school education classes and a preparation course for Spanish-speaking students to obtain a General Education diploma.

I applaud Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional for 10 years of dedicated service to the Latino community in southern Nevada. Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional is the only organization of its kind in the Silver State, and its work is truly appreciated and admired. I also commend the distinguished leadership of Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional, particularly Ms. Luz Marin Mosquera, Ms. Dora Lopez, and Ms. Kathia Pereira. Under their direction, Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional has assisted more than 45,000 people in southern Nevada with a variety of immigration-related issues. This includes 4,000 people who are now U.S. citizens and 5,300 people who are now DACA beneficiaries.

I wish Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional continued success as the organization continues its meaningful work.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT NOTIFICATION REQUEST

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have my letter to Senator MCCONNELL dated December 17, 2015, printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2015.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL: I request to be notified before any unanimous consent agreement is agreed to regarding the nomination of David Malcolm Robinson to be Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations and Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. This request is intended to be made publicly and will be disclosed in the Congressional Record so my name need not be withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Chairman,
Committee on the Judiciary.

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am taking this opportunity to notice my objection to the Senate proceeding to the nomination of Janine Anne Davidson of Virginia to be Under Secretary of the Navy. My concern is not with Ms. Davidson's nomination, per se, but with a larger matter concerning the Navy and its policies and practices with regard to retaliation against whistleblowers.

On October 21, 2015, the Washington Post reported that the Navy plans to promote RDML Brian L. Losey, even though the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, OIG, has found on multiple occasions that he retaliated against perceived whistleblowers in response to whistleblower complaints and, in some cases, simply the belief that such complaints had been made. According to the article, the OIG has reported that Rear Admiral Losey went so far as to make a list of suspected whistleblowers and intentionally target them for discipline, demotion, and internal investigation. In several instances, the OIG recommended personnel action be taken against Rear Admiral Losey for these actions. However, the Navy appears poised to ignore those findings and promote Rear Admiral Losey.

On November 13, 2015, I joined with seven other Senators, both Democrats and Republicans, in a request to Jon T. Rymer, the inspector general for the Department of Defense, for the OIG investigation reports related to Rear Admiral Losey's conduct. Those reports were provided to me and to the other Senators signing the November 13 letter just 3 days ago, on December 15, 2015, in redacted form.

Until I have had an opportunity to thoroughly review the inspector general's findings related to Rear Admiral Losey and until I have received assurances from the Navy that it will address those findings specifically and has policies in place to sanction retaliation against whistleblowers more broadly, I will object to the Senate proceeding with the Davidson nomination.

(At the request of Mr. LEE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, on October 7, 2015, I was unable to vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. I ask that the RECORD reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Mr. President, on November 10, 2015, I was unable to vote on the motion to concur to the House Amendment to S. 1356, an Act to authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense. I ask that the RECORD reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes.●

ARIZONA STATEHOOD AND ENABLING ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, we wish to speak today about the Arizona Statehood and Enabling Act Amendments of 1999 concerning the investment allocation and distribution of revenues in the State of Arizona's permanent land endowment trust fund. This fund consists of moneys derived from the sale of State trust land that was conveyed to the State of Arizona on admission to the Union in 1912. The State of Arizona was granted approximately 10.9 million acres of land at statehood and today holds in trust over 9 million acres. Every year, revenues generated from trust land uses must be deposited in the fund and used solely for the benefit of beneficiaries specified in the Constitution of the State of Arizona, predominately Arizona's K–12 public schools.

The Arizona Statehood and Enabling Act Amendments of 1999 repealed strict investment and distribution limitations imposed on the fund by the Congress in the State's enabling act. It also granted the voters of the State of Arizona the authority to adjust distributions to the fund beneficiaries. To accomplish that objective, Congress specifically amended section 28 of the Arizona Enabling Act of 1910 to read, ''Distributions from the trust funds shall be made as provided in article 10, Section 7 of the Constitution of the state of Arizona.''

The Congressional Budget Office estimate, which was included in the House of Representatives Committee report, indicated that ''[e]nactment of this bill would give Arizona state officials greater flexibility in investing and distributing the assets of the state's permanent funds.''

My understanding is that this reference to the Constitution of the State of Arizona, in section 28 of the enabling act, authorizes the voters of the State of Arizona to amend their constitution to authorize different distributions than those in place in 1999, including distributions that may pay out more funds to the beneficiaries. I ask the senior Senator from Alaska: Would she agree?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I want to thank the senior Senator from Arizona for his question. I am familiar with the enabling act's requirements that funds are held in trust for certain beneficiaries, including K–12 public schools, and that distributions are made from Arizona's permanent land endowment trust fund.

The 1910 Arizona Enabling Act specified the level of education-funding distributions that must be made from the State land trust fund. In 1999, Congress amended the 1910 act, eliminating the distribution requirement and providing that such distributions be made as provided for in the Arizona Constitution, specifically article 10, section 7. Thus, as I understand it, so long as changes to the education-funding distributions are accomplished by amendments to article 10, section 7 of the Arizona Constitution, and the funds are used for the beneficiaries of the enabling act, the changes to funding distribution amounts from the State land trust are proper.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank Senator MURKOWSKI for her answer. I have one further question. I believe, should the voters of the State of Arizona change the amounts distributed to the fund beneficiaries by amending article 10, section 7 of the Arizona Constitution, that the consent of Congress is not required prior to the change taking effect. Would the Senator agree?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Senator MCCAIN, because Congress specified that distributions may be made as determined

in article 10, section 7, of the Arizona Constitution, I share his view that Congress need not provide consent.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Senator from Alaska for her response.

CHILD NICOTINE POISONING PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

Ms. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I wish to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from Florida to speak briefly about the Senate's recent passage of S. 142, the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act of 2015, which was introduced by Senator NELSON and which I cosponsored, along with many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Liquid nicotine is very dangerous: even a small amount on the skin is enough to make a small child very ill. A 15-milliliter bottle, like those sold in stores and online—often without any verification that the buyer is not a minor—contains enough liquid nicotine to kill four children. This substance is marketed in bright colors and sweet flavors, so it is no surprise that it finds its way into the hands of our children. In 2014 alone, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported over 1,500 liquid nicotine exposures. These exposures resulted in many serious injuries and at least one tragic death of a child in New York.

Mr. NELSON. I agree with my colleague from Washington—we cannot stand by and allow this harm to continue. The U.S. Government requires child-resistant packaging on other products, including over-the-counter medications and cleaning supplies. These rules have prevented countless injuries and deaths, and this important legislation will ensure we have the same protections in place when it comes liquid nicotine.

Ms. MURRAY. That is why my colleague, the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and I, as ranking member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, urge the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, to act swiftly to implement S. 142.

At the same time, we note that Congress is aware that the Food and Drug Administration has indicated a commitment to addressing the important public health issue of protecting children from the dangers of liquid nicotine. The agency's proposed tobacco deeming rule when finalized will extend FDA's tobacco authorities to products like e-cigarettes not marketed for therapeutic purposes and liquid nicotine.

Mr. NELSON. Like my colleague, I urge FDA to act as quickly as possible to address this important public health issue as soon as they have jurisdiction over these products, and we understand they intend to do so. On July 1, 2015, FDA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ANPRM, titled, ''Nicotine Exposure Warnings and Child-Resistant Packaging for Liquid Nicotine, Nicotine-Containing E-Liquid(s), and Other Tobacco Products; Request for Comments.''

This ANPRM sought comments, data, and research results that will inform future regulatory action. As the regulating agency of these products, FDA must use all of its regulatory tools to protect children from the harms of e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine, including the regulation of liquid nicotine packaging.

I look forward to working with Senator MURRAY and our colleagues at the FDA and at the CPSC on this important issue. Together, we can ensure that every measure is taken to prevent more harm to our children from these dangerous products.

FAA COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleague from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, in a colloquy regarding an aviation noise concern of particular interest to his constituents in the Phoenix area.

During the floor debates on the transportation and housing appropriations bills in both the House and the Senate, there were a number of amendments adopted related to the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic procedures and, in particular, the noise that FAA-approved flight patterns create in communities. The Senator from Arizona offered an amendment dealing with this issue, which I was happy to accept during the abbreviated consideration of the THUD bill on the Senate floor.

As a result, the omnibus includes bill language requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to update its ''community involvement manual'' related to new air traffic procedures in order to improve public outreach and community involvement. The FAA is directed to complete and implement a plan which enhances community involvement and proactively addresses concerns associated with performance-based navigation projects.

I know this is an important issue for you, Senator MCCAIN, and I appreciate you joining me on the floor today so that we can send a clear message to the FAA about the importance of involving your constituents.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Maine for her consideration. I wish to provide further detail on the provision included in the omnibus requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to improve community involvement policies and address concerns stemming from changes associated with performance based navigation projects, including what we expect the FAA to do to provide relief for impacted communities, and what that means for the people of Arizona.

I appreciate the Senator from Maine for acknowledging that community outreach on the part of the FAA to date has been lacking, and that efforts underway at the FAA to update their community involvement practices have not been sufficient. I look forward to working with her to continue to accomplish the intent of the language I introduced which was adopted by unanimous consent earlier this year during Senate consideration of the transportation and housing appropriations bills.

Since September 2014, residents in Arizona around the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport have had their daily lives impacted by changes to flights paths made without formal notification to the airport or community engagement before the changes were implemented. The intent the language included in the omnibus is to improve outreach to the community and airport, providing an opportunity for notification and consultation with the operator of an affected airport and the community before making future flight path decisions.

Furthermore, for changes that have already been implemented, as is the case in Phoenix, the Administrator shall review those decisions to grant a categorical exclusion under Section 213(c) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to implement procedures in which the changed procedure has had a significant effect on the human environment in the community in which the airport is located, if the airport can demonstrate that the implementation has had such an effect. If this review indicates that the flight path changes have had such an impact, the FAA shall consult with the operator of the airport to identify measures to mitigate the effect of the procedure on the human environment, including considering the use of alternative flight paths.

This would not impede the efforts to modernize our Nation's airspace through NextGen or substantially undermine efficiencies and safety improvements realized through those efforts. It does create a long-awaited, much-needed opportunity for residents around Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport negatively impacted by flight noise to have their voices heard by the FAA.

Ms. COLLINS. To be clear, the FAA should be ensuring that local communities have a voice when decisions that affect them directly are being made by the agency.

REQUIRED STATE PREEMPTION PROVISION IN THE FRANK R. LAUTENBERG CHEMICAL SAFETY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today, with my colleagues Senator CORY BOOKER and Senator JEFF MERKLEY, I wish to discuss the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, S. 697. Some opponents claim it creates a regulatory void that will prohibit States from creating or enforcing State policies while EPA assesses chemicals for safety. We opposed the bill as introduced because that was the case. Since then, we