

needs, the educational needs we promised them, and to deal with this backlog of disability benefits.

We are not only looking to the past, we are looking to the future. We have made robust funds available in our innovation area, whether it was the Department of Energy or the National Institutes of Health, which is in my home State. On our committee and across the aisle—Senator PATTY MURRAY, the ranking member, and Senator ROY BLUNT, the chairman of the HHS committee—we renamed the National Institutes of Health the “National Institutes of Hope” because of what it does to find the cures and the breakthroughs for Alzheimer’s, on which we have almost doubled the research in order to break the code on how we can find a cure or a cognitive stretch-out. We have added \$2 billion because we worked together, because we know that when we want to find the cure for cancer, Alzheimer’s, autism, we need to be able to do that.

We looked also at working out other compelling needs, such as Head Start, child care and development grants in which we have added more money, and we make the first payment to fund the programs for elementary, middle, and high school.

We also meet the physical infrastructure needs, where we have increased our funding in the T-HUD bill for Transit New Starts to \$2.2 billion.

We increased the funding for the HOME Program. Instead of cutting it by 90 percent, we increased it by \$50 million, to \$950 million.

We have also looked out for our ports, creating jobs by keeping goods moving through the full funding of the harbor maintenance trust fund and the Army Corps of Engineers.

This is about jobs. This isn’t about money; this is about jobs. In my own home State of Maryland, the Port of Baltimore is an incubator for jobs. It keeps people going, whether it is the people who work to bring the ships in, whether it is the longshoremen, the tugboat operators, or those who benefit from the goods and services coming into our port or leaving our port. It is the ports that create our jobs, and we in Maryland are ready for the new ships coming through the newly built Panama Canal. We know this is a big deal that could help our communities all over America if we invest in our ports.

I know many of our colleagues also want to know about riders. We faced hundreds of policy riders, some of which were highly controversial. We did the best we could with them. But while everybody talks about one item or this item, I want to talk about some of the ones we were able to deal with.

We prevented double-trailer trucks from taking over our highways. We protected women’s health against devastating riders. We also made sure those who regulate our financial institutions so that we never have another meltdown like we had 8 years ago are

taken care of, and we looked out for the environment.

The appropriations bills are good bills, and I could go over more items, but I see that the chairman of the committee is on the floor. I again reiterate my appreciation to Senator COCHRAN and his very able staff.

I also want to comment about the other side of the dome. Working with Congressman HAL ROGERS, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY has indeed been a very professional relationship. I wish that now, with new leadership in the House, they could function like the Appropriations Committee. Do we disagree? Yes. The Presiding Officer is a member of that committee, and she knows we are ready to duke it out when we have to. But we put it all out on the table. We discuss it. We debate it.

We had an open process with amendments in our committee. We have worked to resolve conflict by actually meeting and discussing with each other. We need the same thing with our colleagues on the other side of the dome. That is what we mean when we say we want to get back to regular order.

Thanks to the budget deal we have now, I do hope that next year we can bring bills up one at a time for debate, discussion, and amendment. I hope we can do that. But I also hope the tone of the Appropriations Committee is adopted. We can make sure we advocate for our States and for our viewpoints, but we can do it in a way that it gets done.

I want to conclude by thanking my entire staff, Chuck Kieffer and Jean Toal Eisen, the staff on the other side of the dome, and all of those who worked for me. I want to recognize Shannon Kula and Rachel MacKnight, as well as Brigid Houton and Mara Stark Alcalá and Jean Kwon.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I am pleased to recommend approval of the Omnibus appropriations and tax relief bill that will soon be considered by the Senate. This bill is consistent with the Budget Act that was enacted in November. It funds the operations of the Federal Government for the remainder of this fiscal year. It provides funding for the Department of Defense and the State Department, along with the FBI, Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. immigration enforcement provisions. It provides a \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health. It also funds improvements to our Nation’s water and surface transportation infrastructure.

I deeply appreciate the good work and active leadership of our committee’s vice chairwoman, the distinguished Senator from Maryland. She has been a pleasure to work with. She has been very helpful in producing this bill.

I also thank the very able staff members of the committee who have been very diligent and professional throughout this process. They are a credit to the Senate.

Madam President, I urge approval of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 145

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 204, S. 145; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 145, S. 403, S. 521, S. 593, S. 610, S. 873, S. 1103, S. 1104, S. 1240, S. 1305, AND S. 1483

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the bill Senator FLAKE is referring to, S. 145—a bill I support—is part of a package of 11 bills that have been approved by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee known as the lands bills. By the way, of the 11 bills, 7 of the principal sponsors are Republican and 4 are Democrats. S. 403 by Senator KLOBUCHAR is on that list, which includes the North Country National Scenic Trail; S. 521 that I introduced concerning the President’s Station in Baltimore; S. 593 by Senator BARRASSO that includes the Bureau of Reclamation report on their infrastructure assets; S. 610 that I introduced dealing with P.S. 103, which is Thurgood Marshall Elementary School; S. 873 by the chair, Senator MURKOWSKI, to designate wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve; two bills, S. 1103 and S. 1104, by Senator DAINES extending deadlines; S. 1240 by Senator HEINRICH designating the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio wilderness areas in New Mexico; S. 1305 by Senator BARRASSO concerning the Colorado River Storage Project Act; and, lastly, S. 1483 by Senator ALEXANDER that would direct a feasibility study for designating the James K. Polk Home in Columbia, TN, as a unit of the National Park System.

So therefore I ask unanimous consent that the request by Senator FLAKE be modified so that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following calendar items en bloc: Calendar No. 204, S. 145; Calendar No. 205, S. 403; Calendar No. 206, S. 521; Calendar No. 208, S. 593; Calendar No. 209, S. 610; Calendar No. 211, S. 873; Calendar No. 212, S. 1103; Calendar No. 213, S. 1104; Calendar No. 214, S. 1240; Calendar No. 215, S. 1305; and Calendar No. 216, S. 1483; that the applicable committee-reported amendments be agreed to, the bills, as amended, if amended,

be read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

That would be the list I just mentioned, the lands bills that have been reported out unanimously by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. FLAKE. I have no objection to the modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, reserving the right to object, as the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee is well aware, in July I told Secretary Kerry in a written letter that if the administration sent to the United Nations this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal before submitting it to the U.S. Congress, that the consequence would be that each and every political appointee to the State Department would be held. Secretary Kerry nonetheless decided to disregard the contents of that letter, submitted it to the United Nations in derogation of U.S. sovereignty, and accordingly, I have been blocking those political nominees.

Mr. CARDIN. Will the Senator yield for one moment?

Mr. CRUZ. Yes.

Mr. CARDIN. I think this request deals with the lands bills, not the political appointments. I just wanted to point that out. These are the bills that came out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that deal with designating certain lands. We will have a chance later on the nominations.

Mr. CRUZ. Well, reserving the right to object to that one, I would simply say we were going to do both. I thought you were doing the first one, but you are doing the other.

On that as well, in my view, there is far too much Federal land in the United States that is under the control of the Federal Government. I was just yesterday in the State of Nevada, where some 84 percent of the State of Nevada is controlled by the Federal Government. We do not need the Federal Government becoming the largest landlord in the United States. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. FLAKE. Yes, I so modify.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection was heard to the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. CARDIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

#### CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 2029.

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. 2029) entitled "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," with amendments.

#### MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendments to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2029.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Joint Explanatory Statement for Division M—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The following consists of the joint explanatory statement to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

This joint explanatory statement reflects the status of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (hereinafter, "the Agreement"). The joint explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

The joint explanatory statement comprises three parts: an overview of the application of the annex to accompany this statement; unclassified congressional direction; and a section-by-section analysis of the legislative text.

#### PART I: APPLICATION OF THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the congressional intelligence committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning the conclusions and recommendations of the Agreement. Therefore, a classified Schedule of Authorizations and a classified annex have been prepared to describe in detail the scope and intent of the congressional intelligence committees' actions. The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community to obligate and expend funds not altered or modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations as requested in the President's budget, subject to modification under applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified annex is the result of negotiations between the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. It reconciles the differences between the committees' respective versions of the bill for the National Intelligence Program (NIP) and the Homeland Security Intelligence Program for Fiscal Year 2016. The Agreement also makes recommendations for the Military Intelligence Program (MIP), and the Information Systems Security Program, consistent with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, and provides certain direction for these two programs.

The Agreement supersedes the classified annexes to the reports accompanying H.R. 4127, as passed by the House on December 1, 2015, H.R. 2596, as passed by the House on June 16, 2015, and S. 1705, as reported by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on July 7, 2015. All references to the House-passed and Senate-reported annexes are sole-

ly to identify the heritage of specific provisions.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the bill pursuant to Section 102. It has the status of law. The classified annex supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the bill and the classified Schedule of Authorizations. The classified annex shall have the same legal force as the report to accompany the bill.

#### PART II: SELECT UNCLASSIFIED CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION

##### *Enhancing Geographic and Demographic Diversity*

The Agreement directs the Office of the Director for National Intelligence (ODNI) to conduct an awareness, outreach, and recruitment program to rural, under-represented colleges and universities that are not part of the IC Centers of Academic Excellence (IC CAE) program. Further, the Agreement directs that ODNI shall increase and formally track the number of competitive candidates for IC employment or internships who studied at IC CAE schools and other scholarship programs supported by the IC.

Additionally, the Agreement directs that ODNI, acting through the Executive Agent for the IC CAE program, the IC Chief Human Capital Officer, and the Chief, Office of IC Equal Opportunity & Diversity, as appropriate, shall:

1. Add a criterion to the IC CAE selection process that applicants must be part of a consortium or actively collaborate with under-resourced schools in their area;

2. Work with CAE schools to reach out to rural and under-resourced schools, including by inviting such schools to participate in the annual IC CAE colloquium and IC recruitment events;

3. Increase and formally track the number of competitive IC internship candidates from IC CAE schools, starting with Fiscal Year 2016 IC summer internships, and provide a report, within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, on its plan to do so;

4. Develop metrics to ascertain whether IC CAE, the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program, the Louis Stokes Educational Scholarship Program, and the Intelligence Officer Training Program reach a diverse demographic and serve as feeders to the IC workforce;

5. Include in the annual report on minority hiring and retention a breakdown of the students participating in these programs who serve as IC interns, applied for full-time IC employment, received offers of employment, and entered on duty in the IC;

6. Conduct a feasibility study with necessary funding levels regarding how the IC CAE could be better tailored to serve under-resourced schools, and provide such study to the congressional intelligence committees within 180 days of the enactment of this Act;

7. Publicize all IC elements' recruitment activities, including the new Applicant Gateway and the IC Virtual Career Fair, to rural schools, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions that have been contacted by IC recruiters;

8. Contact new groups with the objective of expanding the IC Heritage Community Liaison Council; and

9. Ensure that IC elements add such activities listed above that may be appropriate to their recruitment plans for Fiscal Year 2016.

ODNI shall provide an interim update to the congressional intelligence committees on its efforts within 90 days of the enactment of this Act and include final results in its annual report on minority hiring and retention.