

serves on the Arkansas Association of Counties Risk Management Trustees Board.

I congratulate Sheriff Danny Hickman for his successes in law enforcement and keeping Arkansas citizens safe. I wish him continued success in the future. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership in Boone County.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS TOMMY SHOEMAKER

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true American hero. During a parade honoring our veterans on November 15, 2012, in Midland, TX, four of veterans lost their lives when their float was tragically struck by an oncoming train. Sixteen other veterans were also injured.

That day, SFC Tommy Shoemaker was among the veterans being honored for their service, and his float was directly ahead of the one struck. Upon witnessing this tragedy, SFC Shoemaker jumped from his float that was traveling 40MPH. He, his fellow veterans, and other soldiers began immediately assisting those injured. Prior to ambulances arriving, they provided CPR and life-saving aid to stabilize those injured. SFC Shoemaker's selfless act of heroism not only saved lives but also is a testament to the special forces training he received.

SFC Shoemaker entered the military in 1986 and later served in the Army Reserves in Monroe, LA, and also the Mississippi National Guard. In 2004, he was deployed to Afghanistan as part of an Embedded Transition Team. Unfortunately, his convoy unit was attacked twice in 2005 and again in 2006, the last a combination of road side bombs and an ambush. The incident left SFC Shoemaker severely injured and forced him to return home.

Since, SFC Shoemaker has been working as an Associate Administrator at the Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home, a position he held prior to deployment. He also lends his time at the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Office of Public Health. He does all of this with permanent disabilities to 90 percent of his body, as a loving husband to his wife Pam, and their four daughters, Malissa, Kayla, Suzie, and Sierra.

It is my privilege and honor to recognize SFC Tommy Shoemaker for his bravery and courage and for his service to the United States of America.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2367. An act to strike the word "lunatic" from Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 3486. An act to implement the provisions of the Hague Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty.

H.R. 6223. An act to amend section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to clarify that a period of employment abroad by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity is to be counted as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of qualifying for naturalization, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6602. An act to make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements.

H.R. 6605. An act to eliminate an unnecessary reporting requirement for an unfunded DNA Identification grant program.

H.R. 6620. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate certain limitations on the length of Secret Service Protection for former Presidents and for the children of former Presidents.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes, with an amendment, and agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 50. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding actions to preserve and advance the multi-stakeholder governance model under which the Internet has thrived.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2367. An act to strike the word "lunatic" from Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 3486. An act to implement the provisions of the Hague Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty.

H.R. 6634. An act to change the effective date for the Internet publication of certain financial disclosure forms.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 6602. An act to make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6605. An act to eliminate an unnecessary reporting requirement for an unfunded DNA Identification grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6620. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate certain limitations on the length of Secret Service Protection for former Presidents and for the children of former Presidents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3664. A bill to provide for debt limit extensions.

#### 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-8448. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2012-2013 Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf King Mackerel in Northern Florida West Coast Subzone" (RIN0648-XC273) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8449. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XC113) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8450. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for the State of New York" (RIN0648-XC294) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8451. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XC288) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8452. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor for the Department of Legislation and Regulations, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Retrospective Review Under E.O. 13563: Seamen's Claims; and Admiralty Claims" (RIN2133-AB79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8453. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lewistown, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0538)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8454. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Bozeman, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0519)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8455. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

EC-8480. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0659))

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8481. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Various Restricted Category Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0896)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8482. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0337)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8483. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0671)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8484. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0354)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8485. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1229)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8486. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1319)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8487. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0267)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8488. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1326)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8489. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0422)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8490. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0038)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8491. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0192)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8492. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Cessna Aircraft Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0644)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8493. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0593)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8494. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1411)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8495. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0424)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8496. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-142, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8497. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Germany; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8498. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report relative to the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8499. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Organization and Functions, and Seal" (RIN2590-AA54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8500. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supervisory and Company-Run Stress Test Requirements for Covered Companies" (RIN7100-AD86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8501. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Company-Run Stress Test Requirements for Banking Organizations with Total Consolidated Assets Over 10 Billion Dollars Other than Covered Companies" (RIN7100-AD86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8502. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whale Distinct Population Segment"; (RIN0648-XT37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8503. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criteria and Procedures for Determining Eligibility for Access to Classified Matter or Special Nuclear Material: Technical Amendments" (RIN1992-AA36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8504. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the General Services Administration's Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Investment and Leasing Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8505. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, a report relative to action taken to extend the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Objects and Byzantine Period Ecclesiastical and Ritual Ethnological Materials; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8506. A communication from the Chief of the Border Securities Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendment to List of User Fee Airports: Addition of Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, Belgrade, Montana"

(CBP Dec. 12–20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8507. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8508. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Contracts and Provider Agreements for State Home Nursing Home Care" (RIN2900–AO57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Katherine Polk Failla, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Troy L. Nunley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Sheri Polster Chappell, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Pamela Ki Mai Chen, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Mark A. Barnett, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. Patrick J. Wilkerson, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Louise W. Kelton, of Tennessee, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### 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 Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 3663. A bill to reassert the proper role of Congress in closing or realigning military installations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REID:

S. 3664. A bill to provide for debt limit extensions; read the first time.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 3665. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide information to foster youth on their potential eligibility for Federal student aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3666. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to modify the definition of "exhibitor"; considered and passed.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 611. A resolution designating December 15, 2012, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISC, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Con. Res. 61. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax is not in the economic interest of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. HAGAN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Con. Res. 62. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that our current tax incentives for retirement savings provide important benefits to Americans to help plan for a financially secure retirement; to the Committee on Finance.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 845

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 845, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the logical flow of return information between partnerships, corporations, trusts, estates, and individuals to better enable each party to submit timely, accurate returns and reduce the need for extended and amended returns, to provide for modified due dates by regulation, and to conform the automatic corporate extension period to long-standing regulatory rule.

S. 3608

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3608, a bill to modernize voter registration, promote access to voting for individuals with disabilities, protect the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID:

S. 3664. A bill to provide for debt limit extensions; read the first time.

Mr. REID. 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. 3664

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SEC. 1. DEBT LIMIT EXTENSION.

Subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking "as provided by law through the congressional budget process described in Rule XLIX of the Rules of the House of Representatives or as provided by section 3101A or otherwise." and inserting "as provided—

"(1) by law through the congressional budget process described in Rule XLIX of the Rules of the House of Representatives or as provided by section 3101A or otherwise, or

"(2) by executive order of the President. An executive order issued pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be considered as a major rule for purposes of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code."

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 3665. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide information to foster youth on their potential eligibility for Federal student aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, we currently have over 400,000 children in our foster care system due to abuse or neglect by their biological families, with 104,000 eligible for adoption. Tragically every year nearly 28,000 of these children age out of our foster care system with no place to call home. On average, foster children spend over 3 years in the system and around 16 percent languish in the foster care system for over 5 years. Only around 3 percent start college and even fewer finish their degree. We must continue working to connect children in our foster system to a safe, loving, and permanent home while also doing more to address their educational outcomes.

I am greatly concerned that too many of our Nation's foster youth are unable to appropriately access critical Federal programs that provide assistance to help increase their educational opportunities. Higher education can hold the key to a future of stability and it is unacceptable that many foster youth who are eligible for higher education funds, such as Education and Training Vouchers, ETV, and support through the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, are never told about these programs.

This is why I have worked with my colleagues to introduce a bipartisan bill to direct the Department of Education to fully utilize the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, as a tool to notify foster youth of all Federal funds which may be available to support their pursuit of higher education, and include information specifically for foster youth on their agency website. The Foster Youth Higher Education Opportunities Act will automate the notification to foster youth of their potential eligibility for programs that serve as a lifeline to a better future.

I would like to recognize Senators INHOFE, FRANKEN, LEVIN, MURRAY,