

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1890

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to require each agency to repeal or amend 1 or more rules before issuing or amending a rule.

S. 2002

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2002, a bill to strengthen our mental health system and improve public safety.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage and to express the sense of the Senate that the resulting revenue loss should be offset.

S. 2185

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2185, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

S. 2196

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from

Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2196, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to reform laws relating to small public housing agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2311

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to make grants to States for screening and treatment for maternal depression.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2344, a bill to provide authority for access to certain business records collected under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 prior to November 29, 2015, to make the authority for roving surveillance, the authority to treat individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers, and title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 permanent, and to modify the certification requirements for access to telephone toll and transactional records by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

S. 2357

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2357, a bill to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 25, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should submit the Paris climate change agreement to the Senate for its advice and consent.

S. RES. 113

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 113, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend the issuance of, and the

United States Postal Service should issue, a commemorative stamp in honor of the holiday of Diwali.

S. RES. 189

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 189, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 25th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia.

S. RES. 199

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 199, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding establishing a National Strategic Agenda.

S. RES. 326

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 326, a resolution celebrating the 135th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Romania.

S. RES. 327

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 327, a resolution condemning violence that targets healthcare for women.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) (by request):

S. 2360. A bill to improve the administration of certain programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise with Senator CANTWELL of Washington State to introduce the Omnibus Territories Act of 2015, which relates to the U.S. territory of American Samoa, as well as the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau—collectively known as the Freely Associated States. Sections 2 and 3 of the legislation are introduced at the request of the administration and section 4 at the request of the governments of the three Freely Associated States.

Section 2 would permit the use of resettlement and relocation funds provided to the people of Bikini Atoll to be used within or outside of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As a result of nuclear weapons testing by the United States in the northern islands and atolls of the Marshall Islands, Congress, through Public Law 97-257 in 1982, provided the people of Bikini Atoll a relocation and resettlement trust fund to be used by the people of Bikini to resettle from their traditional homeland of Bikini Atoll to other islands within the Marshall Islands. Currently, most members of the

community live on the islands of Kili and Ejit. Today, however, the people on these islands have limited living space, lack suitable sustainable resources to provide water and food for their population, and they are exposed to tidal flooding on an increasingly frequent basis. Under current Federal law, citizens of the Freely Associated States, including the people of Bikini, are able to enter into, reside, work, and study in the United States as nonimmigrants without visas. This section would allow the people of Bikini to use the resettlement and relocation trust funds for relocation and resettlement outside of the Marshall Islands, whether in the United States or elsewhere, if they so choose.

Section 3 seeks to improve air service capabilities in American Samoa. There are currently no U.S. airlines that provide flight service within American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a. The U.S. Department of Transportation has granted a foreign air carrier emergency service capability to provide this service, but that designation must be renewed every thirty days under statutory requirement. This section would amend current statute to allow for a foreign carrier to operate between the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a without the need for an emergency service capability designation.

Section 4 would amend the REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, to allow citizens of the Freely Associated States to document their lawful resident status in the United States in conformance with the Compacts of Free Association between the United States and each of these three nations. Section 141 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, Public Law 108-188, and the law that implemented the Compact of Free Association with Palau, Public Law 101-219, permits citizens of the FAS to enter into the United States to lawfully engage in occupations and establish residence as nonimmigrants. However, the REAL ID Act of 2005 did not provide a means for FAS citizens to document their lawful status in the United States. As a consequence, FAS citizens are denied anything more than a temporary ID valid only for one year, resulting in practical difficulties in their ability to maintain employment and engage in other lawful activities where they reside. Giving FAS citizens the ability to document their lawful status and obtain a State-issued driver's license or identification card would facilitate employment and provide more stability and certainty as they engage in lawful activity as legal residents in the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 329—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING AN AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE HELD IN PARIS IN DECEMBER 2015

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 329

Whereas on May 9, 1992, the Senate gave the advice and consent of the Senate regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with annexes, done at New York May 9, 1992, and entered into force March 21, 1994 (referred to in this preamble as the "Convention"), a treaty that was intended to address the global emissions of greenhouse gases;

Whereas the Convention was ratified under the express limitation "that a decision by the Conference of the Parties to adopt targets and timetables would have to be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent.";

Whereas after the Convention entered into force, parties began negotiating a subsidiary agreement to contain binding greenhouse gas emissions reductions, which resulted in the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, done at Kyoto on December 10, 1997;

Whereas the United States is not a party to the Kyoto Protocol;

Whereas the Clinton Administration did not submit the Kyoto Protocol to the Senate for the advice and consent of the Senate;

Whereas on July 25, 1997, the Senate agreed to S. Res. 98 of the 105th Congress by a vote of 95 to 0; and

Whereas the parties to the Convention operating under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action will convene in Paris in December 2015 to replace the Kyoto Protocol with "a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force" aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that any protocol, amendment, extension, or other agreement relating to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with annexes, done at New York May 9, 1992, and entered into force March 21, 1994, shall have no force or effect in the United States and no funds shall be authorized in support of that protocol, amendment, extension, or other agreement, including for the Green Climate Fund, until that protocol, amendment, extension, or other agreement has been submitted to Senate for advice and consent, if that protocol, amendment, extension, or other agreement—

(A) fulfills mitigation commitments through existing and future regulations that would put our national industries at a disadvantage compared to the industries of developing countries;

(B) includes a financial commitment that will not go into effect without subsequent congressional legislation or authorization;

(C) represents an agreement to be overseen by an international administrative entity covering a wide range of topics, including mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building, transparency, implementation, and compliance; or

(D) establishes a mechanism to assess contributions or commitments for future compliance; and

(2) the Senate directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President.

SENATE RESOLUTION 330—CONGRATULATING THE TUNISIAN NATIONAL DIALOGUE QUARTET FOR WINNING THE 2015 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 330

Whereas on October 10, 2015, the Norwegian Nobel Committee (referred to in this Resolution as "the Committee") awarded the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet (referred to in this Resolution as "the Quartet") the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for its work in building on the promise of the 2011 Jasmine Revolution and preventing Tunisia's democratic transition from descending into violence in 2013;

Whereas the Jasmine Revolution in January 2011 was the spark that led to the Arab Spring protests across the Middle East and North Africa, ultimately leading to the departure of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the end of his authoritarian rule;

Whereas the Quartet is a coalition of 4 civil society organizations: The Tunisian General Labor Union; The Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts; The Tunisian Human Rights League; and The Tunisian Order of Lawyers;

Whereas the Quartet offered a path away from violence, political assassinations, and civil unrest by promoting mediation and a peaceful political process led by civil society actors committed to the rule of law and human rights;

Whereas an elected National Constituent Assembly adopted a new, progressive constitution in early 2014, and Tunisia held peaceful and fair elections in late 2014, formally ending a series of transitional governments;

Whereas in response to the March 18, 2015 terrorist attack on the Bardo National Museum that killed 21 people, Tunisian citizens and political leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to dialogue, pluralism, and democracy;

Whereas a terrorist attack on July 26, 2015 on a beach in the town of Sousse, left 38 people, including 30 British nationals, dead, and dealt a blow to tourism in Tunisia, an important industry upon which the Tunisian economy depends;

Whereas President Barack Obama stated on October 9, 2015, "With the Quartet's support, Tunisians voted in free elections, forged a new constitution that upholds human rights and equality for all people, including women and minorities, and formed a national unity government, including secular and Islamist parties, showing that democracy and Islam can indeed thrive together.";

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated on October 9, 2015, "The Tunisian model of inclusivity and respecting fundamental freedoms of all its citizens is the best answer to the violence and extremist ideologies that have torn apart other countries in the region";

Whereas Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi stated on October 9, 2015, that the Nobel Peace Prize signified "a tribute not only to the Quartet and its organizations but

is also a crowning of the principle of consensual solutions adopted by Tunisia”;

Whereas the Norwegian Nobel Committee stated on October 10, 2015, “The broad-based national dialogue that the Quartet succeeded in establishing countered the spread of violence in Tunisia . . . the prize is intended as an encouragement to the Tunisian people, who despite major challenges have laid the groundwork for a national fraternity which the Committee hopes will serve as an example to be followed by other countries”;

Whereas Tunisia continues to face serious threats to its security from violent extremist groups operating within Tunisia as well as in neighboring countries;

Whereas a terrorist attack on November 24, 2015 on Tunisia’s Presidential Guard killed 12 people and represents another effort to undermine democracy and stability in Tunisia;

Whereas Tunisia faces economic challenges, including high inflation and high unemployment, especially among young Tunisians;

Whereas the United States is committed to continuing a strong economic partnership with Tunisia as it undertakes reforms to transform its economy to meet the aspirations of all of its citizens;

Whereas the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed friendly relations for more than 200 years;

Whereas in accordance with the United States-Tunisia Strategic Partnership, both countries are dedicated to working together to promote economic development and business opportunities in Tunisia, education for the advancement of long-term development in Tunisia, and increased security cooperation to address common threats in Tunisia and across the region;

Whereas in July 2015, President Obama designated Tunisia a Major Non-NATO Ally;

Whereas Tunisia is a member of the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL);

Whereas at the second United States-Tunisia Strategic Dialogue in November 2015, Secretary Kerry reaffirmed the historic friendship and growing strategic partnership between the United States and Tunisia and praised the role of civil society organizations in Tunisia’s democratic transition;

Whereas the United States Government allocated approximately \$580,000,000 in foreign assistance during fiscal years 2011 through 2014, which is 10 ten times the bilateral assistance appropriated for Tunisia during the previous 4 fiscal years;

Whereas the President’s Budget Request for fiscal year 2016 included a substantial increase in bilateral assistance to support Tunisia’s democratic transition;

Whereas it is in America’s interest to see that a pluralist democracy and a vibrant economy develop in Tunisia;

Whereas the United States should provide a level of funding to strongly assist and reinforce Tunisia’s transition to democracy, stability, and prosperity;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet on winning the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize;

(2) commends the leaders of The Tunisian General Labor Union; The Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts; The Tunisian Human Rights League; and The Tunisian Order of Lawyers for negotiating solutions to political crises;

(3) commends Tunisian political leaders for their willingness to compromise and work together in the interest of the Tunisian people;

(4) encourages the Government of Tunisia to build upon its successes and move swiftly

to implement necessary political and economic reforms that will benefit the Tunisian people and consolidate Tunisia’s democratic transition; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to support the Government of Tunisia and its people as they continue on the path to democracy and fulfill their desire for a stable and prosperous country.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2920. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2393, to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to repeal country of origin labeling requirements with respect to beef, pork, and chicken, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2920. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2393, to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to repeal country of origin labeling requirements with respect to beef, pork, and chicken, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ REPEAL OF DUPLICATIVE MANDATORY INSPECTION PROGRAM.

(a) FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008.—Effective June 18, 2008, section 11016 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2130) is repealed.

(b) AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014.—Effective February 7, 2014, section 12106 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 981) is repealed.

(c) APPLICATION.—The Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) shall be applied and administered as if the provisions of law struck by this section had not been enacted.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the McDonough nomination, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 373 and 374; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that following the disposition of the nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it ad-

journal until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1177; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the conference report to accompany S. 1177 occur at 11:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned after the resumption of legislative session, following the disposition of the Etim nomination.

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

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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 Travis Randall McDonough, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote on the nomination of Travis McDonough to be a Federal district judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee. He was nominated over a year ago, and his nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote nearly 5 months ago. Despite having the support of his home State Republican Senators, Mr. McDonough’s nomination has nevertheless been held up by Republican leadership for no good reason.