

understand and appreciate what this can do for their constituents, what this can do for the American workplace, and how we can help small businesses provide the services and benefits they need to provide so they can compete in this very competitive workforce environment.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 3464, AS AMENDED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to table the Thune amendment No. 3464.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3679

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up substitute amendment No. 3679. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], for Mr. THUNE, proposes an amendment numbered 3679.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion for the substitute amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3679.

Mitch McConnell, Daniel Coats, Roger F. Wicker, Roy Blunt, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, James Lankford, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, James M. Inhofe, Jerry Moran, Kelly Ayotte.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion for the bill to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 55, H.R. 636, an act to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Daniel Coats, Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Roger F. Wicker, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Kelly Ayotte, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, James M. Inhofe.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3680 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3679

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3680.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 3680 to amendment No. 3679.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike and replace section 4105)

Strike section 4105 and insert the following:

SEC. 4105. ADS-B MANDATE ASSESSMENT.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall assess—

(1) Administration and industry readiness to meet the ADS-B mandate by 2020;

(2) changes to ADS-B program since May 2010; and

(3) additional options to comply with the mandate and consequences, both for individual system users and for the overall safety and efficiency of the national airspace system, for noncompliance.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date the assessment under subsection (a) is complete, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress made toward meeting the ADS-B mandate by 2020, including any recommendations of the Inspector General to carry out such mandate.

MORNING BUSINESS

THREAT TO INDONESIA'S ORANGUTANS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a December 16, 1997, New York Times article entitled "Asia's Forest Fires, Scant Mercy for Orangutans" described the widespread illegal logging and slash and burn agriculture that posed an existential threat to the orangutan, one of the world's only four species of great apes. It was after reading that article and speaking to scientists who had devoted their lives to saving the orangutan from extinction that I started a program in the foreign aid budget to help protect their rapidly shrinking habitat.

Orangutans live in only two places on Earth, Borneo and Sumatra, and since

I first learned of the threats they are facing, the U.S. Agency for International Development has provided millions of dollars to nongovernmental organizations in Indonesia to try to ensure their survival in the wild.

Important progress has been made. Back when the program started, it was feared that the orangutan would be extinct in the wild within 15 years if nothing was done. That has not happened, but their survival is far from assured, as an article in the April 6, 2016, edition of the New York Times entitled "Adapting to Life as Orphans, Fires and Corporate Expansion Threaten Indonesia's Orangutans," describes. It reminded me of what had sparked my attention 20 years ago and how much more there is yet to do.

Orangutans and humans share 97 percent of the same DNA. They are extraordinarily intelligent animals and physically far stronger than humans, but today, like all species, their survival depends on humans.

The Indonesian Government has taken steps to change people's attitudes toward orangutans, so they are recognized as deserving of protection, not as pests to be killed or captured and kept as pets. In many ways, the orangutan is or could be Indonesia's equivalent of China's Giant Pandas which are protected and admired around the world.

Among the biggest threat to orangutans today is the palm oil industry, which is responsible for the destruction of huge areas of tropical forest where orangutans live. The fires used to clear the forest for the planting of palm oil trees has caused havoc on the environment and public health, contributing not only to the destruction of species but widespread drought.

The New York Times describes this increasingly precarious situation. I want to quote a few passages from that article:

"The blazes destroyed more than 10,000 square miles of forests, blanketing large parts of Southeast Asia in a toxic haze for weeks, sickening hundreds of thousands of people and, according to the World Bank, causing \$16 billion in economic losses."

"They also killed at least nine orangutans, the endangered apes native to the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra. More than 100, trapped by the loss of habitat, had to be relocated. Seven orphans, including five infants, were rescued and taken to rehabilitation centers here."

"Indonesia has approved palm oil concessions on nearly 15 million acres of peatlands over the last decade; burning peat emits high levels of carbon dioxide and is devilishly hard to extinguish."

"Multinational palm oil companies, pulp and paper businesses, the plantations that sell to them, farmers and even day laborers all contribute to the problem."

"While it is against Indonesian law to clear plantations by burning, enforcement is lax. The authorities have

opened criminal investigations against at least eight companies in connection with last year's fires, but there has yet to be a single high-profile case to get to court."

"The government in Jakarta, the capital, has recently banned the draining and clearing of all peatland for agricultural use, and it has ordered provincial governments to adopt better fire suppression methods. But it has not publicly responded to calls for better prevention, such as cracking down on slash-and-burn operations by large palm oil companies."

It would be an unforgivable tragedy if any species of great apes were to become extinct in the wild. They are all endangered—gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and orangutans. We need to do whatever is necessary to build international support for protecting these animals, and to help countries like Indonesia enforce its laws to stop the destruction of tropical forests on which these and so many other species depend.

NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today is Equal Pay Day, and I wish to speak about the importance of ensuring women in this country are paid fairly.

April 12—102 days into the year—marks the day that women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous year. That is unacceptable. We can do better.

Last week, the national women's soccer team filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The complaint states that women are paid just 40 percent of what men are paid—despite the fact that our women's soccer team has long been one of the best in the world. The team has won four of the last five Olympic Gold Medals and three of the last seven World Cups. Women soccer players are even given smaller per-diems when they travel. Women receive \$50 per day while men receive \$62.50 per day. This shows the pervasiveness of wage discrimination in this country. The most successful women's soccer team in the world still earns just 40 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Next, I would like to turn to my home State. Women in California are paid just 84 cents for every dollar earned by men. While better than the national average of 79 cents, California's wage gap totals nearly \$40 billion each year in lost wages. That is \$8,053 for every woman who works full time.

This gap has a significant effect on the economic security of working families—40 percent of women are the primary or sole breadwinners in their families. That means 40 percent of families depend on women's wages to pay the bills. Every dollar women lose to the wage gap makes a difference.

Here are just a few examples of what the wage gap costs families: \$8,000 is about 1 year's worth of groceries for a

family of four, 4 months of mortgage and utility payments, or 6 months of rent.

And the wage gap is even bigger for African-American and Latino women. African-American women are paid just 63 cents. Hispanic women are paid just 43 cents. We can't allow this discrimination to continue.

Next, I would like to address a longstanding myth about the wage gap. Some say it exists only because women choose lower-paying professions than men. For example, women are the vast majority of child care and home health care workers. This is a myth.

Even when women perform the same job as men, with the same level of education, the wage gap persists. For example, men who are nurses are paid \$5,000 more than women, even though only 10 percent of nurses are men.

We need to do more to close the wage gap, and I am very proud that California is leading the way. A landmark bill signed by Governor Jerry Brown last year protects women from retaliation if they ask how their pay compares to their colleagues. This is important because secrecy contributes to the wage gap. Women often don't know they are being paid substantially less than men.

The bill also requires employers to justify higher wages for men who perform the same jobs as women.

This law is a big step to improve the economic security of California families.

While it is good news that States are addressing this issue, the wage gap is a national problem. It affects all American women, and the Senate must take action. The Paycheck Fairness Act is a good place to start. I have long supported this bill, which is sponsored by Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is similar to the new California law. It would protect women from retaliation and require employers to justify paying women less than men for the same job.

The bill would also make it easier for women to take legal action under the Equal Pay Act, including class action lawsuits.

Under current law, it is significantly easier to recoup lost wages if they were denied through other discriminatory practices—like failure to pay overtime.

Lastly, the bill would create a training program to help women learn how to negotiate their salaries.

This is a commonsense bill, and one that is long overdue.

In closing, President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act in 1963. At the time, women made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. In 53 years, we have only closed the gap by 16 cents. At this rate, it won't be eliminated until 2059.

Women and their families deserve better, and they can't afford to wait that long.

I strongly urge the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CALIFORNIA CASUALTIES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to four servicemembers from California or based in California who have died while serving our country in Operation Freedom's Sentinel and in Operation Inherent Resolve since I last entered names into the RECORD.

TSgt Anthony E. Salazar, 40, of Hermosa Beach, CA, died April 13, 2015, at an air base in southwest Asia in a noncombat related incident. Technical Sergeant Salazar was assigned to the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron, 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, U.S. Air Forces Central Command.

CAPT Jonathan J. Golden, 33, of Camarillo, CA, died October 2, 2015, in the crash of a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft at Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan. Captain Golden was assigned to the 39th Airlift Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base, TX.

SGT Joseph F. Stifter, 30, of Glendale, CA, died January 28, 2016, at Al Asad Airbase, Al Anbar Province, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his armored HMMWV was involved in a roll-over accident. Sergeant Stifter was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

SSgt Louis F. Cardin, of Temecula, CA, died March 19, 2016, in northern Iraq, from wounds suffered when the enemy attacked his unit with rocket fire. Staff Sergeant Cardin was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, NC.

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA. Since the TRA was signed into law in 1979, the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has continued to expand, growing into an important friendship as trading partners and allies. In 2015, Taiwan became the United States' ninth largest trading partner and our seventh largest destination for agricultural exports. My home State of Arkansas has seen firsthand the benefit of these close commercial partnerships with Taiwan.

As a member of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, I support efforts to further strengthen and deepen the bonds between the people of the United States and Taiwan, and I am not alone in these efforts. During the past 8 years, 40 State legislative chambers have passed resolutions in support of U.S.-Taiwan trade and a close cultural relationship. As Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou recently pointed out, U.S.-Taiwan relations have never been better, and I look forward to working with President-elect Tsai Ing-wen to ensure this continues to be the case.