

following the first in each series be 10 minutes in length; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session and proceed to vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3474.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF RAMSEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 150 years ago—on May 4, 1864, to be exact—the Village of Ramsey, IL, was incorporated. The village was named after an early settler named William Ramsey, who built his home on what is now known as Ramsey Creek.

Ramsey was just getting started when Abraham Lincoln was traveling from his home in Springfield to Vandalia, which was then the State Capital where Lincoln was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives. The Illinois Central Railroad, completed on January 1, 1855, made Ramsey a local trading and shipping point for nearby townships.

To put the anniversary of Ramsey's incorporation in perspective, think about what the Midwest was like in 1864. The Civil War was coming to an end and a new America was being born. It was long before planes and cars—and trains were not yet common.

By 1878, the people of Ramsey could support six dry goods and grocery stores, a drug store, a hardware store, two saloons, a boot shop, a hotel, and a harness factory. It was the second largest town in Fayette County. Ramsey even had its own newspaper in the 1880s, *The Ramsey Democrat*. Another publication, the *Ramsey News-Journal*, started in 1911. It was purchased in 1912 by Julius Mueller and remained with that family for 100 years.

The first women to vote in Illinois cast their vote in Ramsey. Mrs. Athilla Stoddard was the first female in the State to vote publicly. She was 83 years old when she voted in Ramsey on July 10, 1891.

Ramsey is small—just over 1,000 people live there today—but it has its share of famous residents. Glen Hobbie, who played for both the Chicago Cubs and the St. Louis Cardinals, called

Ramsey home for a time. H.L. Hunt, an oil tycoon who inspired the TV series *Dallas*, was from Ramsey; and so was Tex Williams, a country music singer, songwriter and actor.

One day each year, when the Lions Club hosts its annual auction, the population grows from 1,000 people to 5,000 people.

The Village of Ramsey was in my district when I was a Member of the House of Representatives. I have been to the town many times and have enjoyed its famous chicken dinners. I camped out at Ramsey Lake State Park with my kids many years before going off to Congress. Today I extend congratulations to Mayor Claude Willis, the citizens of Ramsey, and the 4,000 people who spend a day in Ramsey each year as the village celebrates its 150th anniversary.

ENERGY SAVINGS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, S. 2262. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation, which would build on previous energy efficiency legislation and proposes cost-effective mechanisms to support the adoption of off-the-shelf efficiency technologies for buildings, manufacturers, and the Federal Government.

As honorary vice-chair of the Alliance to Save Energy, I have been a long-time proponent of efforts to improve energy efficiency. Encouraging the adoption of energy efficiency measures is one of the easiest yet most effective mechanisms for reducing energy consumption, lessening pollution, and ultimately saving families, businesses, and the Federal Government money.

Legislation to improve the Nation's energy policy is long overdue. I would like to congratulate the bill sponsors, Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN, for crafting this bipartisan, commonsense bill and for their tireless efforts in working with the leadership of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to bring this bill to the Senate floor once again. This has not been an easy feat. After an earlier version of the bill was left unfinished last year, the bill sponsors did not give up and have continued to work diligently to build additional support by incorporating several previously filed amendments. While I share the general frustration expressed by some that Congress should be considering a more comprehensive energy policy, we must not use this as a reason to impede passage of this energy efficiency bill.

The provisions in S. 2262 will kick-start the use of energy efficiency technologies that are commercially available now and can be deployed by residential, commercial, and industrial energy users. The bill will also improve the energy efficiency of the Federal Government, which is the largest energy consumer in the country. Given

today's challenging fiscal environment, it is notable that all authorizations included in S. 2262 are fully offset.

I am pleased to have co-authored two provisions that are incorporated into the base bill. First, I joined my colleague, the Senator from Colorado, Mr. UDALL, in authoring a provision that would provide a streamlined, coordinating structure for schools to help them better navigate existing Federal energy efficiency programs and financing options. This would be particularly helpful for rural schools in States such as Maine and would help these institutions save money in the face of rising energy costs. Decisions about how best to meet the energy needs of their schools, however, would still appropriately be made by the States, school boards, and local officials.

The second provision that I am pleased to have authored with my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, would authorize a pay-for-success pilot program allowing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, to enter into agreements with private investors for energy and water efficiency improvements to project-based rental assistance and housing for the elderly and disabled. This budget-neutral approach would leverage private investment to finance energy efficiency retrofits for certain HUD-assisted properties and help cut utility costs for the Federal Government.

I would have liked an open amendment process. One amendment I am pleased to have worked on with my colleagues from Delaware, Senator COONS, and Rhode Island, Senator REED, would reauthorize and extend the core Weatherization Assistance Program and State Energy Program activities at the Department of Energy through 2018, develop a competitive grant program for non-profits to carry out weatherization projects, and require minimum professional standards for weatherization contractors and workers. I am a long-time supporter of weatherization, which plays an important role in permanently reducing home energy costs for low-income families and seniors in all States, lessening our dependence on foreign oil, and training a skilled workforce. Weatherizing homes and reducing energy costs are particularly important for a State like Maine, which has the oldest housing stock in the Nation and a high dependence on home heating oil. Our amendment, had we been allowed to offer it, would have further increased the energy savings from this bill.

Nevertheless, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy has released new analysis demonstrating that S. 2262 would save consumers and businesses and the government with a cumulative net savings of nearly \$100 billion by 2030, support thousands of new jobs by cutting government and industrial energy waste and assisting homeowners in financing energy efficiency improvements, and reduce emissions significantly.

S. 2262 has the support of a broad coalition of stakeholders, including energy efficiency, business, and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, utilities, and public interest groups. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of S. 2262 and urge its swift passage.

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, May 13, 2014.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements or time limitations regarding S. 357, National Blue Alert Act of 2013.

I support the goals of this legislation and believe suspects who seriously injure or kill federal, state or local law enforcement officers in the line of duty should be apprehended as quickly as possible. However, I believe the responsibility to address this issue, as it relates to state and local law enforcement officers, lies with the states and local communities that these brave law enforcement officers serve. Furthermore, while I do not believe this issue is the responsibility of the federal government, if Congress does act, we can and must do so in a fiscally responsible manner. My concerns are included in, but not limited to, those outlined in this letter.

While this bill is well-intentioned, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), it will cost the American people \$1 million dollars every year without corresponding offsets. I recognize this bill does not contain the authorization of appropriations included in prior versions of this legislation; however, establishing a new program which requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to carry out additional responsibilities, even if implemented by existing staff, is not free of future costs, as recognized by CBO. Furthermore, there is no sunset provision contained in this legislation. Thus, once enacted, the annual \$1 million price tag for this program will continue in perpetuity.

It is irresponsible for Congress to jeopardize the future standard of living of our children by borrowing from future generations. The U.S. national debt is now over \$17.4 trillion. That means approximately \$55,000 in debt for each man, woman and child in the United States. A year ago, the national debt was \$16.7 trillion. Despite pledges to control spending, Washington adds billions to the national debt every single day. In just one year, our national debt has grown by \$700 billion or 4.19%.

In addition to these fiscal concerns, there are several problems specific to this legislation. First, there is no need to establish a national Blue Alert system because many states have already developed their own Blue Alert programs for the same purposes outlined in this bill, including alerts issued for the injury or death of federal, as well as state and local law enforcement officers. In 2008, Florida and Texas were the first states to establish these programs. Seventeen additional states soon followed—Oklahoma, Maryland, Georgia, Delaware, California, Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, Colorado, South Carolina, Washington, Ohio,

Kentucky, Indiana, Connecticut, and Illinois. The last three states to initiate a Blue Alert system did so in the 1-year period since the House passed its version of this bill in May 2012. Arizona and Kansas will likely begin their systems this summer and fall, respectively. Several state legislatures currently have legislation pending that would establish a Blue Alert system, including Minnesota, Alabama, and Missouri.

Furthermore, there is no data to support the success of the existing state Blue Alert programs. Oklahoma established its Blue Alert system in 2009, but it is not yet fully functional. The last three states to establish an alert system did so just within the last year. As a result, not only have states already established their own programs, but from the limited use of the existing systems, there is no clear evidence of a substantial need for a Blue Alert system, or of the consistent, successful apprehension of suspects as a direct result of a Blue Alert. If anything, we should wait for these programs to produce results that can be examined and determine whether this type of system is useful before instituting a federal, one-size-fits-all program.

Second, while the bill's supporters likely envision pursuing suspects who have injured or killed a law enforcement officer in a routine traffic stop or while fleeing a crime scene, for example, the bill's definition of "law enforcement officer" is much broader. The bill incorporates the definition in Section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, which includes "an individual involved in crime and juvenile delinquency control or reduction, or enforcement of the criminal laws (including juvenile delinquency), including, but not limited to, police, corrections, probation, parole, and judicial officers." As a result, a Blue Alert could be issued for a state court bailiff; a state parole officer, or an officer within a state's juvenile corrections facility, if injured in the line of duty.

Finally, I do not believe the federal government has the authority under the Constitution to provide federal funds to coordinate the tracking of state and local fugitives or to establish national protocols to apprehend suspects accused of injuring or killing state and local law enforcement officers. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution enumerates the limited powers of Congress, and nowhere are we tasked with funding or becoming involved with state and local criminal issues.

There is no question those suspected of injuring or killing a state or local law enforcement officer in the line of duty should be aggressively pursued and prosecuted. However, I believe this issue is the responsibility of the states and not the federal government. Despite these Constitutional limitations, if Congress does act in this area, like most American individuals and companies must do with their own resources, we should evaluate current programs, determine any needs that may exist, and prioritize those needs for funding by cutting from the federal budget programs fraught with waste, fraud, abuse, and duplication.

Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.,

U.S. Senator.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA PAPP

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I wish to pay special tribute to an invaluable public servant, Mrs. Linda Papp. Coast Guard first lady, career educator, mother, and grandmother—Linda has tirelessly

worked for more than 39 years to improve the lives of Coast Guard military families.

Linda is a native of East Lyme, CT, and is the oldest of Frank and Doris Kapral's six daughters. Her father, Frank, is a retired Coast Guard captain and fondly known throughout the service as "Coach Kapral" for his two decades leading the Coast Guard Academy football team. Linda holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education, and is the proud mother of three children, Lindsay, Caitlin and Jillian, and two granddaughters, Penelope and Ruby.

As the wife of the 24th Commandant, ADM Robert J. Papp, Linda serves as the Coast Guard's Ombudsman-at-Large and regularly travels to meet with Coast Guard families. She advocates on behalf of families to the First Lady of the United States, Members of Congress, Department of Defense, and other Federal, State and local leaders to improve the quality of life for thousands of servicemembers. She relentlessly focuses on improving military housing, member and family access to quality health care, and the Coast Guard's Ombudsman Program.

Of her 39 years as a military spouse, she spent 14 of those years watching six different Coast Guard cutters pull away from the pier. She understands that the strength and resilience of family members on the home front provides critical support to all of our Coast Guard men and women who stand the watch. She supports our men and women in uniform and those who keep the home fires burning and who every day face the unique challenges of a military lifestyle. They will always have a special place in her life, and in her heart.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mrs. Linda Papp. Our Coast Guard and our country are served well by honorable and giving military spouses like Linda who truly care about the health and well being of those who serve. We wish Linda, Admiral Papp, and their family all the best as we honor one of our dear friends.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

O'BRIEN COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of