activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1724. A bill to provide that the reinsurance fee for the transitional reinsurance program under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act be applied equally to all health insurance issuers and group health plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss again how ObamaCare is negatively impacting American families.

NBC News is reporting that 5 million Americans have received cancellation notices from health insurers. In my home State of South Dakota, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader is reporting that nearly 3,000 people have lost the plan they had. Yet this administration is merely pursuing political bandaids for the problem created by the President's health care law. The President is trying to fix this problem of canceled plans, but his solution is a politically motivated bandaid in response to pressure from Members of his own party who are nervous about the next election. The unfortunate reality of his bandaid is that it won't work.

Instead of taking responsibility for his failed policies and broken promises, he is changing his mind about how he wants his law to work at the eleventh hour. He is kicking the can to State insurance regulators to determine whether, in 48 days—which is from the date of his announcement on Thursday—they can reverse a train wreck that has been barreling down the tracks for nearly 4 years.

The President's health care law told the entire country that compliance with the President's law must occur on January 1, 2014. In response, industry and State regulators complied. Now, after relentlessly pushing a law that is fundamentally flawed, the President is changing his mind. He is expecting the State insurance commissioners to bail him out, to allow Americans to keep the plans they were promised they could keep.

Since passage of his health care law, the President has continued to tout his law and has continued to make promises to the American people that he knowingly cannot keep. While I agree that Americans should be able to keep the plans they have and like, this eleventh-hour attempt at a fix is an indication that the underpinnings of this law are irreversibly flawed.

The administration is now trying to live up to a promise it made despite the fact that they knew the promise wasn't true. In fact, the President repeated and reiterated that promise as recently as September 26 despite the fact that the administration knew it wasn't true. In 2010 the administration knew that up to 93 million Americans in the private market were in danger of losing their current health care plan. But the deeper problem with the President's fix is that it is merely a bandaid. By this time next year Americans will be in this exact same situation all over again.

The President is not focused on finding a good permanent solution but a good political solution. Putting this bandaid on the problem now may get him and his party past next year's elections. He seems more interested in preserving that power than creating real solutions to the underlying issues. In fact, the President is so concerned about the politics of his actions that he is considering yet again a way to bail out his union friends. As part of the health care law, unions agree to pay a tax to help pay for the cost of expanding coverage. This tax, known as the reinsurance tax, is scheduled to be paid by self-insured plans, including plans administered by unions and many of the largest businesses in America. But the unions are unhappy that they have to pay money into a fund to help fund a benefit for someone other than their dues-paying members. They took their complaints to the administration, and, buried in a regulation issued last month, the administration announced they intend to exempt unions from paying this tax.

Yesterday the Wall Street Journal editorial page articulated exactly why the unions should not be exempt from this tax. The editorial, called ''ObamaCare's Union Favor,'' argues that ''the unions ought to consider this tax a civic obligation in solidarity with the (uninsured) working folk they claim to support.'' It further states that ''there's no conceivable rationale—other than politics—for releasing union-only plans from a tax.'' As the editorial pointed out, exempting unions from this tax will only mean increased taxes on nonunionized Americans in self-insured plans since the tax is structured in a way that it must raise a total of $25 billion and isn't structured as a straight percentage like most taxes.

Granting this political deal to unions is why I am introducing the Union Tax Fairness Act. This bill would ensure that unions live up to the commitments they made when they put their political weight behind the health care law. It is political deals such as this that highlight how this law is failing the average American.

This reinsurance fee exemption isn't the only backroom deal the administration is trying to grant unions. Earlier this fall the administration tried to find a way to provide ObamaCare subsidies to ineligible union employees. I introduced a bill called the Union Bailout Prevention Act which was aimed at ensuring the administration could not make that special deal either.

It is clear that this President—President Obama—is trying to fix problems in his health care law by making decisions and exemptions based on favors to his political allies.

Democrats are on the run from the law they once championed. They recognize this law is sagging under its own weight. Last week there were 39 House Democrats who voted against the Obama administration by supporting the Upton bill that provides a better solution to allowing Americans to keep plans they like than what the President proposed. Even former President Bill Clinton said President Obama should keep his word when it comes to allowing Americans to keep the plans they have and like. In this Chamber, several Senate Democrats are running for the exits and looking for a legislative escape hatch of their own.

Unfortunately, the solutions proposed by this administration to fix problems in the health care law are only temporary solutions. Their solutions to problems are either temporary delays—as they did with the employer mandate and the 1-year extension of 2013 plans—or political favors to their friends and allies. Instead, this administration should agree to delay this entire law for all Americans.

Americans are deeply skeptical of the Affordable Care Act. According to last week's Gallup poll, 55 percent of Americans now disapprove of the health care law. There is a more recent poll this morning in which ABC News and the Washington Post have that number at 57 percent disapproving.

The time to act is now to ensure Americans can keep the plans they have and like. This ''fix'' won't prevent Americans from losing their coverage, facing sticker shock and premium increases, or losing their doctors. This law is fundamentally broken, and we need to start over and enact real reforms that decrease costs and improve access to care.

As do so many of us in this Chamber, I hear on a daily basis from my constituents in South Dakota about the very real impact this is having on middle-income Americans. This is an email I received last week:

My wife just received our health care insurance policy renewals for 2014 and we are in shock!

Our monthly premiums increased from $400 per month to $1,000, or over $7,000 more per year. My wife age 59 and me age 60 now receive maternity benefits and some other very limited coverage. We lost our prescription drug co-pay and doctor visits co-pay. These expenses will now be included in our $6,300 deductible. I will have no option for any subsidy to offset these increases in premiums.

He goes on to say:

Please, please push for a reversal of this horrible health care plan.

My wife and I are physically ill after receiving this letter from our insurance carrier. Again, the government is destroying our lives and we need you to stop this madness.

This is just one example of many that I have heard from my State of South Dakota and many that my colleagues here in the Senate are hearing from all across this country. It is clear this program, this health insurance law, is not ready for prime time. It is time for us to take a timeout and to go back to the drawing board and construct a plan, an insurance program for this country, legislation that will help reduce the costs for working-class Americans, give them access to better quality of care, and allow them to keep the doctor they choose, which is very much in jeopardy as well as a result of this takeover, literally, of one-sixth of our economy.

There is a better way, as I think countless—millions—Americans are finding out through canceled coverages, sticker shock from skyrocketing premiums, and the new knowledge that they may not be able to keep not only their health insurance plan but also the doctors they like. This is a grim reality for way too many Americans, and it is time for us to step forward and do something about it.

The President's proposal is a bandaid. It is a political solution. It is not a permanent solution; it is temporary. We need long-term fixes put in place that will address the health care concerns people have. The way to do that isn't to have the Federal Government literally assume control of one-sixth of the American economy and all the decisionmaking that takes out of the hands of ordinary, middle-class families—people across this country who are working hard to take care of their families.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1728. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. CORNYN. 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. 1728

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 ''Safeguarding Elections for our Nation's Troops through Reforms and Improvements (SENTRI) Act''.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT

SEC. 101. PRE-ELECTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(c)) is amended by striking ''Not later than 90 days'' and inserting the following:

''(1) PRE-ELECTION REPORT ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 43 days before any election for Federal office held in a State, the chief State election official of such State shall submit a report to the Attorney General and the Presidential Designee, and make that report publicly available that same day, confirming—

''(i) the number of absentee ballots validly requested by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters whose requests were received by the 46th day before the election, and

''(ii) whether those ballots were timely transmitted.

''(B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include the following information:

''(i) Specific information about ballot transmission, including the total numbers of ballot requests received from such voters and ballots transmitted to such voters by the 46th day before the election from each unit of local government that will administer the election.

''(ii) If the chief State election official has incomplete information on any items required to be included in the report, an explanation of what information is incomplete information and efforts made to acquire such information.

''(C) REQUIREMENT TO SUPPLEMENT INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.—If the report under subparagraph (A) has incomplete information on any items required to be included in the report, the chief State election official shall make all reasonable efforts to expeditiously supplement the report with complete information.

''(D) FORMAT.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall be in a format prescribed by the Attorney General in consultation with the chief State election officials of each State.

''(2) POST ELECTION REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED.—Not later than 90 days''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for subsection (c) of section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(c)) is amended by striking ''REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED'' and inserting ''REPORTS ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS''.

SEC. 102. TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS; REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (8) of section 102(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(8) transmit a validly requested absentee ballot to an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter by the date and in the manner determined under subsection (g);''.

(b) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.—Subsection (g) of section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(g)) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an absentee ballot is received at least 46 days before an election for Federal office, the following rules shall apply:

''(A) TRANSMISSION DEADLINE.—The State shall transmit the absentee ballot not later than 46 days before the election.

''(B) SPECIAL RULES IN CASE OF FAILURE TO TRANSMIT ON TIME.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 46th day before the election as required by subparagraph (A) and the absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter did not request electronic ballot transmission pursuant to subsection (f), the State shall transmit such ballot by express delivery.

''(ii) EXTENDED FAILURE.—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 41st day before the election, in addition to transmitting the ballot as provided in clause (i), the State shall—

''(I) in the case of absentee ballots requested by absent uniformed services voters with respect to regularly scheduled general elections, notify such voters of the procedures established under section 103A for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots; and

''(II) in any other case, provide for the return of such ballot by express delivery.

''(iii) COST OF EXPRESS DELIVERY.—In any case in which express delivery is required under this subparagraph, the cost of such express delivery—

''(I) shall not be paid by the voter, and

''(II) may be required by the State to be paid by a local jurisdiction if the State determines that election officials in such jurisdiction are responsible for the failure to transmit the ballot by any date required under this paragraph.

''(iv) ENFORCEMENT.—A State's compliance with this subparagraph does not bar the Attorney General from seeking additional remedies necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

''(2) REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER 46TH DAY BEFORE ELECTION.—For purposes of subsection (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an absentee ballot is received less than 46 days but not less than 30 days before an election for Federal office, the State shall transmit the absentee ballot not later than 3 business days after such request is received.''.

SEC. 103. TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS TO CONFORM TO 2009 MOVE ACT AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a)(3) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''general elections'' and inserting ''general, special, primary, and runoff elections''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking ''general'', and

(2) in the heading thereof, by striking ''**general**''.

SEC. 104. TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS.

(a) APPLICATION OF PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION TO OVERSEAS VOTERS.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–3) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or overseas voter'' after ''submitted by an absent uniformed services voter''; and

(2) by striking ''members of the uniformed services'' and inserting ''absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters''.

(b) USE OF SINGLE APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–3) is amended—

(A) by striking ''A State'' and inserting the following:

''(a) PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION.—A State'', and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(b) APPLICATION TREATED AS VALID FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State accepts and processes a request for an absentee ballot by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter and the voter requests that the application be considered an application for an absentee ballot for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State through the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general election) and any special elections for Federal office held in the State through the calendar year following such general election, the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each such subsequent election.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to either of the following:

''(A) VOTERS CHANGING REGISTRATION.—A voter removed from the list of official eligible voters in accordance with subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 8(a)(3) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-6(a)).

''(B) UNDELIVERABLE BALLOTS.—A voter whose ballot is returned by mail to the State or local election officials as undeliverable or, in the case of a ballot delivered electronically, if the email sent to the voter was undeliverable or rejected due to an invalid email address.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 104 of such Act is amended by striking ''**PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION**'' and inserting ''**TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS**''.

(3) REVISION TO POSTCARD FORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Presidential designee shall ensure that the official postcard form prescribed under section 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(2)) enables a voter using the form to—

(i) request an absentee ballot for each election for Federal office held in a State through the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general election) and any special elections for Federal office held in the State through the calendar year following such general election; or

(ii) request an absentee ballot for a specific election or elections for Federal office held in a State during the period described in paragraph (1).

(B) PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ''Presidential designee'' means the individual designated under section 101(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(a)).

SEC. 105. APPLICABILITY TO COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Paragraph (6) and (8) of section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–6(6)) are each amended by striking ''and American Samoa'' and inserting ''American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands''.

SEC. 106. BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105A(b) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''March 31 of each year'' and inserting ''June 30 of each odd-numbered year''; and

(B) by striking ''the following information'' and inserting ''the following information with respect to the Federal elections held during the 2 preceding calendar years'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''separate assessment'' each place it appears and inserting ''separate assessment and statistical analysis''; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''section 1566a'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting ''sections 1566a and 1566b'';

(B) by striking ''such section'' each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting ''such sections''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(C) The number of completed official postcard forms prescribed under section 101(b)(2) that were completed by absent uniformed services members and accepted and transmitted.

''(D) The number of absent uniformed services members who declined to register to vote under such sections.''.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—Section 105A of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a) is amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a review of any reports submitted by the Presidential designee under subsection (b) with respect to elections occurring in calendar years 2014 through 2020.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after a report is submitted by the Presidential designee under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report containing the results of the review conducted under subparagraph (A).

''(2) MATTERS REVIEWED.—A review conducted under paragraph (1) shall assess—

''(A) the methodology used by the Presidential designee to prepare the report and to develop the data presented in the report, including the approach for designing, implementing, and analyzing the results of any surveys,

''(B) the effectiveness of any voting assistance covered in the report provided under subsection (b) and provided by the Presidential designee to absent overseas uniformed services voters and overseas voters who are not members of the uniformed services, including an assessment of—

''(i) any steps taken toward improving the implementation of such voting assistance; and

''(ii) the extent of collaboration between the Presidential designee and the States in providing such voting assistance; and

''(C) any other information the Comptroller General considers relevant to the review.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 101(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (6); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (11) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively.

(2) Section 102(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''101(b)(7)'' and inserting ''101(b)(6)''; and

(B) in paragraph (11), by striking ''101(b)(11)'' and inserting ''101(b)(10)''.

(3) Section 105A(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''ANNUAL REPORT'' in the subsection heading and inserting ''BIENNIAL REPORT''; and

(B) by striking ''In the case of'' in paragraph (3) and all that follows through ''a description'' and inserting ''A description''.

SEC. 107. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2014 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

TITLE II—PROVISION OF VOTER ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

SEC. 201. PROVISION OF ANNUAL VOTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) ANNUAL VOTER ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 80 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1566a the following new section:

''§ 1556b. Annual voter assistance

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out the following activities:

''(1) In coordination with the Secretary of each military department—

''(A) affirmatively offer, on an annual basis, each member of the armed forces on active duty (other than active duty for training) the opportunity, through the online system developed under paragraph (2), to—

''(i) register to vote in an election for Federal office;

''(ii) update the member's voter registration information; or

''(iii) request an absentee ballot;

''(B) provide services to such members for the purpose of carrying out the activities in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A); and

''(C) require any such member who declines the offer for voter assistance under subparagraph (A) to indicate and record that decision.

''(2) Implement an online system that, to the extent practicable, is integrated with the existing systems of each of the military departments and that—

''(A) provides an electronic means for carrying out the requirements of paragraph (1);

''(B) in the case of an individual registering to vote in a State that accepts electronic voter registration and operates its own electronic voter registration system using a form that meets the requirements for mail voter registration forms under section 9(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–7(b)), directs such individual to that system; and

''(C) in the case of an individual using the official postcard form prescribed under section 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(2)) to register to vote and request an absentee ballot—

''(i) pre-populates such official postcard form with the personal information of such individual, and

''(ii)(I) produces the pre-populated form and a pre-addressed envelope for use in transmitting such official postcard form; or

''(II) transmits the completed official postcard form electronically to the appropriate State or local election officials.

''(3) Implement a system (either independently or in conjunction with the online system under paragraph (2)) by which any change of address by a member of the armed forces on active duty who is undergoing a permanent change of station, deploying overseas for at least six months, or returning from an overseas deployment of at least six months automatically triggers, through the

Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Registration System or related systems, a notification via electronic means to such member that—

''(A) indicates that such member's voter registration or absentee mailing address should be updated with the appropriate State or local election officials; and

''(B) includes instructions on how to update such voter registration using the online system developed under paragraph (2).

''(b) DATA COLLECTION.—The online system developed under subsection (a)(2) shall collect and store all data required to meet the reporting requirements of section 201(b) of the Safeguarding Elections for our Nation's Troops through Reforms and Improvements (SENTRI) Act and section 105A(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a(b)(2)) in a manner that complies with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the Privacy Act of 1974) and imposes no new record management burden on any military unit or military installation.

''(c) TIMING OF VOTER ASSISTANCE.—To the extent practicable, the voter assistance under subsection (a)(1) shall be offered as a part of each service member's annual training.

''(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations implementing the requirements of subsection (a). Such regulations shall include procedures to inform those members of the armed forces on active duty (other than active duty for training) experiencing a change of address about the benefits of this section and the timeframe for requesting an absentee ballot to ensure sufficient time for State delivery of the ballot.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 80 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1566a the following new item:

''1556b. Annual voter assistance.''.

(b) REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report on the status of the implementation of the requirements of section 1566b of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed description of any specific steps already taken towards the implementation of the requirements of such section 1566b;

(B) a detailed plan for the implementation of such requirements, including milestones and deadlines for the completion of such implementation;

(C) the costs expected to be incurred in the implementation of such requirements;

(D) a description of how the annual voting assistance and system under subsection (a)(3) of such section will be integrated with the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Registration System or other Department of Defense personnel databases that track military service members' address changes;

(E) an estimate of how long it will take an average member to complete the voter assistance process required under subsection (a)(1) of such section;

(F) an explanation of how the Secretary of Defense will collect reliable data on the utilization of the online system under subsection (a)(2) of such section; and

(G) a summary of any objections, concerns, or comments made by State or local election officials regarding the implementation of such section.

(3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''relevant committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Rules and Administration of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and House Administration of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

SEC. 301. REPEAL OF ELECTRONIC VOTING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

Section 1604 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1973ff note) is repealed.

TITLE IV—RESIDENCY OF MILITARY FAMILY MEMBERS

SEC. 401. EXTENDING GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR VOTING PURPOSES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABSENT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 705 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595) is amended—

(1) by striking ''a person who is absent from a State because the person is accompanying the persons's spouse who is absent from that same State in compliance with military or naval orders shall not, solely by reason of that absence'' and inserting ''a dependent of a person who is absent from a State in compliance with military orders shall not, solely by reason of absence, whether or not accompanying that person''; and

(2) in the heading by striking ''SPOUSES'' and inserting ''DEPENDENTS''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 705 of such Act (50 U.S.C. App 595) is amended by striking ''**SPOUSES**'' and inserting ''**DEPENDENTS**''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to absences from States described in section 705(b) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595(b)), as amended by subsection (a), after the date of the enactment of this Act, regardless of the date of the military orders concerned.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 1730. A bill to reform the regulatory process to ensure that small businesses are free to compete and to create jobs, to clear unnecessary regulatory burdens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Clearing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens Act of 2013, or the ''CURB Act.'' This legislation is designed to help relieve the onerous regulatory burden on our Nation's job creators.

When I ask employers in Maine what we need to do to help them add jobs, they tell me that Washington must reduce the cost and complexity of the regulations imposed on them. And this is not just a concern voiced by Maine businesses. Earlier this year, a Gallup poll of small business owners found that the vast majority are not hiring new workers right now, and more than half pointed to government regulations as one of the reasons why. The National Federation of Independent Business found the same when it polled its members last year.

No business owner I know questions the legitimate role of regulation in protecting the health, safety, and well-being of employees and the public. But the public is not well-served by regulations that bury small businesses under a mountain of paperwork, driving up costs unnecessarily, and impeding growth and job creation. Proper regulation should be as efficient and simple as possible. At the very least, the benefits of a regulation should exceed its costs.

Unfortunately, the burden of Federal regulations continues to grow. Right now, Federal agencies are at work on nearly 2,500 new rules, at least 229 of which affect small businesses. One hundred thirty-nine are major rules, costing more than $100 million each. These rules will go on top of a pile of regulations now measured in the millions of pages.

Year-by-year, this pile of pages gets ever deeper. In the 1970s, the Federal Register, the compilation of Federal regulations, added some 450,000 pages. In the first decade of the 21st Century, more than 730,000 pages were added—a rate of 73,000 pages per year. The pace continues to accelerate. On average since 2010, the Federal Government has added more than 80,000 pages to the Federal Register each year. This cannot continue.

We are not in the fifth year of an economic ''recovery'' that has produced tepid economic growth and stubbornly high unemployment. The red-tape that is strangling our job creators is one of the chief reasons our economy has not fully recovered, and why millions of Americans still cannot find jobs. If we want to get our economy moving again and get Americans back to work, we must get serious about streamlining and reforming our regulatory system.

The CURB Act is designed to do that by requiring Federal agencies to take into account the impacts to small businesses and job growth before imposing new rules and regulations. It does this in four ways: first, by requiring Federal agencies to analyze the indirect costs of regulations, such as the impact on job creation, the cost of energy, and consumer prices; second, by requiring agencies to follow ''good guidance'' practices; third, by helping small businesses avoid unnecessary penalties for first-time, non-harmful paperwork violations; and fourth, by implementing reforms to the Regulatory Flexibility Act proposed by our former colleague, Senator Olympia Snowe. Let me explain each of these provisions in further detail.

First, as a general rule, Federal agencies are not required by statute to analyze the indirect costs regulations can have on the public, such as higher energy costs, higher prices, and the impact on job creation. However, Executive Order 12866, issued by President Clinton in 1993, obligates agencies to provide the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OIRA, with an assessment of the indirect costs of proposed regulations. The CURB Act would essentially codify this provision of President Clinton's Executive Order.

Second, our bill obligates Federal agencies to comply with public notice

and comment requirements and prohibits them from circumventing these requirements by issuing unofficial rules as ''guidance documents.'' Let me explain why this is necessary:

After President Clinton issued Executive Order 12866, Federal agencies found it easier to issue so-called ''guidance documents,'' rather than formal rules. Although these guidance documents are merely an agency's interpretation of how the public can comply with a particular rule, and are not enforceable in court, as a practical matter they operate as if they are legally binding. Thus, they have been used by agencies to circumvent OIRA regulatory review and public notice and comment requirements.

In 2007, OMB issued a Bulletin which contained a provision closing this loophole by imposing ''Good Guidance Practices'' on Federal agencies. This requires agencies to provide public notice and comment for significant guidance documents. The CURB Act would essentially codify this OMB Bulletin.

Third, the CURB Act helps out the ''little guy'' trying to navigate our incredibly complex and burdensome regulatory environment. So many small businesses do not have a lot of capital on hand. When a small business inadvertently runs afoul of a Federal regulation for the first time, that first penalty could sink the business and the jobs it supports. The CURB Act directs agencies to search their files to determine whether a small business is facing a paperwork violation for the first time, and to offer to waive the penalty for that violation if no harm has come of it. It simply does not make sense to me to punish small businesses the first time they accidently fail to comply with paperwork requirements, so long as no harm comes from that failure.

Fourth, as I mentioned, my bill also includes reforms to the Regulatory Flexibility Act, RFA. These reforms would build on the RFA by expanding its requirements to include guidance documents and indirect costs, in a manner consistent with what I have already described. In addition, the reforms to the RFA would allow small businesses to challenge burdensome rules when they are proposed, instead of when the rules have become final, which is often too late.

Finally, these proposed reforms would put teeth into the RFA's requirement that agencies review their rules for possible savings at least once a decade. The bill directs each agency's Inspector General to notify the head of the agency if a rule has not been reviewed in the time required. Once this notification is received, the agency has 6 months to conduct the required review. If it fails to do so, the bill directs the IG to notify Congress, triggering the recission of one percent of the offending agency's personnel budget unless Congress intervenes.

Before I close, I want to note that many Members of this body, on both sides of the aisle, have offered serious regulatory reform proposals for our consideration in recent years. Indeed, even the President's own ''Jobs Council''—before it was disbanded—stressed the need for regulatory reform, and put forward ideas consistent with many of the proposals I and other Members of this body have submitted as legislation. Last session, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, under the leadership of then-Chairman Lieberman and myself, held a series of hearings on regulatory reform. But the Senate as a whole did not act on these proposals last session, or dedicate any time whatsoever to their consideration. I am hopeful this session will be different, and room will be made on the Senate's agenda to consider regulatory reform. As we do so, I would ask my colleagues to consider the approach I have proposed in the CURB Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 1736. A bill to amend titles 5 and 38, United States Code, to clarify the veteran status of an individual based on the attendance of the individual at a preparatory school of a service academy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 1736

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 ''Support Earned Recognition for Veterans Act'' or the ''SERVe Act''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF VETERAN STATUS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF MILITARY SERVICE.—Section 101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (21)(D), by inserting after ''Naval Academy'' the following: ''(but, except for purposes of chapter 17 of this title in accordance with section 107(e)(2), does not include any service performed by a student at a preparatory school of a service academy who is not otherwise a member of the Armed Forces)'';

(2) in paragraph (22), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '' or, except for purposes of chapter 17 of this title in accordance with section 107(e)(2), duty performed by a student at a preparatory school of a service academy who is not otherwise a member of the Armed Forces''; and

(3) in paragraph (23), by adding after the period at the end the following: ''Except for purposes of chapter 17 of this title in accordance with section 107(e)(2), such term does not include duty performed by a student at a preparatory school of a service academy who is not otherwise a member of the Armed Forces.''.

(b) SERVICE DEEMED NOT TO BE ACTIVE SERVICE.—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e)(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), duty performed by a student at a preparatory school of a service academy who is not otherwise a member of the Armed Forces shall not be deemed to have been active military, naval, or air service for the purposes of any of the laws administered by the Secretary, regardless of whether the student was injured or disabled as a result of such duty.

''(2) Chapter 17 of this title shall apply to an individual described in paragraph (1) with respect to furnishing hospital care and medical services solely for an injury or disability incurred by the individual as a result of military training related to future active duty service performed as a student during the course of required training at a preparatory school of a service academy. An individual who receives such care and services under this paragraph may not be treated as a veteran for the purposes of any other provision of law solely by reason of receiving such care and services under this paragraph.''.

(c) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 8127(l) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) The term 'veteran', in accordance with sections 101 and 107 of this title, does not include an individual whose veteran status is based solely on the attendance of the individual as a student at a preparatory school of a service academy, regardless of whether the individual was injured or disabled as a result of duty performed as such a student.''.

(d) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE.—Section 2108 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) an individual whose veteran status is based solely on the attendance of the individual as a student at a preparatory school of a service academy, regardless of whether the individual was injured or disabled as a result of duty performed as such a student, may not be treated as a 'veteran', 'disabled veteran', or 'preference eligible'.''.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1738. A bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. 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. 1738

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 ''Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 3014. Additional special assessment

''(a) In addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of $5,000 on any person or entity convicted of an offense under—

''(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

''(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

''(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

''(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

''(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

''(b) An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines and orders of restitution arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

''(c) There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(d) Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, or any other law regarding the crediting of money received for the Government, there shall be deposited in the Fund an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

''(e)(1) From amounts in the Fund, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

''(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

''(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

''(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(2) Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than $2,000,000 shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(f)(1) Effective on the day after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013, on September 30 of each fiscal year, all unobligated balances in the Fund shall be transferred to the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

''(2) Amounts transferred under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall be available for any authorized purpose of the Crime Victims Fund; and

''(B) shall remain available until expended.

''(g) The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

''(h) The obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

''3014. Additional special assessment.''.

SEC. 3. OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(f) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receiving credible information that establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that a covered individual is a victim of a severe form of trafficking and at the request of the covered individual, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promptly issue a determination that the covered individual is a victim of a severe form of trafficking. The Secretary shall have exclusive authority to make such a determination.

''(B) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered individual' means—

''(i) a citizen of the United States; or

''(ii) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as that term is defined in section 101(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(20)).

''(C) PROCEDURE.—For purposes of this paragraph, in determining whether a covered individual has provided credible information that the covered individual is a victim of a severe form of trafficking, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consider all relevant and credible evidence, and if appropriate, consult with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of Labor.

''(D) PRESUMPTIVE EVIDENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the following forms of evidence shall receive deference in determining whether a covered individual has established that the covered individual is a victim of a severe form of trafficking:

''(i) A sworn statement by the covered individual or a representative of the covered individual if the covered individual is present at the time of such statement but not able to competently make such sworn statement.

''(ii) Police, government agency, or court records or files.

''(iii) Documentation from a social services, trafficking, or domestic violence program, child welfare or runaway and homeless youth program, or a legal, clinical, medical, or other professional from whom the covered individual has sought assistance in dealing with the crime.

''(iv) A statement from any other individual with knowledge of the circumstances that provided the basis for the claim.

''(v) Physical evidence.

''(E) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall adopt regulations to implement this paragraph.

''(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION; OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OPTIONAL.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a covered individual to obtain a determination under this paragraph in order to be defined or classified as a victim of a severe form of trafficking under this section.''.

SEC. 4. VICTIM-CENTERED HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 203. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may make block grants to an eligible entity to develop, improve, or expand comprehensive domestic child human trafficking deterrence programs that assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial officials, and qualified victims' services organizations in collaborating to rescue and restore the lives of victims, while investigating and prosecuting offenses involving child human trafficking.

''(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—

''(1) the establishment or enhancement of specialized training programs for law enforcement officers, first responders, health care officials, child welfare officials, juvenile justice personnel, prosecutors, and judicial personnel to—

''(A) identify victims and acts of child human trafficking;

''(B) address the unique needs of child victims of human trafficking;

''(C) facilitate the rescue of child victims of human trafficking;

''(D) investigate and prosecute acts of human trafficking, including the soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing of commercial sex acts from children, as well as training to build cases against complex criminal networks involved in child human trafficking;

''(E) use laws that prohibit acts of child human trafficking, child sexual abuse, and child rape, and to assist in the development of State and local laws to prohibit, investigate, and prosecute acts of child human trafficking; and

''(F) implement and provide education on safe harbor laws enacted by States, aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution offenses;

''(2) the establishment or enhancement of dedicated anti-trafficking law enforcement units and task forces to investigate child human trafficking offenses and to rescue victims, including—

''(A) funding salaries, in whole or in part, for law enforcement officers, including patrol officers, detectives, and investigators, except that the percentage of the salary of the law enforcement officer paid for by funds from a grant awarded under this section shall not be more than the percentage of the officer's time on duty that is dedicated to working on cases involving child human trafficking; and

''(B) investigation expenses for cases involving child human trafficking, including—

''(i) wire taps;

''(ii) consultants with expertise specific to cases involving child human trafficking;

''(iii) travel; and

''(iv) other technical assistance expenditures;

''(C) dedicated anti-trafficking prosecution units, including the funding of salaries for State and local prosecutors, including assisting in paying trial expenses for prosecution of child human trafficking offenders, except that the percentage of the total salary of a State or local prosecutor that is paid using an award under this section shall be not more than the percentage of the total number of hours worked by the prosecutor that is spent working on cases involving child human trafficking;

''(D) the establishment of child human trafficking victim witness safety, assistance, and relocation programs that encourage cooperation with law enforcement investigations of crimes of child human trafficking by leveraging existing resources and delivering child human trafficking victims' services through coordination with—

''(i) child advocacy centers;

''(ii) social service agencies;

''(iii) State governmental health service agencies;

''(iv) housing agencies;

''(v) legal services agencies; and

''(vi) non-governmental organizations and shelter service providers with substantial experience in delivering comprehensive services to victims of child human trafficking; and

''(3) the establishment or enhancement of problem solving court programs for trafficking victims that include—

''(A) mandatory and regular training requirements for judicial officials involved in the administration or operation of the court program described under this paragraph;

''(B) continuing judicial supervision of victims of child human trafficking who have been identified by a law enforcement or judicial officer as a potential victim of child human trafficking, regardless of whether the victim has been charged with a crime related to human trafficking;

''(C) the development of a specialized and individualized, court-ordered treatment program for identified victims of child human trafficking, including—

''(i) State-administered outpatient treatment;

''(ii) life skills training;

''(iii) housing placement;

''(iv) vocational training;

''(v) education;

''(vi) family support services; and

''(vii) job placement;

''(D) centralized case management involving the consolidation of all of each child human trafficking victim's cases and offenses, and the coordination of all trafficking victim treatment programs and social services;

''(E) regular and mandatory court appearances by the victim during the duration of the treatment program for purposes of ensuring compliance and effectiveness;

''(F) the ultimate dismissal of relevant non-violent criminal charges against the victim, where such victim successfully complies with the terms of the court-ordered treatment program; and

''(G) collaborative efforts with child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, shelters, and non-governmental organizations to provide comprehensive services to victims and encourage cooperation with law enforcement.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Attorney General for a grant under this section in such form and manner as the Attorney General may require.

''(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application submitted under this subsection shall—

''(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

''(B) include a detailed plan for the use of funds awarded under the grant; and

''(C) provide such additional information and assurances as the Attorney General determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

''(3) PREFERENCE.—In reviewing applications submitted in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall give preference to grant applications if—

''(A) the application includes a plan to use awarded funds to engage in all activities described under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b); or

''(B) the application includes a plan by the State or unit of local government to continue funding of all activities funded by the award after the expiration of the award.

''(d) DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall expire 1 year after the date of award of the grant.

''(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this section shall be renewable not more than 3 times and for a period of not greater than 1 year.

''(e) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall enter into a contract with an academic or non-profit organization that has experience in issues related to child human trafficking and evaluation of grant programs to conduct an annual evaluation of grants made under this section to determine the impact and effectiveness of programs funded with grants awarded under this section.

''(f) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—An eligible entity awarded funds under this section that is found to have used grant funds for any unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost shall not be eligible for any grant funds awarded under the block grant for 2 fiscal years following the year in which the unauthorized expenditure or unallowable cost is reported.

''(g) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT.—An eligible entity shall not be eligible to receive a grant under this section if within the 5 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section, the grantee has been found to have violated the terms or conditions of a Government grant program by utilizing grant funds for unauthorized expenditures or otherwise unallowable costs.

''(h) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The cost of administering the grants authorized by this section shall not exceed 3 percent of the total amount appropriated to carry out this section.

''(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a program funded by a grant awarded under this section shall be—

''(1) 70 percent in the first year;

''(2) 60 percent in the second year; and

''(3) 50 percent in the third year.

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING; FULLY OFFSET.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award not more than $7,000,000 of the funds available in the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, established under section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

''(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'child' means a person under the age of 18;

''(2) the term 'child advocacy center' means a center created under subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.);

''(3) the term 'child human trafficking' means 1 or more severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102))involving a victim who is a child; and

''(4) the term 'eligible entity' means a State or unit of local government that—

''(A) has significant criminal activity involving child human trafficking;

''(B) has demonstrated cooperation between Federal, State, local, and, where applicable, tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing child human trafficking;

''(C) has developed a workable, multi-disciplinary plan to combat child human trafficking, including—

''(i) the establishment of a shelter for victims of child human trafficking, through existing or new facilities;

''(ii) the provision of trauma-informed, gender-responsive rehabilitative care to victims of child human trafficking;

''(iii) the provision of specialized training for law enforcement officers and social service providers for all forms of human trafficking, with a focus on domestic child human trafficking;

''(iv) prevention, deterrence, and prosecution of offenses involving child human trafficking, including soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing human acts with children;

''(v) cooperation or referral agreements with organizations providing outreach or other related services to runaway and homeless youth;

''(vi) law enforcement protocols or procedures to screen all individuals arrested for prostitution, whether adult or child, for victimization by sex trafficking and by other crimes, such as sexual assault and domestic violence; and

''(vii) cooperation or referral agreements with State child welfare agencies and child advocacy centers;

''(D) has a victim certification process for eligibility and access to State-administered medical care to ensure that minor victims of human trafficking who are not eligible for interim assistance under section 107(b)(1)(F) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(F)) are granted eligibility for, and have access to, State-administered medical care immediately upon certification as such a victim, or as soon as practicable thereafter but not later than the period determined by the Assistant Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families of the Department; and

''(E) provides an assurance that, under the plan under subparagraph (C), a victim of child human trafficking shall not be required to collaborate with law enforcement officers to have access to any shelter or services provided with a grant under this section.

''(l) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY; SPECIALIZED VICTIMS' SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—No grant funds under this section may be awarded or transferred to any entity unless such entity has demonstrated substantial experience providing services to victims of human trafficking or related populations (such as runaway and homeless youth), or employs staff specialized in the treatment of human trafficking victims.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7101 note) is amended by striking the item relating to section 203 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 203. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.''.

SEC. 5. DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 212(5) (42 U.S.C. 13001a(5)), by inserting '', including human trafficking and the production of child pornography'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 214 (42 U.S.C. 13002)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, may make grants to develop and implement specialized programs to identify and provide direct services to victims of child pornography.''.

SEC. 6. INCREASING RESTITUTION FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.

(a) TITLE 18 AMENDMENTS.—Section 1594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''that was used or'' and inserting ''that was involved in, used, or'';

(ii) by inserting ''or any property traceable to such property'' after ''such violation''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', or any property traceable to such property'' after ''such violation''; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(i) by striking ''Any property, real or personal, used or'' and inserting ''Any property, real or personal, involved in, used, or''; and

(ii) by inserting '', or any property traceable to such property'' after ''any violation of this chapter'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Attorney General shall transfer assets forfeited pursuant to this section, or the proceeds derived from the sale thereof, to satisfy victim restitution orders arising from violations of this chapter. Such transfers shall have priority over any other claims to the assets or their proceeds.''.

(b) TITLE 28 AMENDMENT.—Section 524(c)(1)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''chapter 77 of title 18,'' after ''criminal drug laws of the United States or of''.

(c) TITLE 31 AMENDMENT.—Section 9703(a)(2)(B) of title 31, United States Code, (relating to the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii)(III), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

''(v) the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement with respect to a violation of chapter 77 of title 18 (relating to human trafficking).''.

SEC. 7. STREAMLINING STATE AND LOCAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2516(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child pornography production,'' after ''kidnapping,''.

SEC. 8. FIGHTING COMPLEX CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES ENGAGED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 96 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1969. AGGRAVATED HUMAN TRAFFICKING RACKETEERING.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'aggravated human-trafficking racketeering activity' means any activity that—

''(A) is a racketeering activity (as defined in section 1961(1)); and

''(B) includes—

''(i) any act or threat involving murder, kidnapping, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, coerced prostitution, or the production of child pornography, which is chargeable under State law and punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year (as amended or revised as of the date on which the activity occurred or, in the instance of a continuing offense, the date on which the charges under this section are filed in a particular matter); or

''(ii) any act that is indictable under (as amended or revised as of the date on which the activity occurred or, in the instance of a continuing offense, the date on which charges under this section are filed in a particular matter)—

''(I) sections 1581 through 1592 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

''(II) section 1958 (relating to use of interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder-for-hire);

''(III) section 1959 (relating to violent crimes in aid of racketeering);

''(IV) section 2251, 2251A, 2252, or 2260 (relating to sexual exploitation of children); or

''(V) sections 2421 through 2424 (relating to slave traffic); and

''(2) the term 'enterprise' has the meaning given the term in section 1961.

''(b) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.—It shall be unlawful for any person to participate, directly or indirectly, in or relating to the affairs of any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce, if—

''(1)(A) such participation within the enterprise includes committing or causing to be committed 2 or more acts of aggravated human-trafficking racketeering activity in or relating to the affairs of the enterprise; or

''(B) such participation within the enterprise includes any act of participation with the intention that some known or unknown participant or participants within the enterprise would commit, or would cause to be committed, individually or collectively, 2 or more acts of aggravated human-trafficking racketeering activity in or relating to the affairs of the enterprise.

''(c) CONSPIRACY.—It shall be unlawful for any person to conspire to violate subsection (b).

''(d) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever violates this section shall be punished in accordance with section 1963.

''(2) CLARIFICATION OF PUNISHABLE OFFENSES.—Any person prosecuted under this section may be both convicted and sentenced in any court of competent jurisdiction for any combination of the following:

''(A) The offense of conspiring to violate this section, and for any other particular offense or offenses that may be an object of the conspiracy.

''(B) Any violation of this section.

''(C) Any aggravated human-trafficking racketeering activity.''.

(b) PENALTIES.—Section 1963 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or section 1969'' after ''section 1962'' each place it appears.

(c) VIOLENT CRIMES IN AID OF RACKETEERING.—Section 1959 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''or aggravated human-trafficking racketeering activity'' before '', or for the purpose''; and

(B) by striking ''murders, kidnaps, maims'' and inserting ''aggravated human trafficking racketeering activity, murders, kidnaps, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, coerced prostitution, maims''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated, the following:

''(1) 'aggravated human-trafficking racketeering activity' has the meaning given the term in section 1969;''.

(d) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 96 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1968 the following:

''1969. Aggravated human trafficking racketeering.''.

SEC. 9. ENHANCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3755) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) PART 1 VIOLENT CRIMES TO INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—For purposes of this section, the term 'part 1 violent crimes' shall include severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).''.

(b) CRIME CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5780) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and a photograph taken within the previous 180 days'' after ''dental records'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each report received relating to a child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution; and''.

SEC. 10. REDUCING DEMAND FOR SEX TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''or maintains'' and inserting ''maintains, patronizes, or solicits'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or obtained'' and inserting ''obtained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or obtained'' and inserting ''obtained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''or maintained'' and inserting '', maintained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(B) by striking ''knew that the person'' and inserting ''knew, or recklessly disregarded the fact, that the person''.

(b) DEFINITION AMENDED.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended by striking ''or obtaining'' and inserting ''obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting''.

SEC. 11. USING EXISTING TASK FORCES TO TARGET OFFENDERS WHO EXPLOIT CHILDREN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall ensure that all task forces and working groups within the Innocence Lost National Initiative engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the investigative capabilities of State and local law enforcement officers in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of persons who patronize, or solicit children for sex.

SEC. 12. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING, CHILD EXPLOITATION, AND REPEAT OFFENDERS.

Part 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in chapter 77—

(A) in section 1583(a), in the flush text following paragraph (3), by striking ''not more than 20 years'' and inserting ''not more than 30 years'';

(B) in section 1587, by striking ''four years'' and inserting ''10 years''; and

(C) in section 1591(d), by striking ''20 years'' and inserting ''25 years''; and

(2) in section 2426(a), by striking ''twice'' and inserting ''3 times''.

SEC. 13. HOLDING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE.

Section 2423(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''a preponderance of the evidence'' and inserting ''clear and convincing evidence''.

SEC. 14. COMBATING SEX TOURISM.

Section 2423 of title 18, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''for the purpose'' and inserting ''with a motivating purpose of''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''for the purpose of engaging'' and inserting ''with a motivating purpose of engaging''.

SEC. 15. GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered grant'' means a grant awarded by

the Attorney General under section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (42 U.S.C. 14044b).

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—All covered grants shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means an audit report finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved during the 12-month period beginning on the date on which the final audit report is issued.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of covered grants to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of a covered grant that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive a covered grant during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a covered grant.

(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded a covered grant during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph and covered grants, the term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not award a covered grant to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a covered grant and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this Act may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this Act or an Act amended by this Act, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in funds made available to the Department of Justice, unless the Deputy Attorney General or the appropriate Assistant Attorney General, Director, or principal deputy (as designated by the Deputy Attorney General) provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the conference.

(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and entertainment.

(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved under this paragraph.

(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification indicating whether—

(A) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

(B) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued;

(C) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

(D) includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 299—CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY AND COMMENDING ITS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO EMPOWER AND REVITALIZE DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 299

Whereas the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (referred to in this preamble as the ''JDC''), the leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization in the world, provides economic relief to communities facing hardship and builds the foundation for self-sustaining Jewish community life;

Whereas when the JDC was founded in 1914, the organization initiated relief projects in communities primarily in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and, as of November 2013, the JDC works in 70 countries worldwide and touches more than 1,000,000 lives each year;

Whereas the JDC has pioneered high-impact programs that provide access to education, health care, food, shelter, and assistance with job training and placement for governments and other organizations to utilize;

Whereas the JDC has developed and implemented initiatives in Israeli society aimed at meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged citizens in the State of Israel, including children and youth at risk, the chronically unemployed (including ultra-Orthodox Jews, people with disabilities, and Israeli Arabs), and the elderly;

Whereas the JDC received the Israel Prize in 2007 for its lifetime achievements and special contributions to society and the State of Israel for developing innovative, scalable solutions to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged citizens in the State of Israel;

Whereas the JDC has helped transform the lives of women and girls throughout the world, through initiatives that provide access to health care and education to girls, encouraging them to overcome gender barriers, receive an education, and become community leaders;

Whereas the JDC is engaging many young individuals in the United States to participate in rescue, renewal, and revitalization work through service and volunteer programs around the world;

Whereas the JDC and the United States Government have a historic and enduring relationship that has evolved from cooperating in life-saving work in Europe through the American Relief Administration following World War I and the War Refugee Board during World War II to the more recent partnerships between the JDC and the Department of Agriculture, the Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas the JDC mobilizes its expert professionals and network of local, United States, Israeli, and global partners, including the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, to provide immediate relief and long-term assistance in the aftermath of natural disasters, such as by providing emergency supplies and medical assistance following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011 and the earthquake in Haiti in 2010; and

Whereas the JDC creates programs and solutions that benefit the neediest populations in communities around the world and confronts the most difficult challenges, such as natural disasters, extreme poverty, political instability, and genocide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; and

(2) commends the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on its valuable work around the world and wishes the organization success in its future efforts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 300—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 300

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted an investigation into JP Morgan Chase's ''whale trades'' and risks and abuses of derivatives;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a request from a federal law enforcement agency for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;