

\$1 billion in matching and leveraged funds from State partners will be lost.

The Senate bill also shortchanges the National Park Service with \$318 million less than the President requested. That means 1,000 fewer park rangers. That means \$150 million less to maintain our national parks even though the Service will celebrate its centennial in 2016 and will host a record number of visitors at national parks nationwide.

We have 15 national parks in New Mexico, including our newest national park, the Valles Caldera National Preserve. These parks and other public lands in my State are critical not only for conservation but for our economy. A shutdown would be a disaster; sequestration is just a slower moving disaster. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Bandelier National Monument, Tent Rocks National Monument, Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge, and many other sites are key economic assets. These sites help grow jobs, they help communities grow, and they are great conservation assets in communities across the country. We cannot keep asking them to do more and more on less. Yet, without a sensible budget, that is exactly where we are headed in New Mexico and across the Nation.

The Senate Interior appropriations bill also cuts more than \$300 million from the President's request for the Indian Health Service. We have a solemn trust responsibility to Native Americans, and we are failing. Again, these are not just numbers. The impact is very real and very painful. It means the Indian Health Service will fund 20,000 fewer doctor visits in 2016 and nearly 1,000 fewer hospital stays. It means falling further behind. We need a responsible budget to meet our obligation to the Indian Health Service and other tribal programs, such as housing, school construction, Indian education. All of those are being hurt by this sequestration budget.

We cannot continue being short-sighted. We can't keep shortchanging programs that make a real difference in the lives of all Americans. This includes art and cultural programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and funding for our national forests and wildlife refuges. And the list goes on and on. The time is now, and we are running out of time. We are on the wrong train, on the wrong track, and going nowhere.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Let's pass a clean CR, and let's work together to pass a budget that actually meets the needs of our Nation, with sensible funding levels for defense and nondefense programs alike.

Before I wrap up my remarks, I wish to call attention to another deadline that is fast approaching. The authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund will expire on September 30 if this Congress doesn't act. Recently, I was one of 53 Members who called on the leadership of this Chamber to pass an extension of the law, and

I want to reiterate that call today. The Land and Water Conservation Fund just celebrated its 50th birthday. It enjoys strong bipartisan support because the idea behind it is so simple and so powerful. When this Nation develops one natural resource—our oil and gas reserves—we invest some of the proceeds in other critical conservation priorities.

For five decades now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has protected our national parks, forests, and other public lands. It helps ensure hunting, fishing, and recreational access, and it improves and expands our local parks and recreation facilities. The program has been a tremendous success and has had a tremendous impact on my State, from urban refuges—such as the Valle de Oro—to wide open preserves such as the Valles Caldera. It provides crucial funding to preserve open spaces, strengthen the economy, and enhance our way of life.

LWCF allows us to leverage today's resources to protect vital lands and waters for future generations. Allowing the law to expire breaks that compact. It doesn't make any sense, and it doesn't have to happen. We shouldn't let the Land and Water Conservation Fund expire, even for a single day. I call on this Chamber to act swiftly to permanently authorize this important program and ensure that it is fully funded.

Madam President, 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. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, those of us who believe in protecting innocent and precious life may have lost a vote today, but we are steadily winning a larger argument—a critical argument that goes to the heart of who we want to be as a society. We can feel momentum for life on the rise just as we see extremism on the other side increasing. By placing their allegiance with the far left instead of women, Democrats are making a losing bet they will come to regret over the long term.

Today, however, we must grapple with the challenges of the present. Democrats' insistence on blocking the strategy pursued today means we have to consider the options now before us. The reality is that the government will shut down next week if Congress does not act.

The president of Right to Life said to those of us who believe in protecting life:

There are two different roads we can take. One is to insist that no more money go to Planned Parenthood and cause a government shutdown (which won't result in actually

defunding Planned Parenthood). The other is to take a slightly longer-term approach, taking advantage of the fact that we have the attention of the country as probably never before. . . . Every well-informed pro-lifer wants to defund Planned Parenthood. I want to defund Planned Parenthood. There are wonderful pro-life men and women in Congress who want to defund Planned Parenthood. And, certainly National Right to Life wants to defund Planned Parenthood. The difference here is in strategy.

This is not the end of this debate or this discussion.

I urge colleagues to join me in supporting the legislation I am about to file which would ensure that the government remains open.

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House which was received earlier today.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 719) entitled "An Act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes," with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2689

(Purpose: Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719 with an amendment numbered 2689.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2690 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2689

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2690 to amendment No. 2689.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2691

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to refer the House message on H.R. 719 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 2691.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to refer the House message on H.R. 719 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 2691.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2692

Mr. McCONNELL. I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2692 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "2" and insert "3"

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2693 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2692

Mr. McCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2693 to amendment No. 2692.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3" and insert "4"

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I have a cloture motion at the desk for the motion to concur with an amendment.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719 with an amendment, No. 2689.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Orrin G. Hatch, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Michael B. Enzi, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Lamar Alexander, Thad Cochran, Chuck Grassley, Kelly Ayotte, Susan M. Collins, Deb Fischer, Richard Burr.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to expedite consideration of the continuing resolution, I have now offered the CR language as an amendment to the House message on H.R. 719. Using this bill as a vehicle means that we can get the CR over to the House more quickly with fewer steps in the process.

Members should expect a cloture vote to occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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 ELDER RICHARD G. SCOTT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of Elder Richard G. Scott, a man whose humble example and unwavering conviction had a deep and meaningful impact on my spiritual life. For nearly three decades, Elder Scott served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On Tuesday, he passed away from causes incident to age. Although millions mourn his death, we find peace in the knowledge that he is reunited with his beloved wife, Jeanene.

As a missionary, a father, and an apostle, Elder Scott worked tirelessly and served selflessly. Many of us were inspired by his counsel, and even more were blessed by his kindness. He was a man of great faith and unbending principle, who in his own quiet way spent decades sharing the light of Christ with people throughout the world.

Elder Scott's beginnings were as humble as his demeanor. When he was just a boy, his father taught him the virtues of manual labor, instilling in him the desire to craft, toy, and tinker with anything he could get his hands on. It was evident from an early age that Elder Scott would be a talented engineer, and he pursued that field of study when he enrolled in The George

Washington University. To support himself through school, Elder Scott took odd jobs that gave him the chance to work with his hands. He spent summers fishing on lobster boats, logging in the forests of Utah, and repairing railroads for Union Pacific.

While in college, he met Jeanene Watkins, the woman who would win his love and forever change his life. Quickly and effortlessly, Elder Scott fell for Jeanene, but before he could ask for her hand in marriage, she challenged him to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elder Scott's decision to embark on an LDS mission to Uruguay was the opening chapter in a long life of dedicated service. He returned from Uruguay with his faith refined and his testimony fortified.

With this newfound conviction in Christ, Elder Scott married Jeanene in the Manti, UT, temple; and together they started a family. For Elder Scott, his family would be an anchor throughout a long and successful career as a nuclear engineer on the immediate staff of renowned U.S. Navy Admiral Hyman Rickover. For over a decade, Elder Scott served his Nation, but he was again called to serve God when he returned to South America as the President of the Argentina North Mission. As a missionary president, he directed all proselytizing and service efforts for hundreds of young volunteers.

After returning from Argentina with his family, Elder Scott continued his ecclesiastical service, first, as a regional representative for the Church in both North and South America, and later, as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy. In October 1988, he was ordained to be an apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Scott visited congregations of Latter-day Saints gathered throughout the world. He spoke fluent Portuguese and nearly impeccable Spanish. When possible, he took special care to address each congregation in their native tongue. But there was always one language he spoke better than any other, the language of empathy.

Elder Scott was no stranger to heartbreak. In fact, he came to know it very well. Two of his children preceded him in death, and his beloved wife, Jeanene, passed away in 1995. But amid tragedy, he found peace and healing through faith in Christ. Sadness sowed the seeds of compassion, and his capacity for empathy was boundless.

When he spoke, he spoke as one who knew intimately well the sorrow that stems from suffering, but also the comfort that comes from healing. In all things, he communicated love. Whether through words of counsel or quiet acts of service, he radiated the goodness of God and shared it abundantly with others.

Mr. President, I will be forever grateful for Elder Richard G. Scott—his life, his love, and his example. I will miss