

that veto to ensure workers are able to exercise that right. The National Labor Relations Board, the NLRB, helps to ensure that workers have a fair up-or-down-vote. Unfortunately, too often big corporations take advantage of loopholes in the current election process to delay a vote on union representation.

The NLRB was absolutely right to carry out its mission to review and streamline its election process to bring down those barriers for workers who want a fair vote. These updates will make modest but important changes to modernize and streamline the process. They will reduce unnecessary litigation on issues that will not affect the outcome of the election. The new process will bring the election process into the 21st century by letting employers and unions file forms electronically. Instead of attacking workers who just want a voice in the workplace, I hope my colleagues will support President Obama's veto.

I truly hope we can break through the gridlock and work together on policies that do create jobs and expand economic security and generate broad-based economic growth for workers and families—not just the wealthiest few.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:20 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 76, Willie May to be an Under Secretary of Commerce, and that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate vote on the nomination; further, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF WILLIE E. MAY TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

#### YEAS—93

Ayotte	Flake	Murray
Baldwin	Franken	Nelson
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Bennet	Gillibrand	Perdue
Blumenthal	Graham	Peters
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Booker	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heinrich	Reid
Brown	Heitkamp	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Cantwell	Hirono	Rounds
Capito	Hoeven	Rubio
Cardin	Inhofe	Sanders
Carper	Isakson	Sasse
Casey	Johnson	Schatz
Cassidy	Kaine	Schumer
Coats	King	Scott
Cochran	Kirk	Sessions
Collins	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lankford	Shelby
Corker	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	Markley	Thune
Daines	McCain	Tillis
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall
Durbin	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Warren
Ernst	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Menendez	Vitter
Boozman	Murkowski	
Cruz	Toomey	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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. 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.

#### CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN. For 100 years, the Chicago Community Trust has connected the generosity of Chicagoans with the needs of the community.

In 1915, 6 years after Daniel Burnham unveiled his visionary plan for the city of Chicago, Norman Harris and his son Albert recognized how much could be achieved by combining the philanthropy of business and community leaders who cared deeply about the future of Chicago. They founded The Chicago Community Trust. As brilliant as Burnham's plan was, Norman and Albert Harris understood that it takes more than steel, glass, and concrete to make a great city. A great city needs healthy, hopeful people, good schools, culture, and arts—all things that the trust has helped nurture for 100 years.

Whether its economic opportunity, education, housing, conservation, or health care—the list of important causes in which the Chicago Community Trust is involved is remarkable. Since its founding, the trust has granted more than \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations working to improve the quality of life in the community. The trust has helped develop new audiences to sustain arts organizations, protected the human services safety net for those hardest hit by economic challenges, eased the devastating effects of foreclosures in Chicago neighborhoods, and

elevated teaching to meet world-class standards.

In the wake of the worst recession since the Great Depression, the trust stepped up and distributed \$11.4 million in Unity Challenge grants to meet the needs of Chicago's most vulnerable citizens. The grants supplied food to more than 800 soup kitchens and food pantries. The trust helped expand capacity at homeless shelters and bought winter coats for children. The trust put money in community health centers and helped seniors pay for their prescription medications. The recession was hard on Chicago, but the business and community leaders at the Chicago Community Trust made sure that the community took care of its own.

This month, the trust is launching its centennial campaign, starting with the return of "On the Table," a forum that brings together thousands of Chicago residents to share a meal and talk about how they can work together to make the community stronger, safer, and more dynamic. Last year, nearly 12,000 people participated from every Chicago neighborhood and 11 neighboring counties. This year, the trust is expecting to at least double the number of people participating.

I congratulate the Chicago Community Trust on 100 years strengthening the community. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make Chicago a great and caring community.

#### VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am proud to join Senator GILLIBRAND in support of the introduction of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2015. This bill would improve the fabric of our democracy and bring our election procedures into the 21st century by eradicating barriers to voter registration and expanding access to the franchise for millions of voters who were previously unregistered to vote. I thank Senator GILLIBRAND for her leadership on this issue.

The right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy. In our representative form of government, the right to participate in the democratic process is fundamental to who we are and what we believe. That is, our belief in being a nation grounded in the idea of equal justice under law. Voting is a fundamental right because it is preservative of all other rights. Without access to the ballot, our civil rights and freedoms of religion, speech, and press could be eroded and our faith that those rights will be fully protected lost.

In 2012, our Nation witnessed cracks in the foundation of our democracy. Millions of people watched television coverage of our presidential election in disgust as voters stood in lines for hours, mainly due to problems with the paper-based voter registration system. No American in the 21st century should have to use paper ballots or stand in

lines for hours in order to exercise their fundamental right to vote. The President's bipartisan commission to improve the election process concluded that no voter should have to wait more than 30 minutes to vote. We should be making voting easier, not harder. We can begin that process by ensuring that States modernize their voter registration process and give citizens the choice to register to vote online.

When the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 was passed two decades ago, the revolution in data sharing and integration was just beginning. It is time to incorporate the commonplace experience of online transactions into the election process. By implementing online voter registration, the Voter Registration Modernization Act addresses a key problem with paper-based systems—the inaccurate transfer of information to election authorities. This bill would ensure that voters' votes count and help election authorities who rely on accurate voter registration lists to better detect problems.

Currently, 20 States have online voter registration systems. One of the greatest benefits we have seen so far is the saving of taxpayers' money. Arizona, for example, which launched the Nation's first online voter registration system, saved its taxpayers almost \$1.4 million. Kansas noted no expenses at all. It is now time for the Federal Government to follow their lead and adopt these common-sense, cost cutting reforms.

The Voter Registration Modernization Act amends the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for online voter registration systems. It provides funding for States to implement the bill and directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct an ongoing study on best practices for Internet registration. With passage of this bill, States are required to adopt pro-technology measures, including taking steps to ensure the online availability of voter registration forms, provide online assistance, and allow voters to update registration information online.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." But that arc does not bend towards justice without effort. We must put in the necessary hard work—and build the foundation and infrastructure—for justice to prevail. We can improve the health of our democracy by supporting this critical legislation, which would expand the ballot and update our voting technology. I urge all Senators to support the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2015.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2029. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House of Representatives to the resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill and joint resolution were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2029. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

H.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 261. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

S. 612. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

S. 1034. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "Charles Clark United States Courthouse".