

of career and technical skills among secondary and postsecondary students. Last reauthorized in 2006, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act needs to be modernized to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce and ensure that students have access to the highest-quality CTE programs.

This is why I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues, Senator PORTMAN and Senator BALDWIN, the Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act, which would amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to raise the quality of CTE programs. This legislation defines what constitutes a rigorous CTE curriculum and requires Perkins grant recipients to incorporate key high-quality elements in their programs including credit-transfer opportunities; academic and technical skills assessments; training tools that align with today's industries; CTE-focused professional development for teachers, administrators, and counselors; and CTE curriculum alignment with local, regional, and State workforce demands. Additionally, the bill improves links between high school and postsecondary education to help ease attainment of an industry recognized credential, license, apprenticeship, or postsecondary certificate to obtain a job in a high-demand career field and promotes partnerships between local businesses, and other community stakeholders to create pathways for students through work-based learning opportunities.

When I was Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I worked on a number of educational issues, but one that I was most proud of was starting the Governor's Career and Technical Academies. At the start of my term as Governor we had nine academies. The Republican Governor who followed me continued the academies, and at the end of his term there were 23. The Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act encourages these models and allows states and localities to use Perkins grant funding to establish CTE-focused academies.

I am proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to raise the quality of CTE programs and ensure that high-quality career and technical education helps students develop skills that meet the needs of 21st century employers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DALTON VERNON MARTIN

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I wish to honor the memory and service of Dalton Vernon Martin, chief petty officer, U.S. Navy, Retired, and Sherriff's deputy, East Baton Rouge Sherriff's Department, who passed away 4 years ago, on January 23, 2011. Mr. Martin devoted his life and career to the service of others which was evident in his com-

bined 61 years of military and civil service to our great Nation and the Baton Rouge community.

Born in St. Francisville, LA, Mr. Martin first excelled as a high school boxer, compiling a record of 63 victories in 65 bouts. He dedicated that resolve and fighting spirit towards serving and defending his country, enlisting in the U.S. Navy to fight in World War II and the Korean war, including the Pacific battles of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, Tarawa, and Okinawa. Mr. Martin served onboard the USS *Charleston*, USS *Taswell*, and the USS *Indianapolis*.

After a distinguished 38-year career in the Armed Forces, Mr. Martin retired from active duty and embarked on a new mission of service as a deputy of the East Baton Rouge Sherriff's Office. Here, Mr. Martin spent 23 years protecting his fellow citizens and upholding the rule of law.

Mr. Martin lived a life of service, but he never sought to label himself as the hero he truly was. He spoke honestly and openly about the fear and sadness that are inseparable from the glory and honor of serving in combat. He was grateful for the opportunities afforded by his service to visit the farthest reaches of the world, but he served for no other reason than to defend his country and one day return home to his beloved Louisiana.

If the measure of a person is by what they leave behind, then Mr. Martin sets a standard to which we should all aspire. His life's story is yet another testament to the strength and legacy of the "greatest generation." And for his wife Christy, his children Paul, John, and Susan, and his grandchildren Erin, Tristan, Madeleine, Jack, Lauren, and Caroline, his spirit and legacy live on. The country he helped to preserve as the greatest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world remains forever grateful. •

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW J. WATTS

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Pastor Matthew Watts, a dear friend and a truly inspiring West Virginian whose ministry career spans more than three decades.

I have personally known Reverend Watts for many years now, and he truly embodies what it means to be a great West Virginian. He is a man of deep conviction and unwavering passion for justice. He is an uplifting force to many and a role model to many more.

I have known Pastor Watts for many years, and as the former Governor, the reverend would visit often and bring me his thoughts, suggestions, and ideas. I always appreciated his sincere candor and genuine interest in improving our state.

As a native of Mount Hope, located in beautiful Fayette County, Pastor Watts currently serves as senior pastor of the Grace Bible Church of Charleston. He is a graduate of the West Vir-

ginia Institute of Technology with a bachelor of science in civil engineering, which led to a 20-year career with the Union Carbide Corporation. His theological study and training from the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago and the Christian Research and Development Center in Philadelphia, combined with his years of experience in corporate America, have blessed him with a vitally unique perspective on economic development.

In December of 1996, he left Union Carbide to pursue his ministry and focus on community service projects. A year later, he established the HOPE Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization with the mission of empowering inner-city communities through spiritual renewal, education, employment training and economic development.

With this perspective, he developed Kingdom Management Consultants, which assists minority owned businesses with startup and expansion, as well as provides supportive strategies to those seeking employment.

His active community involvement has truly set the standard in West Virginia throughout the years. Much of his community service is still done through the HOPE Community Development Corporation, which now has a branch specifically for youth.

Reverend Watts always amazes me with his unique ability to relate to strangers. While he is strong in stature and his voice is so commanding, his approach is dynamic, sincere, and composed.

His years of unwavering service and leadership have certainly not gone unrecognized. In 1996, he received the West Virginia Small Business Administration's Small Business Advocate of the Year Award. In 2002, Pastor Watts was awarded the Washington Times Foundation Leadership Award for Faith Based Organization of the Year. He was also the 2004 recipient of the Crown of Peace Award for Exemplary Leadership in Reconciliation and Peacemaking from the Inter-religious and International Peace Council.

Pastor Watts is a strong leader, mentor, and friend to so many within West Virginia. It takes a truly remarkable individual to accomplish so much in community service. Particularly now, having just celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and as we near Black History Month, it is fitting that we should celebrate such an inspiring individual as Pastor Watts. His community service programs have empowered countless minority groups within our State and are sure to continue the tradition of excellence for many years to come. •

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 4:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7. An act to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. AMASH of Michigan, Mr. PAULSEN of Minnesota, Mr. HANNA of New York, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona, and Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 7. An act to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-371. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-372. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Children and Families (Family Support), Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-373. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 160(c) from Obsolete ILEC Regulatory Obligations that Inhibit Deployment of Next-Generation Networks" ((RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 14-190)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-374. A communication from the Acting Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural Call Completion" ((RIN3060-AJ89) (FCC 14-175)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-375. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, Connect America Fund" ((RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 14-189)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-376. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0567)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-377. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD656) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-378. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Framework Action to Modify the Commercial Annual Catch/Limit Annual Catch Target Regulations for Three Individual Fishing Quota Species Complexes" (RIN0648-BE23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-379. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Transshipment, Port Inspection, and Vessel Identification" (RIN0648-BE12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-380. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts" (RIN0648-XD688) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-381. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and State Grants Branch, Fish

and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Mexican Wolf" (RIN1018-AY00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-382. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and State Grants Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf" (RIN1018-AY46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-383. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)" (RIN1018-AY53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-384. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Foreign Species Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Straight-Horned Markhor as Threatened With a Rule Under Section 4(d) of the ESA" (RIN1018-AY42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-385. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Late Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds" (RIN1018-AZ80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-386. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations" (RIN1018-AZ80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-387. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2014-15 Late Season" (RIN1018-AZ80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-388. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Gunnison Sagegrouse" (RIN1018-AX71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-389. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish