

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 178 on Wednesday, April 22, Senator CORNYN or his designee be recognized to withdraw the pending Cornyn amendment and offer amendments Nos. 1124 and 301. I further ask that there then be 1 hour of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the Leahy amendment No. 301, followed by a vote on amendment No. 1124, both with a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption. I further ask that if the Cornyn-Murray-Klobuchar amendment is agreed to, the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form, and the Senate then vote on the following amendments in the order listed, with 2 minutes of debate equally divided before each vote: Cornyn No. 1127; Leahy No. 290; Brown No. 311; Burr No. 1121; and Kirk No. 273, as modified.

I further ask that amendments in the preceding list each be subject to a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption, and that following disposition of these amendments, there then be 5 minutes equally divided in the usual form, followed by votes on the following amendments, which have been cleared by the managers and should be adopted by voice vote: Klobuchar No. 296; Hoeven No. 299, as modified; Sullivan No. 279; Wicker No. 1126; Flake No. 294; Cassidy No. 308; Portman No. 1128; Brown No. 310; Brown No. 312; Heller No. 1122; and Shaheen No. 303.

I further ask that there be no second-degrees in order to any of the amendments listed and that following disposition of the Shaheen amendment, the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, would the majority leader consider at this time modifying his request to drop the Kirk amendment No. 273?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as I understand, the distinguished Senator from Oregon is asking to amend the consent request. I would reserve the right to object to that request and make the simple point that the Kirk amendment targets online child exploitation and sex trafficking, which is rampant. Given the fact that the Internet is now one of the principal tools used, on Web sites such as backpage.com, thousands of American children and human trafficking victims are sold into slavery. It is simply unconscionable for us to stand by and allow this to continue.

What Senator KIRK is asking for, which I support and believe we should do, is a simple up-or-down vote on the

Kirk amendment. So I reserve the right to object and ask our colleague to allow this up-or-down vote on the Kirk amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the answer is no, but I think the Senator from Oregon wishes to respond.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, continuing my reservation, I don't take a backseat to anyone when it comes to fighting for the victims of sex trafficking. As the distinguished Senator from Texas knows, I was an original cosponsor of this legislation, and much of it is based on bills I have written and advocated on behalf of for years, including with the distinguished Senator from Texas.

Much of this sex trafficking legislation, colleagues, is based on meetings and discussions I have had for years with young women who have been trafficked, law enforcement officials, and community leaders. I remember like it was yesterday how I was with the Portland police on 82nd Avenue in East Portland, and we encountered young women in their early teens who walked around with knives in their purses just hoping to survive the evening. The underlying legislation before us, in my view, is going to be a very valuable tool in helping women like those whom I saw in Southeast Portland.

Unfortunately, an amendment that Senator KIRK seeks to offer has been attached to this request that undermines the legal foundation of every social media platform and attacks a basic cornerstone of Internet law. The Kirk amendment will undermine the fight to help victims by distracting the focus of prosecutors from the pimps and the Johns who prey on these young women.

The vague language in the Kirk amendment would mean any Web site that hosts user-generated contact—that means any social media platform, any news sites with comments and classified sections and any e-commerce sites—could face felony charges based on a vague concept of knowing and a vague concept of advertising.

Instead of focusing resources on going after pimps and traffickers, the Kirk amendment would enable prosecutors to go after Web sites millions of Americans use for nonnefarious purposes, chilling innovation. Under current law, prosecutors already have the ability to go after any entity that knowingly profits from sex trafficking. Every minute our prosecutors are occupied going after legitimate businesses, in my view, is time not spent locking up the real criminals.

This amendment hurts America's innovative businesses and entrepreneurs and stifles free speech instead of getting tough on the sex traffickers whom Senator CORNYN and I have sought to target all these years.

So I will close by simply saying I am for throwing the book at every sex trafficker and those who enable them.

Our country absolutely must do everything we can to prevent the next child from falling victim to these predators. In my view, the Kirk amendment detracts from that goal. I hope it will not ultimately be added to this important piece of legislation. I hope Senators will vote no on the Kirk amendment.

With that, Mr. President, I withdraw my reservation to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the request of the majority leader?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LORETTA E. LYNCH TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 21, Loretta Lynch, to be Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General.

Mitch McConnell, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Jeff Flake, Susan M. Collins, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Lisa Murkowski, Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING NORMAN H. BANGERTER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a loving father,

a visionary leader, a committed public servant, and a cherished friend—former Utah Governor Norman “Norm” Howard Bangerter. As Utah’s 13th Governor, Norm established himself as one of the strongest leaders to ever hold public office in our State.

Norm’s roots were deeply entrenched in the west side of the Salt Lake Valley, and he often referred to himself as a “humble farmer and carpenter” who learned the value of hard work from a young age. His parents, William and Isabelle Bangerter, instilled in their 11 children a strong moral compass and a desire to help others—virtues he carried with him throughout his life.

Norm first entered politics in 1974 when he ran for the Utah House of Representatives. He gained a surprise victory, which put him on a path of strong representation and leadership for his constituents. Norm served 10 years as a State representative, including 4 years as the speaker of the house.

During Norm’s first term as Governor, Utah faced formidable challenges. Never one to shrink from duty, Norm confronted these challenges head-on, exhibiting the exceptional judgment and foresight that would distinguish him as our State’s chief executive. In making these difficult decisions, Governor Bangerter always sought to do what was right over what was politically expedient. He laid a strong framework for his governance, which included “the three e’s”—education, economic development, and efficiency in government. Later in his tenure, he added a fourth “e”—the environment.

After Governor Bangerter won reelection in 1988, the difficult decisions of his first term began to bear fruit. Utah had raised its profile as a fiscally well-managed State, and the success of the Governor’s economic development projects encouraged several prominent companies to relocate or expand in Utah. The Bangerter administration cut budgets, created jobs, expanded the economy, and provided a foundation for fiscal responsibility that still exists today.

Although public service was important to Norm, his family was always paramount. In 1953, he married Colleen Monson, who was his loyal friend and constant companion through nearly 58 years of marriage until she passed away in 2011. Together they raised 7 children and were grandparents to 30 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. In 2012, Norm married Judy Schiffman, who was a dear friend and support to Norm and his family. His daily life was always spent with family by his side. Family time was sacred and essential to Norm, and he firmly believed that family was the most important component of life.

Norm not only served willingly in the public arena, he also served diligently in his church, assuming several important leadership positions in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served for 18 years as a

bishop and as a stake president, and later presided with his wife, Colleen, over the Johannesburg, South Africa Mission from 1996 to 1999. After his missionary service, Norm spent many hours each week volunteering in the LDS Church’s Jordan River Temple. His life was an example of compassion and service, modeled after our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Throughout my years of public service, I have had the privilege of knowing, working with, and learning from Governor Norm Bangerter. We spoke often, and I could always count on him to share with me his no-nonsense wisdom and his passionate advice. Our conversations were always spirited, and they played an indispensable role in my own public service. He fought for what he believed in with great determination and fervor, and he was never afraid to express his opinions. I appreciated our conversations more than he probably knew, and I will miss his sage advice and loyal friendship.

Elaine and I will greatly miss our dear friend, Governor Norm Bangerter. The impact he made on Utah cannot be overstated. He led during difficult times and was a steadfast anchor for our State. He was also a noble servant of our Heavenly Father, and a strong, loving husband, father, and grandfather to his cherished family. He left an indelible impression on me and on all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am joined by my colleague Senator RON WYDEN in introducing the Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, Enhancement Act of 2015. This legislation would reauthorize trade adjustment assistance programs to help American workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign competition. These programs are an investment in the American worker and are essential to helping those who are negatively affected by international trade to get the skills and training to prepare for jobs in other industries.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 would cover affected workers in the manufacturing, service, and agricultural sectors. In addition to covering workers whose jobs shift to countries with which the United States has a Free Trade Agreement, the bill would also extend to job losses from non-FTA countries, such as China or India. It would make eligible for assistance those who have been laid off due to unfair foreign subsidies or dumping practices, as long as the lay-off occurs within 1 year of an affirmative injury determination by the International Trade Commission.

Our bill would also authorize an investment of up to \$575 million per year to train workers in new, in-demand skills, thereby providing them with the opportunity to find lasting employ-

ment that will ensure greater economic stability in years to come. It would also provide extended unemployment insurance for those enrolled in an approved training program. For older workers seeking quick reemployment, our bill would provide wage insurance to cover up to 50 percent of the wage differential between the old job and the new job. It would also provide assistance to those who must commute a greater distance or relocate altogether to find new employment.

Under our bill, farmers, fishermen, and aquaculture producers would also be eligible for targeted training and assistance programs designed to help increase their competitiveness. The bill would further clarify that fishermen and aquaculture producers may receive TAA benefits whether they are competing against farmed or wild-caught fish or seafood imports.

Small, rural communities in my home State of Maine have been hit hard by closures or partial shutdowns of mills, manufacturing plants, or other businesses that, in many cases, represent a large portion of jobs in the surrounding communities. In the past year, the communities of Lincoln, Millinocket, and Bucksport have experienced such devastating job losses. Moreover, the second and third-order economic effects on other businesses is significant. When these jobs are abruptly lost on such a massive scale, entire communities and the surrounding area are devastated. In times of such great upheaval, the laid off employees, who lost their good jobs through no fault of their own, need the time, support, and resources to learn new skills and seek viable employment opportunities.

TAA programs have made a tremendous difference in the lives of those working in trade-affected industries in Maine, such as the pulp and paper manufacturing, lobster, and blueberry industries. In fiscal year 2013, more than 700 Mainers benefitted from these programs, which led to an employment retention rate of more than 90 percent. In the last year alone, the Department of Labor approved TAA benefits for the hundreds of workers who lost their jobs with the closures of the Verso Paper mill in Bucksport, the Lincoln Paper and Tissue mill in Lincoln, the Great Northern Paper mill in East Millinocket, and the UTC Fire and Security plant in Pittsfield. Previously, TAA benefited former employees of the Great Northern Paper mill in Millinocket when it closed, in addition to lobstermen and wild blueberry producers who needed help increasing the competitiveness of their unique commodities. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Eastern Maine Community College and tour its Fine Woodworking and Cabinet Making Shop. I met with a group of students formerly employed at the Bucksport Verso Paper mill, who now have the opportunity to learn a new skill because of the funds available through TAA.