bill the President can sign soon. It is important that the Congress act swiftly so that we can continue to put pressure on the Iranian regime to end its illicit and illegal nuclear activity.

Again, I thank all my colleagues for their support on the Iran sanctions bill today.

EXHIBIT 1

TIGHTENING IRAN SANCTIONS

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran is the most pressing foreign policy challenge we face, and we must continue to do all we can—politically, economically, and diplomatically—to avoid that result. The meetings here in Washington in March between Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Obama underscored the gravity of these issues, and the importance of an intensified, unified effort by the international community to further isolate Iran's leaders and compel them to abandon their illicit nuclear activities. Iran's willingness to sit down again with the P5 + 1 group—the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany—and begin to re-engage on the nuclear issues is a hopeful sign. But even after the first meeting, which both sides called "constructive," it remains to be seen whether Iran will actually be willing to work towards progress on the central issues at the negotiating sessions planned for Baghdad

later this week, or whether these meetings will simply be another in a series of stalling actions to buy time to enrich additional uranium and further fortify their nuclear program.

As that process moves forward, today the full Senate is finally acting on an important bill to confront this very serious threat to our national security, to Israel and to our other allies in the Middle East and Europe. S. 2101, the Iran Sanctions Accountability and Human Rights Act of 2012, was approved by a unanimous bipartisan vote in the Senate Banking Committee. I am pleased that, with the help of ranking member Senator Shelby and other committee colleagues, we are presenting to the full Senate, as we did 2 years ago, this bipartisan bill to expand and tighten sanctions on Iran, along with a manager's amendment to address several issues that required updating to take into account recent events, and clarifications or additions that my colleagues sought to expand the reach and effectiveness of the bill, including changes requested by Senator Menendez to an amendment he offered in committee, section 503, to narrow its application while preserving his original intent to enable attachment of assets in which the government of Iran has an interest, to satisfy certain terror-related judgments against Iran.

In pressing this bill forward we recognize that economic sanctions are not an end: they are a means to an end. That end is to apply enough pressure to secure agreement from Iran's leaders to fully, completely and verifiably abandon their illicit nuclear program. The President has made clear that his policy is not to contain Iran once it has a nuclear weapon: it is to prevent Iran from achieving that goal in the first place. He is deadly serious about that. At the same time, he is moving forward diplomatically, in consultation with our allies, to test Iran's willingness to come clean on its nuclear program, and resolve the international community's concerns on this front.

Let me describe where we have been on Iran sanctions, so that Senators may better understand where we're going. This has been the subject of heated rhetoric on the Presidential campaign trail, so I want to describe clearly the longstanding bipartisan approach we in Congress have taken. Since here in the Senate we sometimes cannot even agree to cross the street together, in today's hyperpartisan environment bipartisan agreement on this bill is notable. On Iran sanctions we have always worked in a bipartisan fashion; I hope that will continue.

In coordination with allies like the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, and others, the Administration has taken its own steps to increase pressure on Iran's petrochemical industry, oil and gas industry, and financial sector. We acted in the Senate 5 months ago on an amendment by Senators Menendez and Kirk to sanction the Central Bank of Iran and other banks that deal with Iranian banks involved in nefarious activities. Shortly thereafter, Europe announced it will ban oil imports from Iran, starting in July. This will further increase pressure on Iran's economy and cut off other key sources of revenue for their nuclear program. Almost \$60 billion in energy-related projects in Iran have been put on hold or discontinued. Oil shipments have sharply declined due to sanctions. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Iran's crude oil output has dropped to its lowest level in over 20 years, due largely to the tightening squeeze of sanctions. And, in the last few months, about half of the tankers booked monthly to load at the country's largest terminal didn't complete the voyages, according to brokers, company officials and ship-

tracking data. It is clear Iran is losing oil sales to key customers in Europe, Asia, and elsewhere, and is having some of its biggest customers demand steep discounts to buy its oil. Some estimate the losses in Iran's oil revenues are approaching 40 percent of daily sales. Iran's oil exports have the potential to fall another 300,000 to 500,000 barrels a day or more when the European Union's embargo takes effect in July, according to a report this week by Barclays. That is a huge impact. A senior IRGC official acknowledged the effectiveness of sanctions recently, saying: "The regime is at the height of isolation and in the midst of a technological, scientific and economic siege. We are not in a situation of imaginary threats and sanctions. Threats and sanctions against us are effectively being pursued." These sanctions have had a more powerful effect than many thought possible.

Iran is also isolated diplomatically. The international community is lined up against their nuclear program, with progressively tougher UN sanctions imposed on them. Their most important ally, Syria, is collapsing into civil war. They are, as President Obama said, in a "world of hurt." Many believe the recent shift by Iran's leaders on the nuclear issue is the result of that pain, and the intense pressure of heightened sanctions. But while it is clear that existing sanctions are biting, they have not yet persuaded Iran's leaders to drop their nuclear ambitions. We must not let up now, as negotiations on these issues are continuing.

I believe that further progress in those negotiations depends on intensifying that pressure on Iran's leaders, and that's what this bill is all about. With these new sanctions, including those targeted at the IRGC, we are forcing Iran's military and political leaders to make a clear choice. They can end the suppression of their people, come clean on their nuclear program, suspend enrichment, and stop supporting terrorist activities around the globe. Or they can continue to face sustained multilateral economic and diplomatic pressure, and deepen their international isolation.

Just as then-Chairman Dodd and Ranking Member Shelby did in 2010, Senator Shelby and I have incorporated ideas from many of our Senate colleagues into one Committee bill, including from S. 1048 sponsored by Senator Menendez. Senator Menendez has been a leader on these issues, along with Senator Kirk, and we acknowledge their many contributions. The bill also borrows and refines ideas from legislation developed by Senators Lautenberg, Gillibrand, Schumer, Kyl, Lieberman, Brown, and others. I will now touch on a few of the highlights of this bill and I will insert a more comprehensive and detailed summary into the record at the end of my remarks. Our legislation will: broaden the list of available sanctions, require intensified targeting of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, require firms traded on US stock exchanges to disclose Iran-related activity to the Securities and Exchange Commission, sanction energy and uranium mining joint ventures with Iran, penalize US parent firms for certain Iran-related activities of their foreign subsidiaries, mandate sanctions for those who supply Iran with weapons and other technologies used to commit human rights abuses, including those used to impose an "Electronic Curtain" on Iran's citizens, and provide for other similar measures designed to increase pressure on Iran's government.

All told, when enacted the bill will significantly increase pressure on Iran's leaders, and that must be our goal as we move forward in this process. I hope and expect my colleagues will support this bill enthusiastically, and that we will be able to reconcile it

with the House bill and move it forward quickly into law this year. I look forward to working with my House colleagues, including Chairman Ros-Lehtinen and Ranking Member Berman, who as former Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman has led the sanctions effort against Iran for many years, and played a key role in developing both CISADA and the House version of this measure, to get a bill enacted this year.

IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Sec. 1—Short Title, Table of Contents

Sec. 2—Findings

Contains a series of findings about the threat posed by Iran, the bipartisan understanding of the implications of its achieving a nuclear weapons capability, steps taken thus far by the US, its allies and the United Nations Security Council to counter that threat, and the need to intensify those efforts to counter that threat and deter Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Sec. 3—Definitions

Provides that the definitions of key terms ("appropriate congressional committees," "credible information," and "knowingly") will be those found in the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA) of 1996, as amended, and that the definition of "United States person" will be that found in the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (CISADA).

Sec. 101—Statement of Policy

Defines US policy to be to prevent Iran from (i) acquiring or developing nuclear weapons and advanced conventional weapons and ballistic missile capabilities, (ii) continuing its support for international terrorism, and (iii) engaging in other activities designed to destabilize its neighbors in the region. It also outlines the US policy of support for full implementation of all sanctions against Iran as part of multilateral efforts to compel Iran to abandon its illicit nuclear program.

Sec. 102—Expansion and Implementation of Multilateral Sanctions Regime

States the sense of Congress that expansion and vigorous implementation of bilateral and multilateral sanctions against Iran, and vigorous enforcement of all U.S. sanctions, is an effective way to achieve the goal of compelling Iran to abandon its efforts to achieve a nuclear weapons capability.

Sec. 103—Diplomatic Efforts to Expand Multilateral Sanctions Regime

Urges efforts by the US to expand the UN sanctions regime to include (i) imposing additional travel restrictions on Iranian officials responsible for human rights violations, the development of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, and Iran's support for terrorism; (ii) withdrawing sea- and airport landing rights for Iran Shipping Lines and Iran Air, for their role in nuclear proliferation and illegal arms sales; (iii) expanding the range of sanctions to which Iran is subject; (iv) expanding sanctions to limit Iran's petroleum development, imports of refined petroleum products and reduce its revenue from sale of petrochemical products, and (v) accelerating US diplomatic and economic efforts to help allies reduce their dependence on Iranian crude oil and other petroleum products. Requires periodic reporting to Congress.

Sec. 104—Imposition of Sanctions with regard to Iran

Declares the sense of Congress that efforts should be made to maximize the effects of sanctions and to preserve information-sharing.

Sec. 201—Sanctions with respect to Energy Joint Ventures with Iran

Extends ISA sanctions to persons knowingly participating in petroleum resources development joint ventures established on or after January 1, 2002 anywhere in the world, unless such ventures are terminated within 180 days of enactment, in which Iran's government is a substantial partner or investor, or through which Iran could otherwise receive energy sector technology or know-how not previously available to its government.

Sec. 202—Expands Sanctions on Providers of Goods and Services to Iran's Energy Sector

Requires imposition of ISA sanctions on persons who knowingly sell, lease, or provide to Iran goods, services, technology or support (including refinery construction or repair), or infrastructure predominantly used for the transportation of refined petroleum products, that could directly and significantly contribute to its petroleum resources development or refining programs, in single transactions of \$1 million or more or multiple transactions aggregating to \$5 million or more in any 12-month period. Requires imposition of at least three ISA sanctions to persons who knowingly sell, lease, or provide to Iran goods, services, technology or support for its petrochemical sector in a single transaction of \$250,000 or more, or multiple transactions aggregating to \$1,000,000 or more in any 12-month period. In so doing, codifies the President's decision to extend US sanctions to Iran's petrochemical sector, adopting the standards, thresholds and petrochemicals list contained in Executive Order 13590.

Sec. 203—Sanctions with respect to Uranium Joint Ventures with Iran

Requires ISA sanctions to be imposed on persons who knowingly participate in joint ventures with Iran's government, Iranian firms, or persons acting for or on behalf of Iran's government in the mining, production or transportation of uranium anywhere in the world. Exempts such persons from sanctions if they withdraw from such joint ventures within 6 months after the date of enactment.

Sec. 204—Expansion of Sanctions Available under the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996

Expands the current menu of sanctions, available to the President under the ISA, to authorize exclusion from the United States of aliens who are corporate officers, principals or controlling shareholders in a sanctioned firm, and permits applicable ISA sanctions to be applied to the CEO or other principal executive officers (or persons performing similar functions) of a sanctioned firm, which could include a freeze of their US assets.

Sec. 205—Definitions

Defines "credible information" and "petrochemical product." "Credible information" includes public announcements by persons that they are engaged in certain activities, including those made in a report to stockholders, and may include announcements by the Government of Iran, and reports from the General Accountability Office (GAO), the Energy Information Administration, the Congressional Research Service, or other reputable governmental organizations. Defines "petrochemical product" consistent with Executive Order 13590.

Sec. 211—Sanctions for Shipping WMD or Terrorism-related Materials to or from Iran

Requires the blocking of assets of, and imposes other sanctions on, persons who knowingly provide ships, insurance or reinsurance, or other shipping services, for transportation of goods that materially contribute to Iran's WMD program or its ter-

rorism-related activities. The sanctions apply to parents of the persons involved if they knew or should have known of the sanctionable activity and to any of their subsidiaries or affiliates that knowingly participated in the activity. Provides for Presidential national security interest waiver; requires a report to Congress regarding the use of such a waiver.

Sec. 212—Imposition of Sanctions on Subsidiaries and Agents of UN-sanctioned Persons

Amends CISADA to ensure that US financial sanctions imposed on UN-designated entities reach those persons acting on behalf of, at the direction of, or owned or controlled by, the designated entities. Requires the Treasury Department to revise its regulations within 90 days of enactment to implement the change.

Sec. 213—Liability of US Companies for Violations by their Foreign Subsidiaries

Requires the imposition of civil penalties under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of up to twice the amount of the relevant transaction on US parent companies for the activities of their foreign subsidiaries which, if undertaken by a US person or in the United States, would violate US sanctions law. Subsidiaries are defined as those entities in which a US person holds more than fifty percent equity interest or a majority of the seats on the board, or that a US person otherwise controls. Covers activities under the current US trade embargo with Iran and would apply regardless of whether the subsidiary was established to circumvent US sanctions.

Sec. 214—Securities and Exchange Commission Disclosures on Certain Activities in Iran

Amends the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers whose stock is traded on US exchanges to disclose whether they or their affiliates have knowingly engaged in activities (i) in section 5 of the ISA (energy sector activity); (ii) in 104(c)(2) or (d)1 of CISADA (related to foreign financial institutions who facilitate WMD/terrorism, money laundering, IRGC activity, and other violations); (iii) in 105A(b)(2) of CISADA (related to those who transfer weapons and other technologies to Iran likely to be used for human rights abuses); (iv) with persons whose property is blocked for WMD/terrorism and; (v) persons in the government of Iran. Provides for periodic public disclosure of such information, and conveyance of that information by the SEC to Congress and the President. Requires the President to initiate an investigation into the possible imposition of sanctions as specified, and to make a sanctions determination within 6 months.

Sec. 215—Immigration Restrictions on Senior Iranian Officials and their Family Members

Requires the identification of and denial of visa requests to senior officials, including the Supreme Leader, the President, members of the Assembly of Experts, senior members of the Intelligence Ministry of Iran, and members of the IRGC with the rank of brigadier general or higher that are involved in nuclear proliferation, support international terrorism or the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran. Also includes their family members. Provides for Presidential national security interest and UN obligations waiver; requires a report to Congress regarding the use of such a waiver.

Sec. 216—Sanctions with respect to the Provision of Certain Financial Communications Services to the Central Bank of Iran and Sanctioned Iranian Financial Institutions

States the sense of Congress that the President should intensify current diplomatic efforts to ensure that global financial

communications services providers such as SWIFT terminate services to Iranian financial institutions designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to IEEPA. Requires the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a list, within 60 days of the date of enactment, of entities that provide financial communications services to or facilitate access to such services for the Central Bank of Iran or financial institutions described in 104(c)(2)(E)(ii) of CISADA (i.e., institutions whose property is blocked in connection with Iran's proliferation of WMD or its support for terrorism). Requires reporting by the Secretary of the Treasury within 90 days of enactment on the efforts of SWIFT to terminate the provision of services to the Central Bank of Iran and Iranian financial institutions designated for sanction. Authorizes the imposition of sanctions under CISADA or IEEPA with respect to a financial communications services provider, and the directors of, and shareholders with a significant interest in, a provider, that has not terminated such services to the Central Bank of Iran or designated Iranian financial institutions.

Sec. 217—GAO Reports on Iran's Energy Sector

Mandates regular reports from GAO on foreign investment in Iran's energy sector, exporters of refined petroleum products to Iran, entities providing shipping and insurance services to Iran, Iranian energy joint ventures worldwide, and countries where Iranian petroleum is produced or refined.

Sec. 218—Expanded Reporting on Iran's Crude Oil and Refined Petroleum Products

Amends section 110(b) of CISADA to require additional reporting on the volume of crude oil and refined petroleum products imported to and exported from Iran, the persons selling and transporting crude oil and refined petroleum products, the countries with primary jurisdiction over those persons and the countries in which those products were refined, the sources of financing for such imports and the involvement of foreign persons in efforts to assist Iran in developing its oil and gas production capacity, importing advanced technology to upgrade existing Iranian refineries, converting existing chemical plants to petroleum refineries and maintaining, upgrading or expanding refineries or constructing new refineries.

Sec. 301—Sanctions on Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps Officials, Agents, and Affiliates

Requires the President to identify, and designate for sanctions, officials, affiliates and agents of the IRGC within 90 days of enactment, and periodically thereafter; designation requires exclusion of such persons from the United States, and imposition of sanctions (related to WMD under IEEPA, including freezing their assets and otherwise isolating them financially). Also, outlines priorities for investigating certain foreign persons and transactions in assessing connections to the IRGC. Requires the President to report on designations and waivers.

Sec. 302—Sanctions on Foreign Persons Supporting IRGC

Subjects foreign persons to ISA sanctions if those persons knowingly provide material assistance to, or engage in any significant transaction—including barter transactions—with officials of the IRGC, its agents or affiliates. Requires imposition of similar sanctions against those persons who engage in significant transactions with UN-sanctioned persons, those acting for or on their behalf, or those owned or controlled by them. Provides for additional sanctions under IEEPA as the President deems appropriate. Requires the President to report on designations and waivers, as applicable.

Sec. 303—Rule of Construction

Clarifies that section 301 and 302 sanctions do not limit in any way the President's authority to designate persons for sanction under IEEPA.

Sec. 311—Extension of US Procurement Ban to Foreign Persons who interact with IRGC

Requires certification by prospective US government contractors (for contract solicitations issued beginning 90 days from the date of enactment) that neither they nor their subsidiaries have engaged in significant economic transactions with designated IRGC officials, agents or affiliates.

Sec. 312—Sanctions Determinations on NIOC and NITC

Amends CISADA to require the Secretary of the Treasury to determine and notify Congress whether the National Iranian Oil Company and the National Iranian Tanker Company are agents or affiliates of the IRGC. If found to be IRGC entities, sanctions apply to transactions or relevant financial services for the purchase of petroleum or petroleum products from the NIOC or NITC only if the President determines that there exists a sufficient supply of petroleum from countries other than Iran to permit purchasers to significantly reduce in volume their purchases from Iran. Provides for an exception to financial institutions of a country that has significantly reduced its purchases of Iranian petroleum or petroleum products within specified periods which track those provided for in section 1245 of the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

Sec. 401—Sanctions on those Transferring to Iran Technologies for Human Rights Abuses

Imposes sanctions provided for in CISADA, including a visa ban and property blocking/asset freeze, on persons and firms which supply Iran with equipment and technologies—including weapons, rubber bullets, tear gas and other riot control equipment, and jamming, monitoring and surveillance equipment—which the President determines are likely to be used by Iranian officials to commit human rights abuses. Requires the President to maintain and update lists of such persons who commit human rights abuses, submit updated lists to Congress, and make the unclassified portion of those lists public. Requires the President to report on designations and waivers, as applicable.

Sec. 402—Sanctions on those Engaging in Censorship and Repression in Iran

Requires imposition of sanctions as in section 401 against individuals and firms found to have engaged in censorship or curtailment of the rights of freedom of expression or assembly of Iran's citizens.

Sec. 411—Expedited Processing of Human Rights, Humanitarian, and Democracy Aid

Requires the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Treasury Department to establish a 90-day process to expedite processing of US Iran-related humanitarian, human rights and democratization aid by entities receiving funds from the State Department; the Broadcasting Board of Governors; and other federal agencies. Requires the State Department to conduct a foreign policy review within 30 days of request submission. Provides for additional time for processing of applications involving certain specified sensitive goods and technology, and requests involving novel or extraordinary circumstances.

Sec. 412—Comprehensive Strategy to Promote Internet Freedom in Iran

Requires the Administration to devise a comprehensive strategy and report to Congress on how best to assist Iran's citizens in freely and safely accessing the Internet, de-

veloping counter-censorship technologies, expanding access to "surrogate" programming including Voice of America's Persian News Network, and Radio FARDA inside Iran, and taking other similar measures.

Sec. 413—Sense of Congress on Political Prisoners

Declares that the United States should expand efforts to identify, assist, and protect prisoners of conscience in Iran and intensify work to abolish Iranian human rights violations. Directs the Secretary of State to publicly call for the release of political prisoners, as appropriate.

Sec. 501—Exclusion of Certain Iranian Students from the US

Requires the Secretary of State to deny visas and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude certain Iranian university students who may seek to come to the U.S. to study to prepare for work in Iran's energy sector or in fields related to its nuclear program, including nuclear sciences or nuclear engineering.

Sec. 502—Technical Correction

Reaffirms longstanding US policy allowing the sale of certain licensed agricultural commodities to Iran by amending section 1245(d)2 of the National Defense Authorization Act to allow for continued payments related to such commodities.

Sec. 503 Interests in Financial Assets of Iran

Deems blocked assets of Iran seized or frozen in the US, and property interests of Iran in the United States, to include property held in book entry and related indirect forms, property held by securities clearing agencies and other intermediaries, and inchoate interests in funds transfers in the payment process through intermediary banks, regardless of federal or state law that might otherwise apply, if that property is an interest held for the benefit of Iran or if any intermediary holds the interest for the benefit of Iran and the status of the property is relevant to any attachment or proceedings in aid of execution, whenever issued, on judgments against Iran for damages for personal injury or death caused by torture, extrajudicial killing, aircraft sabotage, or hostage taking, or material support for such an act. Defines various terms used for purposes of the section, including "blocked asset," "clearing corporation," "financial asset," "security," and "securities Intermediary."

Sec. 504—Report on Membership of Iran in International Organizations

Requires the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress listing the international organizations of which Iran is a member and detailing the amount the US contributes to each such organization annually.

Sec. 601—Technical implementation; penalties

Provides the President with the necessary procedural tools to administer the provisions of this new law, drawing on relevant provisions of IEEPA, including ensuring that the Administration can require recordkeeping of certain persons, and has subpoena and enforcement authority for certain specified provisions of the bill.

Sec. 602—Applicability to Authorized Intelligence Activities

Provides a general exemption for authorized intelligence activities of the U.S.

Sec. 603—Termination

Provides for termination of some provisions of the new law if the President certifies as required in CISADA that Iran has ceased its support for terrorism and ceased efforts to pursue, acquire or develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles and ballistic missile launch technology.

Sec. 701—Short Title for Title VII

The "Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012."

Sec. 702—Sanctions on Those Responsible for Human Rights Abuses of Syria's Citizens

Requires the President to identify within 90 days, and sanction under IEEPA, officials of the Syrian government or those acting on their behalf who are complicit in or responsible for the commission of serious human rights abuses against Syria's citizens, regardless of whether the abuses occurred in Syria.

Sec. 703—Sanctions on those Transferring to Syria Technologies for Human Rights Abuses

Requires the President to identify and sanction persons determined to have engaged in the transfer of technologies—including weapons, rubber bullets, tear gas and other riot control equipment, and jamming, monitoring and surveillance equipment—which the President determines are likely to be used by Syrian officials to commit human rights abuses or restrict the free flow of information in Syria. Provides for exceptions where a person has agreed to stop providing such technologies, and agreed not to knowingly provide such technologies in the future. Requires the President to report on designations and waivers, where applicable, and to update the list periodically.

Sec. 704—Sanctions on those Engaging in Censorship and Repression in Syria

Requires the President to identify and report to Congress within 90 days of enactment those persons and firms found to have engaged in censorship or repression of the rights of freedom of expression or assembly of Syria's citizens, and impose sanctions under IEEPA on such persons. Requires periodic updating of the list, and public access via the websites of the Departments of State and Treasury.

Sec. 705—Waiver

Provides for Presidential national security interest waiver for Syria provisions; requires a report to Congress on the reasons for the waiver.

Sec. 706—Termination

Provides for termination of the Syria provisions if the President certifies that the Government of Syria is democratically elected and representative of the people of Syria, or a legitimate transitional government of Syria is in place. Certification required must stipulate that the government of Syria has released political prisoners, ceased the abuse of citizens engaged in peaceful political activity, ceased the practice of procuring sensitive technology to restrict the free expression rights of its citizens, ended support for terrorist organizations, ceased development of missile programs, is not engaged in the development or acquisition of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons, and agreed to allow the UN and international observers to verify such claims. Provides for suspension of sanctions for 1 year if a transitional government is in place, to provide time to develop the more detailed certification above.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, first let me thank the majority leader for his doggedness in making sure we could come to an agreement that sends a clear message to Iran before the P5+1 talks take place this week. His commitment made the difference.

I would also like to thank the chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator JOHNSON of South Dakota, who, in

an agenda that is incredibly full with all of the challenges the Banking Committee is taking up, made sure the whole effort on Iran sanctions had a priority in the committee and worked to get the strong, bipartisan, unanimous vote that came out of the committee that gives us the foundation to move forward today. So I thank both of them.

Today the Senate sends a clear message to Iran as it prepares for the P5+1 talks in Baghdad, and basically that message is: provide a real and verifiable plan for completely dismantling your nuclear weapons program or Washington will further tighten the economic noose. The Obama administration is moving forward with full implementation of the Menendez-Kirk Central Bank sanctions, and the U.S. Congress is ready with additional measures, such as sanctions on the National Iranian Oil Company and Iranian energy joint ventures that will further isolate the regime.

I think Iran's Supreme Leader has a choice: Either come to Baghdad with a real plan to terminate Iran's nuclear program or we will make our own plan through sanctions and other necessary measures to ensure that Iran fails to achieve its nuclear ambitions.

And lest anyone think this is necessary, Madam President, as negotiators head to Baghdad this week for the P5+1 talks, this bill is another tool that will demonstrate to Iran that the United States is not backing down and that buying time and just thinking that you can go and talk without substantive, meaningful concessions here is just not going to work.

In case anyone has doubts as to the need for this legislation, the record is pretty clear. In recent weeks the International Atomic Energy Administration has been subject to Iranian delays and deception over access to the Parchin facility—a facility they claim has no connection to their nuclear program but which scientists believe may contain a blast chamber used to test explosives that can trigger a nuclear blast.

Combine that information with Iran's continued enrichment of uranium to 20 percent, development of new enrichment facilities, conducting of high explosives testing and detonator development to set off a nuclear charge, computer modeling of a core of a nuclear warhead, and the August 2011 IAEA inspection that revealed 43.5 pounds of a component used to arm nuclear warheads was unaccounted for in Iran, and that Iran is working on an indigenous design for a nuclear payload small enough to fit on Iran's long-range Shahab-3 missile, a missile capable of reaching Israel, capable of reaching some of our allies in Europe which we are committed to NATO to defend, there is a pretty clear picture of why this is in the national interest and security of the United States and what is going on in Iran.

The bill is intended to give Iran a pretty clear picture in return of what

America's response to their posture would be. This includes sanctions on the national Iranian oil and tanker companies to terminate a work-around to the Central Bank sanctions; sanctions on satellite companies that provide satellite services to the Iranian regime but fail to prevent jamming by Iran of transmissions by other users of the same satellite service company; sanctions on financial messaging service companies that provide services to sanctioned Iranian financial institutions; imposition of liability on parent companies for actions of foreign subsidiaries; and sanctions on energy joint ventures with Iran related to the development of petroleum resources. Those are just some.

This is perfecting legislation to CISADA and I am so thrilled we are seeing it today.

Finally, I wish to also comment on one particular section of the bill to ensure there is no ambiguity about its intent. Section 503, as revised in the managers' amendment, preempts any conflicting Federal or State law, but only as they pertain to the eligibility for attachment and execution of certain blocked assets of the state of Iran, identified in the section, for judgments against Iran for the execution of terrorist acts, including the marine corps barracks bombing in Lebanon in 1983, which killed 241 U.S. servicemen, and the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia in 1996 which killed 19 U.S. servicemen. Nothing in this legislation alters any other applicable law.

As someone who authored these provisions, I wanted to be sure that there was understanding on the record that Iran, in addition to stopping its nuclear weapons program, which is in the national interest and security of the United States, should not be able to avoid having its assets attached and pursued and executed upon as they killed Americans and having been part of killing Americans abroad.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes; immediately thereafter, the Senator from Ohio, Senator BROWN, be permitted to speak for 5 minutes; and then the Senator from Kansas, Senator MORAN, be permitted to speak for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I will be brief. First, I wish to thank our chairman, Senator JOHNSON of South Dakota, for being so steadfast in bringing this bill to the floor. He worked in tandem with Senator SHELBY, whom I thank as well. Senator MENENDEZ has been a true leader on these issues and has been the lead sponsor of many of the pieces of legislation to tighten the economic noose on Iran. I wish to thank my friend and colleague Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina as well for being so instructive on this issue.

We have had a lot of divisions between Democrats and Republicans, but on the issue of making sure that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, we are united. The threat, the specter of an Iranian nuclear weapon, will continue to bring Democrats and Republicans together. I hope the Iranian Government recognizes that, because we are going to continue to tighten and tighten and tighten restrictions so that Iran realizes that not just the United States but just about all of the civilized world is against her gaining a nuclear weapon. The Iranians can't talk about why shouldn't have it when everyone else does. With the kind of saber rattling and verbiage that comes out of that regime about what they might do to Israel or other countries, it shows they are not a mature enough nation to be possessing this God-awful power.

The point I wish to make here tonight is this is another step forward. We are further tightening the sanctions. We will continue to tighten them so that the answer for Iran, if they persist with moving forward on producing a nuclear weapon, is economic chaos for the Iranian leadership and, unfortunately, for many of the Iranian people.

Let Iran beware. This is just another step. We will not stop. We are united as two parties, we are united as a Nation, and we are united as a family of nations to make sure we do everything we can to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. That would represent a disaster to the nations of the world, and one we cannot tolerate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I wish to reiterate and underscore the words of my colleague, the senior Senator from New York, about how important the tightening of the Iran sanctions are to Israel, to the United States of America, and to the stability of the world. Allowing nuclear weapons in the hands of a country as unstable as Iran and which is hostile to so many of our values and which is hostile to most people in the world—not just the United States, not just Israel, not just the democratic world—how problematic this is for the entire world. That is why I am pleased with the work Chairman JOHNSON did, along with Ranking Member SHELBY, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator GRAHAM, and others, so that this continues to send an important message to Iran that we will continue to increasingly tighten sanctions threatening to Iran and the stability of its economy, and helping Iran to understand that this will create difficulties for that regime in having any support of its people with the economic consequences that could happen as we tighten sanctions.

As Senator MCCAIN said, we will take nothing off the table. We want a diplomatic solution with these sanctions. We want Iran to recognize it is in their interests not to have nuclear weapons. That is the best thing for all of us, but, again, taking nothing off the table.

LEAD SMELTER SITES IN OHIO

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I rise to bring attention to a problem plaguing many aging communities in Ohio and throughout the industrial Midwest. We in this country have a rich manufacturing heritage, none richer than Ohio. We are the third leading manufacturing State in the country, trailing only in production, and trailing only States two and three times our size—Texas and California. We have built an infrastructure in this country that defined the landscape of the modern world.

At Ohio plants in places such as Middletown and Youngstown, Ohioans made steel beams that built America's skyscrapers, railroads, and bridges. And at lead smelter sites from Cleveland to Cincinnati, OH, workers processed metal to shore up the economic foundation of 20th century America. But as revealed in a disturbing series of recent reports in USA TODAY, former lead smelter plants have left behind a terrible legacy: elevated lead levels in the soil and in the air and surrounding playgrounds and schools, especially in poorer areas of our cities. Many of these potentially contaminated places are in underresourced, aging areas where homes are not necessarily in good shape and where neighborhoods are plagued with many other problems as well.

Yesterday I met with Angelina and Ken Shefton in Cleveland at a property that is within breathing distance of an old lead smelter site. What is even more troubling is that they didn't even know this existed. They are parents of five. One of their sons was recently diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels. They fear for the other four children also. Parents such as them and thousands of Ohioans living in communities with aging and abandoned industrial sites are worried about the health and safety of their families.

A national newspaper report found that lead levels in soil near this smelter plant in Cleveland exceed 3,400 parts per million. The average lead level in U.S. soils is only 19 parts per million.

As a father and grandfather, I am particularly disturbed by these reports. We know that lead is not broken down when it lingers in the ground. It can enter our groundwater and children can absorb it on the baseball diamond or while making mud pies in the yard.

For too long regulators have overlooked or neglected to fully investigate toxic sites in our communities. That is why I am urging the Federal Government to take action. I have called on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to hold a hearing on what we can do to address this issue. We need to prioritize testing our schools and playgrounds in those neighborhoods close to abandoned sites.

I am asking the EPA to take immediate action to review sites that have not yet been tested. But that is not enough. After the results come in, we

need to take action to clean up residential contamination.

Last week the CDC lowered by half the recommended allowable limit for lead exposure to young children, so we must ramp up our efforts to address the problem lingering in our soil. We need to address it now. Too many young lives are depending on our actions. Too many children in too many urban school districts suffer from behavior problems, suffer from intelligence problems, if you will, because they have had far too high lead levels in their blood which retard growth, restrict learning, and cause behavioral problems. It is a serious public health problem. It is the paint on the walls in these old homes, and it is the lead in the paint on the walls. It is the lead in the soil of the homes and neighborhoods and playgrounds. It does call for real action from State and Federal Governments and local communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB BETHELL

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I woke up this morning in Kansas with some sad news. One of our State legislators, Bob Bethell, a 13-year member of the Kansas House of Representatives, died in a car wreck late last night. The Kansas legislature has had a difficult session and finally concluded, I believe after 100 days of the legislative session, this year's work in Topeka, and one of our central Kansas legislators on the drive home from Topeka back to Alden, KS, was involved in a one-car accident, a fatality.

I rise tonight to pay respect to my friend and former colleague Bob Bethell, and express my respect and gratitude for his public service, and my care and concern, in fact my love, for his wife Lorene and his family and friends.

Bob Bethell was, I suppose you could call him, a great politician in the sense that his constituents loved and admired him. They respected him. They cared about him. He could be called a great politician because in Topeka he was someone whose voice was listened to. But nothing about Bob Bethell was a politician.

Bob Bethell was a person who was a Baptist minister in his small hometown. He loved God greatly. God was the focus of his life. He loved the people God created in his community and across Kansas. In fact, Bob became the administrator of a nursing home because of his care for senior citizens. It was that extension of his care for seniors that caused him to want to serve in the legislature. Bob wanted to extend that opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people he cared for in his profession with public policy decisions that were important to them and their future and their families in Topeka, KS.

Again, I would say there is nothing political about Bob Bethell. He was respected and someone everybody enjoyed being around, but it wasn't because he as a politician calculated what the right answer was or how to get along with people or one who took a poll to discover what the issues were that people supported; it was just that Bob Bethell, in his love of God, had a love of human beings, of citizens of Kansas. So we would see Bob Bethell with a smile on his face at every parade, at every community meeting.

I think sometimes in our lives, when we see an elected official, we may see someone walk across the street sometimes to avoid the political conversation. But, again, there was nothing political about Bob; he was somebody who cared about people and it showed. He enjoyed being around people; loved the conversation. He worked hard at being a constituent-service-oriented member in the Kansas House of Representatives. It is so sad for us to lose such a person.

I hope Lorene and her family and friends in Alden find comfort in the belief that God will care for Bob Bethell in the life hereafter. They believe that in their lives. They demonstrated that to the people across Kansas, and their focus was a love of others. Bob is a role model for all of us to make certain we focus on the things that matter—not the public opinion polls and not the calculation of how to get along with people, but the idea that we in public service are given an opportunity to make a great difference in the lives of others, and it ought to be that motivating factor, the one that Bob Bethell exhibited throughout his life, that we should exemplify.

So Robba and I—my wife and I—extend our greatest sympathies and care and concern to the people across Kansas, but especially to the family and the folks who knew Bob so well in his home district, the 113th House of Representatives District in Kansas. Our prayers and thoughts are extended to them, and we praise God for the life well lived of one of His servants, Bob Bethell.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.