

from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) would have voted “no.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alexander	Daines	Murkowski
Ayotte	Enzi	Paul
Barrasso	Ernst	Perdue
Blunt	Fischer	Portman
Boozman	Flake	Risch
Burr	Gardner	Roberts
Capito	Grassley	Rounds
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Nelson
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—7

Graham	Peters	Vitter
Heinrich	Rubio	
Kirk	Sullivan	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 46.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today Democrats voted to continue blocking funding for the Department of Homeland Security to protect actions President Obama himself referred to as “ignoring the law.” The vote came after a Federal judge enjoined the administration from moving ahead with that overreach. I was certainly glad to

see that court decision. The issue will continue winding its way through our courts. In the meantime, Congress is trying to do what it can. Yet even Democrats who had previously been critical of the President “ignoring the law” voted again today to defend his overreach.

My preference is still to debate and pass the funding legislation that is currently before us. It has already passed the House. It is the simplest and easiest way forward. If Democrats think it needs to be amended, I am sure they will try to do that, but first we need to bring it to the floor. As long as Democrats continue to prevent us from even doing that, the new bill I described offers another option we can turn to. It is another way to get the Senate unstuck from a Democratic filibuster and move the debate forward.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO ERMA H. ROSENHAN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize Erma H. Rosenhan in honor of her 100th birthday on February 28, 2015.

Erma has devoted years of her life to genealogical research, submitting over 400,000 names—many of them German—to the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for ordinance work in LDS temples. She has served the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in many different capacities, including as an employee, as a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and as a missionary. Her extensive genealogical work and her service to the LDS Church have blessed both her extended family and all those who know her. On her 100th birthday, she shows no signs of slowing down; in fact, she still conducts research 3 days a week at the Family History Library in downtown Salt Lake City.

Erma H. Rosenhan is an example of kindness, hard work, and humble perseverance. She deserves our recognition for her lifetime of selfless, diligent service.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER COCKRELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to one of the finest staffers I have encountered in my years in the U.S. Senate. Roger Cockrell is retiring this week after 15 years of service to the Senate Appropriations Committee, which was proceeded by more than 20 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, mainly in Vicksburg, MS.

I spent many years as either the chairman or ranking Democrat on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. It is a great bill. It not only funds a lot of important energy and science priorities, it also provides the annual funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, both of which are tre-

mendously important to my home State of Nevada. Sorting through all of the projects and programs that are funded through these two agencies is tremendously technical and complicated work.

I realized fairly early in my time at the top of that subcommittee that I needed an experienced engineer to ensure that we were prioritizing and funding these thousands of projects according to both technical merit and also national priorities. So, I brought in Roger as a fellow from the Corps of Engineers and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. As all Members have been known to do, I kept him as a fellow for as long as the Corps would pay him and then I hired him away.

Roger is exactly what you want in a staffer, particularly one who represents you on the Appropriations Committee: Smart, extremely well-prepared, hard-working, and, in the case of Roger, more willing to work with the staff of other Members to make their priorities work within the rules than anyone I have ever met. If Roger could not make your project work within the rules, regulations, and laws regarding a water project, it is a pretty safe bet that it was a bad project. So far as I know, Roger never turned down a meeting with anyone and his eternally sunny and friendly nature always made him a delight to work with.

I left that subcommittee many years ago now, but Roger stayed there and has gone back and forth to both the Republican and Democratic staffs several times depending upon who is in the majority around here. I can think of no higher compliment to a Senate staffer than to be held in such high esteem by both sides that he or she is retained by the majority year-after-year, Congress after Congress because of his or her expertise and, more importantly, fairness. And Roger is nothing if not fair to all who have appeared in his doorway over the years. The Senate is a better place because of people like Roger Cockrell.

I wish Roger and his wife Anna Lisa all the best as they move on to whatever is next in their lives. I am sad to see him go, but he has earned more time with his family, including his daughter Melissa. I have known him long enough to know that he won’t be able to sit still for long. I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in expressing my gratitude for his long and dedicated service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE PRIETSCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Christine Prietsch, the director of the Senate’s Employee Assistance Program, is leaving the Senate family after 11 years of dedicated service to Senators, staff, and family members. Before joining the Senate, Christy served with the Secret Service, Department of Justice and the Department’s Offices of U.S. Attorneys EAP programs. We often celebrate those who dedicate so much to

the U.S. Senate with stories from the men and women whose lives were affected. Christy turned this program into an invaluable resource for Senate employees experiencing obstacles and struggles in their professional and personal lives. Her innovative methods for implementing training and programs made her a vital asset to the Senate and a devoted leader to her staff. It is our hope that the irony is not lost, that through the auspices of her professionalism, confidentiality, morality and ethics, we are prevented from hearing many such stories; only those who Christy helped know the true value of her service. Christy is a valued leader within the Sergeant at Arms and a trusted confidant to the Senate family. I thank her for her dedicated service, her unbridled patriotism and unwavering support.

STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I support the Student Non-Discrimination Act, a bill first introduced in the 111th Congress and reintroduced again now in the 114th Congress. This bill represents a critical step forward in protecting the rights of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth to receive an education free from bullying and harassment on account of who they are and who they love. I thank Senator FRANKEN for his leadership on this issue, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important civil rights legislation.

Education is the cornerstone of our democracy. In order for our system of government to thrive we must promote the education of our citizenry. It is what allows voters to make informed decisions on who they think is best fit to serve as their Representative, Senator, or President. It is a critical element of public debate and the free flow of ideas and it is what drives our economy forward and makes our country strong.

Given the importance of education, no student should be harassed in school. We must do all we can to make education accessible to all. We must ensure that schools are safe and welcoming to all children so that students can enter the classroom ready and able to learn.

Bullying touches the lives of countless young people. Each school year, LGBT students in New Jersey, and across America, are harassed, bullied, and even assaulted based on their perceived or known status as LGBT. Occasionally, these youth even experience bullying from teachers and administrators. The very people that are supposed to educate and protect these children at times serve as the root cause of the problem. Bullying a student for any reason—but especially for simply being themselves—is simply unacceptable.

The consequences of bullying can be devastating and potentially life threatening. Studies show that discrimina-

tion at schools is a major contributor to dropouts, absenteeism, and academic underachievement. LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to experience verbal harassment, assault, and exclusion. Suicide rates are disproportionately high among children and young adults that identify as LGBT. In fact, LGBT youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than their peers. Most alarmingly, we have seen bullying and harassment tragically lead to suicides in school districts across the country.

Allowing discrimination of LGBT to go unchecked in our schools deprives our youth from the equal access to education that they deserve. Whether that discrimination is in the form harassment or assault, we cannot stand idly by and watch our children's lives be torn apart.

The Student Non-Discrimination Act is a critical civil rights bill that would ban discrimination against any student on the basis of his or her actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The legislation expands the Federal definition of harassment to protect the rights of LGBT students. The bill defines harassment to include severe, persistent, or pervasive conduct that would limit a student's ability to participate in a program or activity at a public school.

The bill prohibits harassment of LGBT students as a form of discrimination that is Federally protected.

All of these provisions provide the Federal Government with critical new tools to prevent the scourge of persistent and offensive bullying of youth simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Student Non-Discrimination Act. I urge my fellow Senators to support this bill and promptly pass it through the Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WIL SMITH

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise today on a sad occasion. Yesterday, Bowdoin College—indeed, the entire State of Maine—lost a truly great man. Wil Smith, who was a good friend to countless people in Maine, passed away yesterday at the age of 46 following a courageous 3-year battle with cancer.

It is difficult to encapsulate in words the remarkable depth and breadth of someone like Wil. He grew up in Jacksonville, FL, the youngest of 10 children. His mother, Mildred, passed away when he was 15 years old. After high school, Wil briefly attended Florida A&M University before enlisting in the U.S. Navy and becoming an aviation electronics technician. He served in the first gulf war and was later transferred to the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, ME.

While stationed in Brunswick, Wil began coaching football at Brunswick

Middle School. It wasn't long after that when the coach of the Bowdoin College men's basketball team spotted him and was impressed by his talent and natural ability to work with kids. He asked Wil if he had ever thought about attending college. After some convincing, Wil applied to and was accepted at Bowdoin.

It was also during this time that Wil became a father—and only months before his first semester began, he was granted full custody of his 11-month-old daughter Olivia. To say the least, he was a nontraditional student in almost every sense. Matriculating at age 28, he was a decade older than most of his freshmen classmates. He was one of just three African-American students in his class. And he was the first single father in Bowdoin's history to attend the college.

He worked tirelessly—carrying Olivia to class and then to basketball practice, taking evening shifts at the local Staples store, and volunteering at area high schools. He faced challenges unfathomable to most of his classmates at Bowdoin—struggling to balance a commitment to his daughter and his rigorous coursework. But Wil persevered—and he did so with a strength of conviction and determination that would come to define the influence he would have on students who would follow in his footsteps at Bowdoin.

Following graduation, Wil continued to devote his time and energy to his community, and in particular, to young people of nontraditional or underrepresented backgrounds. He continued to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserves, and joined the staff of Bowdoin College, serving as director of multicultural student programs. Driven to continue his education, he then enrolled in the University of Maine School of Law, where 3 years later, he would graduate with a law degree and once again return to Bowdoin.

At Bowdoin, Wil served as a beacon of light to so many students—many of whom, like him, toiled with the challenges of the transition to college. But as a gifted mentor and as someone who had the rare ability to genuinely connect with people, to understand them, and to relate to them, Wil inspired a newfound sense of hope in countless students, and his advice, unfailing support, and encouragement turned around the lives of hundreds and perhaps thousands of people.

And while students were away from Bowdoin during the summer, Wil dedicated his time to the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Otisfield, ME. It was an endeavor that he joined in the summer of 1999, before he graduated from Bowdoin, and it was one he carried on until last summer. At the camp, he mentored children from across the world, and challenged them to look at and judge their peers not by their race, ethnicity, or differences, but by their thoughts and their merit. Wil was truly a team player in this