

Jonas Salk, and so many other American cures and breakthroughs that have changed the world. Private industry doesn't fund this sort of basic foundational science. It can't. This kind of science takes patience and time and a lot of investment.

America is blessed with some of the best and most generous medical philanthropies in the world, but they can't fill this funding gap. Only we can do it. It takes our government to fund the science that leads to breakthrough cures. This shouldn't be a partisan issue, and it shouldn't be a low-budget priority. I think it should be the highest.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the American Cures Act to help save lives, restore biomedical research leadership, and strengthen America.

As Jonas Salk, the pioneer of the polio vaccine, would say: "The only way we can lose is if we stop too soon."

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I was very disappointed yesterday that the Senate did not vote to proceed to the consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. I hope we will have an opportunity to reconsider that vote and we will agree to take up the bill.

The need to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of this fiscal year should not be in question. We know that we are living in a complex world with ever-changing threats to our Nation's security. The Department that we created specifically to combat those threats will operate better and more efficiently with a full-year funding plan that reflects updated spending priorities. I have heard no Senator dispute that.

The leaders of the Homeland Security Subcommittee—both Democrat and Republican—put a great deal of effort into drafting this measure. The bill provides \$10.7 billion for Customs and Border Protection—an increase of \$119 million over fiscal year 2014. This amount will support border infrastructure, technology needs, roads, air and marine assets, and higher levels of personnel, including Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Patrol officers.

The bill provides nearly \$6 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement—an increase of 13 percent.

The bill provides increased funds to identify, apprehend, and remove crimi-

nal aliens and provides increases for investigations to help combat human trafficking, cyber crime, child exploitation, and drug smuggling.

The bill provides support for the Secret Service and congressional oversight, including \$25 million to address security needs at the White House complex.

The bill provides more than \$10 billion for the Coast Guard. This includes additional resources to continue the recapitalization of the Coast Guard fleet.

The bill provides funding for the Disaster Relief Fund. When disaster strikes, it is important that the Disaster Relief Fund contain the resources necessary to support an effective response.

The bill also includes House amendments designed to reverse the President's unilateral actions on immigration enforcement. Given the timing and breadth of the President's actions and the challenge to congressional authority those actions represent, it can come as no surprise that they provoked a congressional response.

I am speaking to remind Senators of the urgent and important need we have for the adoption of funding for the Department of Homeland Security and other provisions this bill contains. I urge my colleagues and the leadership to help ensure that we move the Senate in the direction of early passage after thorough consideration of the provisions of this bill, the passage of this bill to protect our national security.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. LEE pertaining to the introduction of S. 356 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, as we continue this debate on funding for the Department of Homeland Security, we face some fundamental questions. Are we going to prioritize the safety and security of the American people or are we going to put the country at risk because of an ideological disagreement? That is the choice we face with this bill.

We can debate immigration. I think Members of the Democratic caucus would be happy to do that. The Senate

did that 2 years ago when we passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill with 68 bipartisan votes. But this is not the time for us to have this debate.

We need to fund the Department of Homeland Security now so they can continue to do their work. We can either pass a clean bill that makes critical investments in our Nation's security or we can put our Nation at risk by playing politics with funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

I appreciate what the Appropriations Committee chairman, Senator COCHRAN from Mississippi, did earlier today by coming down and laying out what is in the funding for the Department of Homeland Security and laying out the important work of the Department of Homeland Security. I believe most of us appreciate the work they do and why it is so important to the safety and security of the country. That is why we need to pass a clean bill to ensure that they are funded for the rest of this year.

For those who are in the Senate Chamber and for those watching at home who have not been following what has gone on here in Washington with this bill, I will provide a little history on how we got to where we are today.

In the closing weeks of the 113th Congress, Senator MIKULSKI, then chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Congressman ROGERS, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, negotiated spending for the entire government, including the Department of Homeland Security. This was a compromise measure. Not everyone got what they wanted, but the bill funded Homeland Security priorities at levels that would ensure that the Department could fulfill its mission.

Then, sadly, politics came into play. Some Members of the House Republican caucus demanded that the Homeland Security bill be removed from the larger budget because of immigration issues. They didn't like the President's Executive action on immigration. Now the entire Department is funded on a short-term basis through February 27, which is just 23 days from now.

Last month the House of Representatives narrowly passed a bill to fund Homeland Security, but they added politically divisive language that rolls back protections for immigrant children, among other anti-immigrant measures. It also would roll back some of the efforts for surveillance and efforts to address illegal immigrants who are committing crimes when they come into this country.

Because of these controversial immigration riders, President Obama immediately announced that he would veto the House-passed bill. Last week, the entire Democratic caucus of the Senate signed a letter to Majority Leader MCCONNELL urging him to put the security of our Nation first, to put politics aside, and to work with us to pass a clean Homeland Security funding bill

without controversial immigration riders attached—to pass a bill the President can sign.

I ask unanimous consent to have the letter from the Senate Democratic caucus printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 27, 2015.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Senate Majority Leader, The Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As we rapidly approach the date on which the Department of Homeland Security's funding expires, and as law enforcement officials face major threats to our nation's safety and security, we write with one simple request: work with us to pass a clean bill that funds Homeland Security for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The House bill cannot pass the Senate. Democratic Leader Harry Reid has called for a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. The President has also made clear that he will veto any bill that expressly limits his authority to exercise prosecutorial discretion on immigration matters. While we agree our current immigration system needs comprehensive reform, including border security enhancements, this appropriations bill is not the place for this debate.

In light of recent events in Paris, Ottawa and Australia, the threat of ISIS and the proliferation of foreign fighters that return home radicalized, DHS funding should not be tied to divisive political issues that could jeopardize this critical funding.

We are now four months into the fiscal year. A series of short-term continuing resolutions to fund DHS should be off the table. Secretary Jeh Johnson has noted that if DHS continues to operate on CRs, counterterrorism efforts will be limited, border security initiatives and grants to state and local law enforcement will go unfunded, and aviation security efforts will be hampered.

Every day, new threats emerge that endanger our citizens at home and our allies abroad. We should not cast doubt on future funding for the Department of Homeland Security at a time when the entire nation should be marshalling collective resources to defend against terrorism. Uncertainty undermines security.

Last December, House and Senate negotiators reached a bipartisan agreement on a bill to fund DHS for the entire fiscal year. The best way to provide certainty and stability for the men and women who fulfill DHS's mission to protect the United States from harm is to immediately schedule a vote so that this compromise bill can become law.

We know that you share our desire to keep our nation safe in these dangerous times, and we thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen; Richard J. Durbin; Patty Murray; Elizabeth Warren; Edward J. Markey; Dianne Feinstein; Heidi Heitkamp; Barbara A. Mikulski; Charles E. Schumer; Debbie Stabenow; Thomas R. Carper; Tammy Baldwin; Mazie Hirono; Patrick J. Leahy; Angus S. King, Jr.; Mark R. Warner; Richard Blumenthal; Bernard Sanders; Sheldon Whitehouse; Benjamin L. Cardin; Christopher Murphy; Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Jack Reed; Sherrod Brown; Robert Menendez; Christopher A. Coons; Brian Schatz; Ron Wyden; Tim Kaine; Cory A. Booker; Jon Tester; Amy Klobuchar; Claire McCaskill;

Gary C. Peters; Al Franken; Barbara Boxer; Tom Udall; Michael F. Bennet; Martin Heinrich; Bill Nelson; Jeff Merkley; Robert P. Casey, Jr.; Joe Manchini, III; Maria Cantwell; Joe Donnelly.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Cloture was not invoked on the House bill. We saw that yesterday in our vote. It is a bill that cannot become law. There are only 24 days left before funding for the Homeland Security Department expires.

The House bill cannot move forward. So I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to pass a clean full-year budget, without controversial riders, to fund Homeland Security.

As the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, I am ready to work with my colleague Senator HOEVEN, who chairs the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, and the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator COCHRAN and Senator MIKULSKI, and the entire committee to pass a bill to keep our Nation safe and to avoid disrupting the work of the Department of Homeland Security and to keep this critical agency operating at full strength. In fact, Senator MIKULSKI and I introduced a bill last week, S. 272, which would do exactly that.

We live in dangerous times. Every day new threats emerge that threaten our citizens at home and our allies abroad. The Department of Homeland Security's role in protecting our country from these threats cannot be overstated, and its funding should not be controversial.

Right now the U.S. law enforcement community is on high alert for terror threats after attacks in Sydney, Australia, and Ottawa, Canada, and, of course, the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris.

Just 2 weeks ago, an Ohio man was arrested when authorities discovered he was plotting to blow up the U.S. Capitol in an ISIS-inspired plan. ISIS has thousands of foreign fighters, including Americans among their ranks, who can return to their home countries to do harm and who say they intend to do that.

We were all horrified yesterday by the news of the courageous Jordanian pilot who was killed in such a barbaric and disgusting way by the Islamic State.

We have recently learned that ISIS plans to take advantage of the Syrian refugee crisis and to move their fighters into Turkey and Europe. These are real threats. They are a clear and present danger to this country, and because they are so real, we need our counterterrorism intelligence community operating at full strength. An essential part of our Nation's counterterrorism and intelligence infrastructure is within the Department of Homeland Security.

As Michael Chertoff, George W. Bush's Secretary of Homeland Security said, "intelligence is not only about spies and satellites."

Intelligence is also about the disciplined daily tasks of collecting and analyzing thousands of reports and investigations that are ongoing all across our country—from our local and State police, our Border Patrol agents, our port security personnel, and our Coast Guard patrolling our shores.

The Department of Homeland Security takes these thousands of bits of information, sifts out the critical details, coordinates with our foreign intelligence agencies, and gets critical information to our first responders on the ground as quickly as possible. This work is critical to keeping our Nation safe from terrorism.

One of the chief criticisms of the 9/11 report was that we need to improve intelligence information sharing between the intelligence community and our first responders on the ground.

I was Governor on September 11. I know some of the challenges that we had in New Hampshire with that information sharing. Well, that is one of the missions the Department of Homeland Security was created to carry out.

If you talk to Governors and mayors, police chiefs and sheriffs, and the folks on the ground who are responsible for keeping our citizens safe every day, ask them about their fusion centers. Ask them whether they want their law enforcement to go back to the days when all of our intelligence was bottled up in Washington, DC, and our towns and cities were on their own. Of course they don't want to go back to being kept in the dark. There is too much at stake, but that is what could happen if the Department of Homeland Security is not fully functioning.

I wish to point out that we received a letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It is signed by Tom Cochran, CEO and executive director. He sent it to Senators COCHRAN, MIKULSKI, HOEVEN, and SHAHEEN. I will not read the whole letter, but they point out a number of issues which I believe are important in laying out the challenge and why we need to pass a clean funding bill.

Mr. Cochran says:

I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge you to expeditiously report out a "clean" bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the current fiscal year. A fully functioning Department of Homeland Security is critical to the security of our nation, our cities, and our citizens. A Department operating on a short-term continuing resolution, despite its best efforts, faces uncertainty and delays and simply cannot be fully functioning.

He goes on to elaborate a number of the important programs and important work that the Department of Homeland Security does, and I will not read all of that.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,  
Washington, DC, February 4, 2015.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN, Chairman,  
Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI, Ranking Member,  
*Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOHN HOEVEN, Chairman,  
Hon. JEANNE SHAHEEN, Ranking Member,  
*Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Committee*  
*on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Wash-*  
*ington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS COCHRAN, MIKULSKI, HOEVEN, AND SHAHEEN: I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge you to expeditiously report out a "clean" bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the current fiscal year. A fully functioning Department of Homeland Security is critical to the security of our nation, our cities, and our citizens. A Department operating on a short-term continuing resolution, despite its best efforts, faces uncertainty and delays and simply cannot be fully functioning.

Under its current short-term continuing resolution, DHS cannot undertake any new spending initiatives to respond to national needs, including those along the border, or release any grant funding for non-disaster programs. Among the non-disaster programs it funds are the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which provide vital resources to our cities to help them prevent and prepare for the threat of a terrorist attack. The Urban Search and Rescue System is a national resource that provides lifesaving aid to disaster-stricken communities both at home and abroad. The Assistance to Firefighter Grant programs help local fire departments meet their baseline readiness needs. Emergency Management Performance Grants help to fund the emergency managers so critical to our preparedness to prevent and respond to disasters when events—man-made and natural—occur.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson recently listed just a few of the activities vital to public safety and security that the Department has funded, including new communications equipment for over 80 Los Angeles area public safety agencies, surveillance cameras and environmental sensors used by NYPD to detect in real time potential terrorist activity, upgraded oxygen masks and tanks for over 30 Denver area; and 150 firefighter jobs in Detroit.

The current threat environment is serious, given the terrorist attacks in Paris, Ottawa and Sydney and public calls by terrorist organizations for further attacks on the Western targets. It's vital that Congress provide stable funding for the remainder of the year to the agency charged with keeping all of us safe and secure, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

TOM COCHRAN,  
*CEO and Executive Director.*

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I will also point out a letter we received, which again, was addressed to Senator COCHRAN and Senator MIKULSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. This is from emergency managers, and it says:

The nation's local emergency managers urge you to include full-year funding for pro-

grams at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that support state and local emergency management programs. These programs are critical to preparing our nation for all hazards including terrorist attacks.

Again, they go on at length, and I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGERS,  
*Falls Church, VA, February 4, 2015.*

Hon. THAD COCHRAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S.*  
*Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,  
*Vice Chairwoman, Committee on Appropria-*  
*tions, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN COCHRAN AND VICE CHAIRWOMAN MIKULSKI: The International Association of Emergency Managers—US Council appreciates the work of your committee as you consider the FY 2015 budget for the Department of Homeland Security. The nation's local emergency managers urge you to include full-year funding for programs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that support state and local emergency management programs. These programs are critical to preparing our nation for all hazards including terrorist attacks.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), called "the backbone of the nation's emergency management system" in an Appropriations Conference Report, constitutes the only source of direct federal funding for state and local governments to provide basic emergency coordination and planning capabilities including those related to homeland security. The grant is 50-50 cost shared and supports state and local government initiatives for planning, training, exercises, public education, as well as response and recovery coordination during actual events. When a coordinated response is required, it is always a complex undertaking. Local emergency management is core to the coordination and collaboration of multiple agencies, jurisdictions, and sectors.

A recent example of the importance of EMPG is provided by Dr. Russell Decker, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Allen County Ohio.

In the case of our January 10 refinery explosion and fire, EMPG funds made a successful response possible with trained emergency managers and our public safety partners implementing response plans developed and trained through EMPG funding, hazard materials response and air monitoring equipment funded through State Homeland Security Grant Program funds ensured the safety of responders and nearby residents. I'd hate to think what could have been the outcome if that planning, training, and exercising had not occurred. Since many locals rely on EMPG, extended delays can mean staff layoffs or delays in filling vacancies, postponed training exercises, delays in plan revisions and also delays in acquisition of needed equipment for EOCs which could mean increased costs when funds do become available.

The delay in receiving this annual EMPG funding causes uncertainty for local governments. Some preparedness activities must be put on hold until the reimbursement is assured.

Also important are grant programs such as the State Homeland Security Grant Program

and the Urban Areas Security Initiative which help support local government preparations for the continued threat of terrorism. Funding is needed to sustain currently established and critical programs.

We respectfully urge that full year funding be provided for FY 2015 to end the uncertainty.

Sincerely,

JOHN "RUSTY" RUSSELL,  
*President, Inter-*  
*national Association*  
*of Emergency Man-*  
*agers, U.S. Council.*

Mrs. SHAHEEN. There are any number of reasons why we need to pass a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. We should be working to do that now. We should stop the ideological debate and focus on the risk to this country if we fail to act, the potential risk we would face by passing a continuing resolution, and the risk to this country if we shut down the Department of Homeland Security. None of those options are acceptable.

We need to work together and get this done. I urge my colleagues to do that.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### NET NEUTRALITY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the importance of the issue of Net neutrality and the importance of it to our innovation economy.

The Internet is a \$638 billion economic force, and according to the McKinsey Global Institute, it supports millions of jobs across our Nation. Setting the right policy for the Internet is critical for the continuation of American job creation in an innovation economy.

Over the next 24 hours, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler is expected to announce strong Net neutrality standards to support the growth of this innovation economy.

According to news reports, the FCC will establish clear rules of the road to ensure that no content is blocked and that the Internet cannot be divided into fast and slow lanes. This announcement would set a clear framework for the innovation economy and the millions of jobs that depend on it across our Nation. It would make a game-changing milestone for American innovators and consumers because a comprehensive plan would protect consumers while still allowing for flexibility of business growth and investment and making sure that American consumers and innovators are protected.

The Commission is expected to vote on this rule later this month, and I hope that all of our colleagues will be paying attention to this decision because this decision is not just whether I can download or use Netflix, it is really about equal access to the marketplace. It is about how the future