

public safety. The relentless growth of our Federal prison population threatens not only the safety of prison staff and inmates but also the budgets of the very law enforcement programs that keep us safe. This growth is driven by inflexible and unfair drug mandatory minimums—a problem that we in Congress created, and only we can fix. The bipartisan Smarter Sentencing Act would modestly reduce some non-violent drug mandatory minimums and help to preserve essential funding for law enforcement agencies and victim services. This bill would save the government money, a fact confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office just this week, and it deserves the Senate's full attention.

By the end of the year, the Senate must consider and pass S. 2454, the Satellite Television Access Reauthorization Act, STELA. This law provides satellite television carriers with the necessary rights to retransmit distant television programming to consumers. If Congress does not act by the end of the year to reauthorize the distant signal license, approximately 1.5 million consumers will lose access to the broadcast television programming that they currently receive. This is particularly important in rural areas like Vermont, where many Americans rely on satellite for their television providers. Congress should act responsibly and prevent serious disruption to these consumers.

Congress also should pass reforms to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, ECPA, to bring our privacy laws into the 21st century. The Leahy-Lee ECPA Reform Act updates our digital privacy laws to keep pace with new technologies, protect civil liberties, and provide guidance to law enforcement. Congress should act swiftly to pass this bill.

Finally, the Senate is not the only Chamber that needs to get right back to work after the election. I have spoken at length before about the need for the House to allow a vote on the Senate-passed immigration bill. I hope that once they return to Washington, the House Republican leadership will finally put election year politicking and pandering aside and simply allow a vote on S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. That bill passed the Senate more than a year ago on a strong bipartisan vote, and the urgent need to pass this practical legislative fix for our broken immigration system increases with every passing day. It would immediately spur our economy and take away the pressing need for the President to act through Executive order.

The House should also consider and pass S. 42, the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2013, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent almost a year ago. Senator GRASSLEY and I came together to draft the bipartisan Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act to improve the enforcement of

our Nation's antitrust laws and extend whistleblower protections to employees who report criminal violations of the antitrust laws. These include violations that are particularly harmful to consumers, such as price fixing. Again, this is a noncontroversial, bipartisan bill that can and should be passed overwhelmingly. There is no reason—political or otherwise—for the House of Representatives to delay its enactment.

After the upcoming elections, I plan to return to Washington to get back to the work of the people. That is why the voters of Vermont elected me, and that is what I swore an oath to do. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I intend to continue our work on nominations and oversight, as well as the legislative business pending before the Committee. I hope that the full Senate and the House will similarly press forward without delay to complete work on the array of bipartisan bills that are ripe for consideration and passage. There is simply no reason to delay or obstruct action on these bills, and no reason to further exacerbate the perception held by many Americans that Congress cannot work together to accomplish anything. I know that we can work together to pass these bills, but it will require the cooperation and commitment of all Senators. I know that Vermonters—and all Americans—are counting on us to get the work done.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Senate prepares to go into recess, Senate Republicans are refusing to allow confirmation votes on the more than 20 judicial nominees who will now be stuck in limbo for months. There is no good reason why the Senate cannot confirm these nominees before the recess other than wholesale obstruction of a co-equal branch of government's nominees.

The Senate Republicans' baseless obstruction includes blocking from consideration nominations made to their home States. Right now, there are five nominations pending to fill judicial emergency vacancies in Kentucky and Georgia, which have gone unfilled for years. The Republican Senators from these States have come out in strong support for the nominees from their respective States. Yet the Republican leadership refuses to agree to schedule votes on these or any other nominations. This is simply delay for delay's sake.

Currently on the Senate Executive Calendar are qualified nominees to fill Federal trial court vacancies in Kentucky, Georgia, the District of Columbia, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Missouri. All but two of the nominees were reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support. I wonder what the constituents of these States think is causing this delay? I can assure you it is not Senate Democrats.

This Republican pattern of refusing to confirm noncontroversial, consensus nominees has gone on for the duration of this Presidency. I have sought to remind my fellow Senators that their refusal to confirm these nominations prior to an extended recess is an unfortunate departure from Senate tradition. Time and again I have urged Senate Republicans to stop their obstructive practices and delay tactics. And once again, I am disappointed to see partisanship and senseless obstruction continue to keep the Senate from fulfilling its constitutional duty of advice and consent.

It is true that since the beginning of this year we have reduced the vacancies on our Federal courts from 92 to 59, but no Senator should believe that our work is done. Even if we were to confirm the more than 20 judicial nominees currently pending on the Senate floor, the Federal judiciary remains significantly understaffed. The Judicial Conference has identified the need for 91 new judgeships in some of America's judicial districts and circuits with the highest caseloads. Last year, Senator COONS and I introduced the Federal Judgeship Act of 2013 to enact these recommendations into law. The timely administration of justice should not be a partisan issue. It is an issue that affects all Americans, and the Senate should take it seriously by passing this bill.

The recommendations of the Judicial Conference underscore the need for the Senate to fulfill its obligations to the Federal judiciary and the American people. I have heard some Republican Senators claim the opposite by citing the total number of judicial confirmation under this President. It is true that the Senate has now confirmed 278 of President Obama's circuit, district, and U.S. Court of International Trade nominees, compared to 254 confirmations at the same point in the last administration. Yet these numbers are meaningless without providing their proper context. These confirmations were sorely needed. There remain 59 vacancies on the Federal bench—far more than the 45 vacancies at this point during the Bush administration. There are an additional 25 announced future judicial vacancies on our Federal courts that will also need to be filled in the coming months. If you care about providing our co-equal branch of government with the resources it needs to serve its constitutional role, then it is important to look at the number of vacancies that still exist and how long some of them have remained empty.

Vacancies remain high not because of a failure of Senate Democrats or President Obama to make judicial confirmations a priority. These vacancies persist because of the endless obstruction of partisan Republicans who take every opportunity they can to shut down the important work of the Senate. Last year, no longer content to block individual judges, Senate Republicans attempted a wholesale filibuster of three

nominees to the D.C. Circuit, without even considering their qualifications. Then, instead of confirming the consensus judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar prior to the end of the congressional session, Republicans forced the President to renominate each nominee and for the Senate Judiciary Committee to report them again this year.

In 2014, Senate Republicans have proceeded to filibuster each and every judicial nominee. The Senate has taken 62 cloture votes on judicial nominations so far this year, amounting to well over 400 wasted hours that the Senate should have been spending considering legislation to help the American people. Never before has the Senate seen the systematic filibuster of every judicial nominee or such unfair treatment of qualified, consensus nominees.

The Senate should act quickly to confirm the judicial nominees pending on the Senate floor. Because Republican obstruction will prevent us from finishing our work before the elections, we must return to session as soon as possible after the elections in November to complete our important work. The American people deserve courts capable of providing access to swift justice, not empty courtrooms and delays.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE TESSIERI AND DEBBIE HALVERSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize two long-serving members of the Senate Sergeant at Arms Office, Jeanne Tessieri and Debbie Halverson, who are retiring in October of this year.

Since 1980, Jeanne has served as the Sergeant at Arms' State Office Liaison. She runs a small—but highly effective—office that impacts every Senator in this body. As Senators, we are privileged to represent the constituents of our home States, and it is imperative that the individuals we represent have a place to bring their thoughts and concerns. Under the law, each Senator is authorized to maintain office space in our respective States, but it is subject to strict regulations. Jeanne, in her role as the State Office Liaison, became a vital resource for all Senators. She worked to ensure that every State—big or small—had constituent service space that not only fulfilled the needs of the public, but also adhered to regulation.

Jeanne has guided us in selecting and arranging for the lease agreements for each one of our State offices, and there are currently more than 450 such offices throughout the 50 States. She literally wrote the book detailing the ins and outs of obtaining and maintaining a State office that meets the strict requirements for office spaces and expenses for furnishings.

We are grateful for Jeanne's steady, confident assistance through the years. Should a problem arise, Jeanne has al-

ways been the first person to call and offer assistance to our State offices. She knows how to marshal resources to help the offices address any issue that comes up.

Debbie Halverson has been Jeanne's very capable assistant for the past 31 years. Many of us that know her also knew her father, Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson. Her departure in October will mark the end of a wonderful era of service to the Senate for the Halverson family. I commend Debbie's years of dedication to her work and this body.

I appreciate the combined 65 years of faithful service Jeanne and Debbie provided the United States Senate. I wish them the best in their future endeavors and congratulate them both on their well-deserved retirements.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR ROBERT A. CASHELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and thank my friend, Mayor Robert A. Cashell, Sr., of Reno, for his more than three decades of public service in Nevada. After serving as the mayor of Reno for 12 years, Mayor Cashell will be retiring on November 12, 2014. I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Reno and to the State of Nevada.

Over the past 35 years, Mayor Cashell has worked at nearly every level of State and local government. Beginning with his election to the University of Nevada Board of Regents in 1979, Bob proved himself to be a strong leader with a keen ability to listen and understand the needs of those he served. Renoites and Nevadans quickly came to rely on Bob's leadership and ultimately elected him as Lieutenant Governor of the State. A skilled businessman, Bob understood the need for a coordinated State effort to spur economic development. As Lieutenant Governor, Bob Cashell helped create the Nevada Commission on Economic Development and the Commission on Tourism. He later went on to chair both of these vitally important State commissions.

First elected as Mayor of Reno in 2002, Mayor Cashell was subsequently re-elected in 2006 and 2010. During his tenure, Mayor Cashell once again displayed his business acumen, helping transform Reno into a hub of innovation, spurring investment from some of America's most prestigious corporations. Mayor Cashell also spearheaded the continued revitalization of downtown Reno, making it a destination for special events, and creating a pedestrian and family-friendly atmosphere.

As mayor, Bob Cashell met some of Reno's most difficult social issues head on. He refused to shy away from the issue of poverty, instead developing programs to help those hardest hit by the Great Recession. Mayor Cashell was the driving force behind the creation of the Community Assistance Center, which houses multiple services, including free food and social services, for the city's homeless and needy.

In every role he has assumed, Mayor Cashell has made Nevada a better place to live. His work as mayor of the City of Reno will be dearly missed, but I have no doubt that Mayor Cashell will find some way to continue serving the people of Nevada. Although he is retiring from office, Mayor Cashell will never retire from helping others.

I wish Bob and his wife Nancy Parker Cashell all the best as they begin this new chapter of their lives. I thank Nancy, their 4 children and 9 grandchildren for sharing Bob with Nevada. Our State is a better place because of Mayor Bob Cashell's many years of exemplary service.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR NAN GORMAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exemplary public servant from my home State of Kentucky. Nan Gorman who is currently serving as the mayor of the City of Hazard will retire this year upon completing her term of office.

Mayor Gorman was born in Memphis, TN, but moved to Hazard shortly after. She grew up in hard times, with the Nation reeling from the effects of a worldwide depression. Though the odds may have been stacked against her, she graduated from the University of Cincinnati and the Parson School of Design in New York and subsequently traveled the world on a tour of self-education.

Nan experienced so much of the world in her travels, but she saw nothing that would prevent her from returning to her "Old Kentucky Home." Back in Hazard, she married her high-school sweetheart, Bill, who was elected mayor of Hazard in 1978 and served in that capacity until his death 35 years later.

Bill Gorman was a beloved member of the Hazard community. When he died in October of 2010, however, Nan was appointed to serve as interim mayor and the town did not skip a beat. Nan performed so well in her interim role that she was voted into office by a 3-1 margin in the next election.

Although Mayor Gorman will step down at the end of her term, her love for the City of Hazard has not decreased in the slightest degree, and she is planning on running for one of the city's four commissioner seats.

Nan Gorman's dedication to public service and her community set a shining example for us all, and I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing her illustrious career.

Mr. President, though I admittedly possess a strong bias towards the author, who happens to be my wife, Secretary Elaine Chao, Politico published what I found to be an exceptional article on Mayor Gorman last year. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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