

met with officials of the Government of Iran who pledged to help in the investigation;

Whereas, for more than 6 years, the United States Government has continually pressed the Government of Iran to provide any information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson and to help ensure his prompt and safe return to his family;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Levinson family received a video of Mr. Levinson in captivity, representing the first proof of life since his disappearance and providing some initial indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas, in April 2011, the Levinson family received a series of pictures of Mr. Levinson, which provided further indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas Secretary John Kerry stated on August 28, 2013, "The United States respectfully asks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to work cooperatively with us in our efforts to help U.S. citizen Robert Levinson.";

Whereas, on September 28, 2013, during the first direct phone conversation between the leaders of the United States and Iran since 1979, President Barack Obama raised the case of Robert Levinson to President of Iran Hassan Rouhani and urged the President of Iran to help locate Mr. Levinson and reunite him with his family;

Whereas November 26, 2013, marked the 2,455th day since Mr. Levinson's disappearance, making him one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history; and

Whereas the FBI has announced a \$1,000,000 reward for information leading to Mr. Levinson's safe return: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that Robert Levinson is one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history;

(2) notes recent pledges by newly appointed officials of the Government of Iran to provide their Government's assistance in the case of Robert Levinson;

(3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humanitarian gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the case of Robert Levinson and to immediately share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the United States Government;

(4) urges the President and the allies of the United States to continue to raise with officials of the Government of Iran the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, notwithstanding other serious disagreements the United States Government has had with the Government of Iran on a broad array of issues, including human rights, the nuclear program of Iran, the Middle East peace process, regional stability, and international terrorism; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert Levinson for their anguish and expresses hope that their ordeal can be brought to an end in the near future.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 313—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 30, 2013, AS "SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY" AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF LOCALLY OWNED SMALL BUSINESS**

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr.

BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HATCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.:

S. RES. 313

Whereas small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all businesses having employees (commonly referred to as "employer firms");

Whereas small businesses employ over 49 percent of the employees in the private sector;

Whereas small businesses pay over 42 percent of the total payroll of the employees in the private sector;

Whereas small businesses are responsible for more than 50 percent of the private, non-farm product of the gross domestic product;

Whereas small businesses generated 64 percent of net new jobs created between 1993 and 2011;

Whereas 87 percent of consumers in the United States agree that the success of small businesses is critical to the overall economic health of the United States;

Whereas 93 percent of consumers in the United States agree that it is important to support the small businesses in their community; and

Whereas November 30, 2013 would be an appropriate date to designate as "Small Business Saturday": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 30, 2013 as "Small Business Saturday"; and

(2) supports efforts to—  
(A) encourage consumers to shop locally; and

(B) increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses and the impact of locally owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2543. Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3626, to extend the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 for 10 years; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2543.** Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3626, to extend the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 for 10 years; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Undetectable Firearms Reauthorization Act of 2013".

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO PROHIBITION ON UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF SUNSET PROVISION.—Section 2(f)(2) of the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-649; 18 U.S.C. 922 note) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "25" and inserting "35".

(b) OTHER AMENDMENTS.—Section 922(p) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "grips, stocks, and magazines" and inserting "all parts other than major components"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "when subjected to inspection by the types of x-ray machines commonly used at airports, does not generate" and inserting the following: "if subjected to inspection by the types of detection devices commonly used at airports for security screening, would not generate";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) the term 'major component', with respect to a firearm—

"(i) means the slide or cylinder, or the frame or receiver of the firearm; and

"(ii) in the case of a rifle or shotgun, includes the barrel of the firearm; and"; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and the proviso that follows and inserting the following:

"(C) the term 'Security Exemplar' means an object, to be fabricated at the direction of the Attorney General, that is—

"(i) constructed of 3.7 ounces of material type 17-4 PH stainless steel in a shape resembling a handgun; and

"(ii) suitable for testing and calibrating metal detectors.";

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting after "of a firearm" the following: " , including a prototype, "; and

(B) by striking the second sentence; and

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking "shall not apply to any firearm which" and all that follows and inserting the following: "shall not apply to—

"(A) any firearm received by, in the possession of, or under the control of the United States; or

"(B) the manufacture, importation, possession, transfer, receipt, shipment, or delivery of a firearm by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer pursuant to an existing contract with the United States.".

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, at 10 a.m. to hear testimony on the nomination of Thomas Hicks and Myrna Perez to be members of the Election Assistance Commission.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee, (202) 224-6352.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on

Wednesday, December 11, 2013, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a nomination hearing to consider the President's nomination of Vincent G. Logan, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior, and an Oversight Hearing to receive testimony on Implementation of the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Millett nomination under the previous order.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Senators then should expect the first vote tomorrow at 10:15 a.m.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of approximately one-half hour of Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER.

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

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I wonder if I might ask the majority leader a question.

Mr. REID. Of course.

Mr. ALEXANDER. If I may ask it through the Chair, as I understand it, there are a total of 13 district judges on the calendar, and the majority leader is the only one in the Chamber who has the right to bring a judge from the calendar to the floor.

If I heard him correctly, he filed cloture on four district judges. The way I understand the Senate procedure is that means we have an intervening day tomorrow and we can start voting on Wednesday.

Because we changed the rules at the majority leader's request to make it easier to confirm district judges, there is only, in effect, 1 hour of debate on each district judge, 2 hours equally divided. Then, if Democrats decide they don't want to use their hour, we could

use our hour if we wanted to—and that there never has been in the history of the Senate a district judge denied his or her seat by a filibuster, not President Obama, not anyone else.

If that is the case, why doesn't the majority leader bring up all the district judges? Let's bring up all 14 of them, bring them to the floor, have 1 hour of debate on each one? Why don't we do that?

Mr. REID. We tried to do that. The distinguished Senator from Tennessee objected.

The truth is that the Senate has gotten out of whack. If there was a controversy with one of these judges, then you could have some reason to stall. In years past, we have done it by unanimous consent. I think it is unfortunate that this Senate has come to this, but that is where we are.

We could approve 14 of these by my friend not objecting to them. He is on the record as saying he doesn't think there should be judges who are objected to; district court judges should be filibustered.

But here is the situation. During the entire time we have been a country, there have been 23 district court judges filibustered, in the entire time we have been a country. Twenty of them have been during the Obama administration.

So this is a game Republicans have played to do everything they can to make Obama a failed President, and they are not doing it. He is a very successful President and has a long list of things he has done in spite of the Republicans.

So I don't know the point my friend is trying to make, but let's approve all these. They are all going to get approved anyway. So what we are going to do is go through this process.

I saw my friend, the Senator from Arkansas, come through here. He helped, along with this Senator whose idea it was, from Tennessee—because Senator Frist was the leader and he backed off that and I understand why—where we had this nuclear option come up before, the Constitutional option, and there was an agreement made by my Republican colleagues that they would not filibuster a judge unless there were extraordinary circumstances. Does anyone understand—does anyone not understand why the whole country is upset about this?

Extraordinary circumstances? Look at these circuit court judges. It is outrageous that they do not like them just because they do not like them. Their qualifications are superb. Their educational backgrounds? They went to the best law schools in America. They all have good work records. But they objected to them.

My friend, for whom I have great admiration, the senior Senator from the State of Tennessee, has a stellar record. He has been Governor of a State, he has been a Cabinet Secretary, and he has been a very fine Senator. But in his heart he knows that what is going on here in the Senate has been

wrong. He may criticize the majority leader for working to change the rules here, but they have been changed before, and they are going to be changed again.

It simply is not working. Who can complain about a majority vote? Who can complain about that? Someone talks about this filibuster as if it is something engraven someplace along with the Ten Commandments, but it is not. It is not in the Constitution. It is something we have developed here in the Senate. It originally came about to help get legislation passed. But my friends, the Republicans, the last number of years have used it to defeat legislation.

These nominations should have been approved. We should not have had to go through all this and we will not have to in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### CHANGING SENATE RULES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I appreciate the courtesy of the majority leader in allowing me to ask him a question. I have more to say about this whole subject. But let me go back to my point. There are 13 district judges on the calendar. On November 21, when we last met, there were 13 district judges. There is only one person in this Chamber who can bring a judge from the calendar to the floor for confirmation. That is the majority leader. Why did he not bring them all up? Why didn't he move them? Because under our rules all he has to do is make a motion that so-and-so district judge be confirmed. If he files cloture, we have to wait 1 day, and then we have 2 hours of debate.

Never in the history of the country, according to the Congressional Research Service, has a district judge been denied his or her seat because of a failed cloture vote, because of a filibuster. I know this from personal experience because a judge named McConnell from Rhode Island was nominated by President Obama at the recommendation of the Rhode Island Senators, and there were a number on this side who said we should filibuster the judge.

I thought not. I argued to all of the Republicans that we never had done that in history and we ought not to do it, we ought not to start it. So what has happened? I believe, with all due respect, the majority leader is manufacturing a crisis. There is no crisis with those 13 district judges. He is the one who could bring them up. He could have done it on Thursday, November 21st, the day he changed the rules. Friday would be the intervening day. The maximum amount of debate the Democrats could require on each judge would be 1 hour, if they yield back their hour. So in 13 hours, before midnight tonight, they could all be district judges. They were sitting on the calendar waiting for the majority leader to move.