

more people to help prosecute the war and take a little burden off the Marine Corps, which has been absolutely worn out. Seventy percent of the F-18s in the Marine Corps have problems flying. We are cannibalizing planes to keep other planes in the air.

To those who say we need to reform the Pentagon, you are right. Not only do we need to, we have. Fifty percent of the Department of Defense budget is personnel costs. Last year we reformed retirement. At 20 years, you are not going to get half of your base pay. You will get 40 percent in the future. That will save money. We are going to allow a Thrift Savings Plan for those who want to contribute 5 percent of their pay and we will match 5 percent, but they can't get the money until they are 59 or 60. That will be money for the servicemembers, but it comes later.

We are going to ask our retirees to pay a little bit more for the military health care system because we haven't had a premium adjustment of any consequence since 1995. We are going to go to fixed-price contracts to deal with the abuse of cost-plus contracts to save money. We are trying to reduce the number of general officers because they have exploded.

We are doing a lot of things to make the Pentagon operate better, but at the end of the day, you need people to defend this country. When sequestration kicks back in, we are going to go from 475,000 to 420,000.

What I am asking for is a bipartisan effort to stop the bleeding, to take the request for the military that is unfunded and desperately needed and give them a little bit of hope. We need to let them know Congress is listening to their problem because we are not. We are ignoring the problems of our military because if we were really serious about helping them, we would pass this by a voice vote, but, no, we can't increase defense spending by \$18 billion to increase the size of the Army, Marine Corps, and the National Guard, to give more flight time to our pilots, more money to maintain the equipment and increase the size of the National Guard, which has really suffered during the last 15 years, and to buy more airplanes. The bottom line is, we can't do all of that because we have to increase nondefense spending.

To my Democratic colleagues, if you don't think there is an emergency in the military, then you haven't been listening. To those Republicans who believe the appropriations bill has adequately funded the needs of the military, you haven't been listening. Well, I have been listening. Washington is broken in many ways. I enjoy being a Member of the Senate, and I respect my colleagues, even though we disagree, but this one I can't understand. I can't understand this. I can understand ideology, I can understand the differences between pro-life, pro-choice, guns, revenue, and taxes. I can understand conservatism, liberalism, libertarianism. I can understand that

in a great country we have differences, but this I can't understand.

I can't understand why any of us would let this happen to our military. Whether you are a Libertarian, vegetarian, Republican, or Democrat, you need these men and women defending you so you can argue among yourselves. We can argue until the cows come home about how America should be, and it is a privilege to have this debate. While we are arguing among ourselves about how to make America great again or to become one, stronger together, or whatever damn phrase is out there, the people who are giving us the privilege to argue are being worn out and underfunded.

Let me tell you the consequence of this. At a time the enemy is growing in capability to attack this country, we are gutting our ability to defend this country. A perfect storm is brewing. We have an America in retreat and in decline all over the world. We have a Presidential contest that is absolutely crazy. The Republican nominee, when he talks about foreign policy, it is complete gibberish.

The Democratic nominee seems to be afraid to articulate how to change things. What is she going to do differently? Where is she on sequestration?

Secretary Clinton, do you think now is the time to spend more on our military because we are in an emergency situation? Tell me why I am wrong. Tell me why you don't believe all of the things said by those in leadership.

I am dumbfounded that this is hard given the state of readiness of our military. I am dumbfounded that we can't improve military readiness without increasing spending for food safety modernization. I am sure there is probably something legitimate there, but the Food Safety Modernization Act is not going to stop ISIL from coming here.

There is \$1.9 billion for water infrastructure. I am sure it is legitimate, but all I can say is that whatever problems we have with water, they pale in comparison to the problems we have with terrorism.

Who are we as a body, who are we as a people if we can't see this being an emergency? If you are not listening and you have shut your mind and eyes to what is going on, then shame on you.

This is the low point to me; that we cannot as a body agree that our men and women in the military are in a bad spot and they need our help yesterday. So vote the way you are going to vote, but don't tell me that the Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member, has fixed the problem because we haven't. We did appropriate more money, and I appreciate it, but the \$18 billion on this list is not addressed by the Appropriations Committee's effort to do more, and don't tell me this is not an emergency because I don't believe it. Don't hold the men and women hostage from getting the money they desperately need to defend us all be-

cause you want more money somewhere else.

Whatever differences we have, whatever hopes and dreams we have as individuals or collectively as Americans are at risk because the people we are fighting would kill every one of us if they could. They could care less if you are a Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative. They want to hurt us, and they want to hurt us badly, and the only way to keep them from hurting us is for some of us to go over there in partnership with others over there to keep the fight from coming back over here.

It looks like all of us can agree on giving the people going over there the best chance they can to survive the fight, come back home and protect us all, but apparently we can't get there. Shame on us. Shame on us all.

I yield the floor.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2577

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 7:30 p.m. this evening, the Chair lay before the Senate the House message accompanying H.R. 2577; that Senator MCCONNELL or his designee be recognized to make a motion that the Senate disagree to the amendment of the House, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees; further, that Senator MCCONNELL or his designee be recognized to offer a motion to invoke cloture on the motion to go to conference and that once a cloture motion is offered, all time be yielded back and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to go to conference; further, that if the motion to go to conference is agreed to, that Senator NELSON or his designee be recognized to offer a motion to instruct conferees and Senator SULLIVAN or his designee be recognized to offer a motion to instruct conferees and that the Senate vote with no intervening action or debate on the motions to instruct conferees in the order listed and that both motions require 60 affirmative votes for adoption; finally, that there be no further motions to instruct in order and that there be 4 minutes, equally divided, prior to each vote on the motions to instruct.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am grateful you will not make me repeat that.

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.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House insist upon its amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2577) entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes," and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

COMPOUND MOTION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I move that the Senate disagree to the amendment of the House, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. President, I send a cloture motion 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 legislative 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 the motion to disagree to the House amendment, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees with respect to H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

John McCain, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Deb Fischer, Rob Portman, Roger F. Wicker, Richard Burr, Joni Ernst, David Vitter, James M. Inhofe, Dean Heller, Pat Roberts, Lamar Alexander, Ron Johnson, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Mitch McConnell.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative 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 the motion to disagree to the House amendment, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees with respect to H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

John McCain, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Deb Fischer, Rob Portman, Roger F. Wicker, Richard Burr, Joni Ernst, David Vitter, James M. Inhofe, Dean Heller, Pat Roberts, Lamar Alexander, Ron Johnson, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Mitch McConnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to disagree to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees with respect to H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Crapo	King
Ayotte	Cruz	Kirk
Baldwin	Daines	Klobuchar
Barrasso	Donnelly	Lankford
Bennet	Durbin	Leahy
Blumenthal	Enzi	Manchin
Blunt	Ernst	Markey
Booker	Feinstein	McCain
Boozman	Fischer	McCaskill
Boxer	Flake	McConnell
Brown	Franken	Menendez
Burr	Gardner	Merkley
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Moran
Capito	Graham	Murkowski
Cardin	Grassley	Murphy
Carper	Hatch	Murray
Casey	Heinrich	Nelson
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Perdue
Coats	Heller	Peters
Cochran	Hirono	Portman
Collins	Hoeven	Reed
Coons	Inhofe	Risch
Corker	Isakson	Roberts
Cornyn	Johnson	Rounds
Cotton	Kaine	Rubio

Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Scott
Sessions
Shaheen

Shelby
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis

Udall
Vitter
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

NAYS—2

Lee

Paul

NOT VOTING—5

Mikulski
Reid

Sanders
Toomey

Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 93, the nays are 2.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the compound motion to go to conference.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I have a motion to instruct conferees at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. NELSON] moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2577 be instructed to reject proposals that would rescind existing Ebola emergency funds provided by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235), and designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as such funds support Ebola preparedness and response efforts which are critical to preventing, detecting, and responding to potential future Ebola outbreaks, and to insist that the final conference report include \$510,000,000 to reimburse Ebola accounts, as provided for in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235) and designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, for obligations incurred for Zika virus response, as such emergency Ebola funds support critical initiatives to prevent Ebola outbreaks, such as country operations and public health infrastructure in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, public health research on infection control, including detection of person to person transmission of Ebola, and advanced research and development of new Ebola vaccines and therapeutics.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 4 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this is a motion to instruct the conferees that whatever is decided in the conference to fund the Zika crisis, the money would not be taken out of the Ebola fund and that the money that has been borrowed from the Ebola fund would be replenished.

Remember that since the Ebola outbreak was contained 1 year ago, there have been seven more clusters of outbreaks since that time, and the CDC still employs 80 employees working on Ebola. With the last recent Ebola case