

sure what the long-term consequences are because we don't have the data yet because this is such a new issue. There has been a substantial increase over the last several years. In Ohio, the same thing I said earlier—750 percent increase in the number of babies diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome since 2004. There has been a 750-percent increase in babies born addicted.

These are the issues this legislation gets at. Again, it does so in a way that is not just bipartisan, which is important, and not just House and Senate, which is important—the House has its own companion bill, one the President will be able to sign into law—but most importantly, it is because of the input of people from all over this country, the experts, people who are recovering themselves, and those who are most affected by this, that this legislation makes sense, and not just for my State but for our country.

The Judiciary Committee had a number of good witnesses. One was a woman named Tonda DaRe. Tonda DaRe is from Ohio. She had a daughter named Holly. On her 21st birthday, Holly, who had a bright future ahead of her—she was engaged to be married, and she had been very involved in her high school and active in sports—tried heroin for the first time. She became addicted. She went into recovery, and unfortunately, as in many cases, she had a relapse. At age 23 her young life ended in an overdose.

Her mom, Tonda DaRe, set up an organization called Holly's Song of Hope. She testified before the Judiciary Committee about the importance of her work—talking to other mothers and fathers and sons and daughters about the devastating consequences of this heroin and prescription drug addiction. This legislation needs to be passed so that we can help Tonda. She testified on behalf of this legislation because she has looked at it and knows it will make a difference in her life and her community.

This is an urgent problem, as I said earlier. It is also one we have a lot of bipartisan consensus around. There will be opportunities during this debate to hear from a lot of different people on a lot of different ideas on amendments to the legislation. That is good. It is good to have a debate. But I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will keep focused on the importance of getting this done. It is important to get it done in terms of providing immediate help to our communities and also providing a structure to more effectively spend funds this year—and yes, we have funds to spend this year that have been appropriated consistent with CARRA—but also next year and the year after and the year after. Some will support more resources, and that is fine. We need to have that debate. I myself think it is a priority, and we should be providing the resources to be able to deal with this issue.

I would also urge my colleagues to ensure that we get this over the finish

line. It is too important. We can't play politics with it. This is one of those issues, again, like so few around here, that got out of the committee without a single dissenting vote. We have done the right thing on a bipartisan basis to bring in the experts. We have a good solution to an urgent problem we all face.

I am pleased with the vote tonight, and I urge my colleagues to have a good debate on the floor. Let's get this done for the sake of Tonda DaRe and so many other mothers, fathers, and others out there who deserve to have a little help in their fight against opioid addiction.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I just want to congratulate the Senator from Ohio for his extraordinary leadership on this issue. This is an epidemic that affects us all, and he has definitely been at the fore in providing exceptional leadership on this, and I want to commend him for that.

MORNING BUSINESS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND THE PULLMAN PORTERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this year marks the 90th anniversary of historian and scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson's launch of Negro History Week—and is the 40th anniversary of the inaugural Black History Month. This year, as Black History Month is coming to a close, I want to celebrate by paying tribute to a Chicago neighborhood that has played a significant part in our country's African-American and labor history—the Pullman Historical District.

One year ago this month, President Obama designated the South Side Chicago's Pullman Historic District as the Nation's 406th national park. The Pullman National Historical Park has a special place in our Nation's history. It has been the site of some major historical events. The men and women of the Pullman community—the birthplace of the Nation's first Black labor union—the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—helped shape our country as we know it today. By fighting for fair labor conditions in the 19th century, the Pullman workers advanced America's civil rights movement.

In the 1890s, the Pullman community was the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike during one of the worst economic depressions our Nation ever faced—and led to the creation of Labor Day as a national holiday. These railroad workers aren't always mentioned in the history books or picked to join the parades during Black History Month—but they made history and deserve to be honored. One hundred and one years ago, fearing that the history of African Americans was fading into obscurity, Dr. Carter G. Woodson

founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. His goal was to raise awareness of African Americans' contributions to civilization. He believed that truth could not be denied—and realized that past contributions by African Americans needed to be documented and taught. He once said, "if a race had no recorded history, its achievements would be forgotten and, in time, claimed by other groups." I agree with Dr. Woodson—and so does the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum in Chicago.

Earlier this month, with the help of DePaul University, the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum launched a new online registry that gives voice to the stories of Black railroad workers. By capturing stories from scholars and the relatives of these workers, we will preserve oral histories that otherwise might be lost to history. If you listen to the oral histories, you will hear stories from people like Theodore Berrien, who worked as a Pullman porter from 1940 to 1969. Berrien worked on President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's funeral train from Georgia to Washington, DC. On the registry, Berrien's grandson says: "He spoke of how kind Mrs. Roosevelt was and thanked him for his services during the trip."

Or take Blaine McKinley Fitzgerald, who worked as a Pullman porter on the Illinois Central and Louisville and Nashville railroads from 1920 to 1946—his relatives wrote: "Blaine's major route was from Birmingham to New York. He also worked the Rose Bowl trips to California when Alabama was a major contingent." You will hear how Blaine raised a family of six children on his salary as a Pullman porter—all college educated—who became teachers, lawyers, and engineers. Blaine's story is just one of many examples of how the Pullman porters helped build the African-American middle class in Chicago.

But even as the African-American middle class expanded in Chicago and across the country, the struggle for justice, equality, and equal opportunities for African Americans in this country has continued.

And the State of Illinois has played a significant role in that struggle. Springfield, IL native President Abraham Lincoln led our Nation through a war to save the Union, abolished slavery, and began the work we continue today to end discrimination. In 1909, the centennial of Lincoln's birth, 2,000 people gathered at a dazzling gala to honor the centennial of Lincoln's birth. Even though this was an event celebrating the centennial of the President that helped abolish slavery—like most in America at that time, it was segregated.

The Chicago Tribune reported, that it "is to be a lily white affair from start to finish." But across town, the Black community organized its own Lincoln centennial at the African

Methodist Episcopal Church. The Reverend L.H. Magee spoke at that gathering and noted the widespread feeling of hurt over the exclusion of people of color from the main Lincoln banquet. Reverend Magee made a prediction about the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009—100 years in the future: "prejudice shall have been banished as a myth and relegated to the dark days of Salem witchcraft."

In many ways, his prediction was correct. We have come a long way to banish discrimination in our communities—our legal system recognizes that all men and women are created equal and should be free from discrimination in schools, housing, and employment. And in 2009, President Barack Obama, a former Illinois Senator, was sworn in as the first African-American President of the United States of America.

Pastor Magee had a vision of a new America, but he may not have imagined that bricks laid by the hands of slaves would make a home in our White House for a family of color. But, while progress has been made, we cannot ignore that we still have more to do. When one in three African-American men will go to prison in their lifetime, we have more to do. When the unemployment rate for African Americans are more than double the rate for Whites, we have more to do. And when efforts exist across the country to make it harder to vote, rather than easier, we have more to do. But it is when the climb is the steepest that we can come together as Americans, to take the mountaintop once and for all.

This month, let's celebrate these achievements and honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson's legacy by remembering all the contributions of the extraordinary men and women of the civil rights movement—including the Pullman porters. We have come a long way, but we still have work to do to fulfill the promise to make our Nation fairer and more equal and to do what Lincoln called on us to do: "nobly save . . . the last best hope of earth."

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today's vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015. I would have voted yea. •

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 15-75, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Jordan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$115.1 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

TRANSMITTAL No. 15-75

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF LETTER OF OFFER PURSUANT TO SECTION 36(B)(1) OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT, AS AMENDED

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Jordan.
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment:* \$0 million
Other: \$115.1 million
TOTAL: \$115.1 million
- (iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Scheduled and unscheduled depot module maintenance, in addition to Augmenter Module support, for fifty-two (52) F100-PW-220E F-16 A/B (Block 15) Engines.
- (iv) Military Department: USAF (QCC).
- (v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FMS Case: JO-D-QAW-17 APR 12-\$14M.
- (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.
- (viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: FEB 25 2016.

*as defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

JORDAN-REPAIR AND RETURN OF F-16 ENGINES, SUSTAINMENT AND SUPPORT

The Government of Jordan has requested approval to amend its F-16 engine program for repair and return of its F100-PW-220E engine modules. This effort is in support of the Royal Jordanian Air Force's ongoing scheduled maintenance activities for its 52 F100-PW-220E engines. Services requested under this proposed sale include contract support for parts, components, accessories, and labor to remanufacture the current propulsion fleet at scheduled maintenance intervals. There is no Major Defense Equipment associated with this case. The overall total estimated value is \$115.1 million.

The proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the

United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. Jordan is a key partner in the coalition working together to defeat Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) forces. This engine and sustainment program will maintain Jordan's fighter aircraft capabilities and support its national defense. Jordan will have no difficulty absorbing this support.

The proposed sale of this equipment, services, and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

Jordan has accounted for the cost of engine sustainment in its budget over the course of multiple years.

The prime contractor will be Pratt and Whitney, East Hartford, Connecticut. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will entail periodic Program Management Reviews in the United States or Jordan. There are no additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives anticipated to be stationed in Jordan as a result of this potential sale.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ANNIVERSARY OF PROTESTS IN BAHRAIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this month marks 5 years since Bahrainis of all backgrounds took to the streets in Manama in peaceful protest, calling for reform in their country. As Senators have heard me recount here before, the Government of Bahrain responded with violence and repression, torture and retaliation. In response, the monarchy set up an independent commission: the so-called Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, or BICI. And I say this is important to recall because many of the BICI's 26 specific, concrete recommendations remain unfulfilled 5 years later.

That certainly isn't what the government of Bahrain wants you to believe. In fact, the regime's representatives continue to insist that they have fully implemented all of the BICI recommendations. As they tell it, they have turned the page on that chapter of Bahrain's history.

But members of Bahrain's peaceful opposition feel trapped in a never-ending story. Nongovernmental organizations like Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Amnesty International, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, and the Project on Middle East Democracy have all documented the regime's ongoing repression. The State Department's most recent annual human rights report for Bahrain states that protestors face "arbitrary deprivation of life," "arrest and detention of protestors . . . occasionally leading to their torture," and "restrictions on civil liberties, including freedom of speech, press, assembly association, and religion." And as some colleagues know, the State Department could last