

The bill (S. 1935), as amended, was passed.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2127

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to honor the life of Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick by passing a bill to strengthen whistleblower protections.

Last year the Center for Investigative Reporting published an article that revealed allegations of opioid overprescription, whistleblower retaliation, and a culture of fear at the Tomah VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI. It also detailed the tragic story of Jason Simcakoski, who passed away at the Tomah VA in 2014 from mixed drug toxicity. Jason had over one dozen different drugs in his system when he died.

Jason's life is honored by a bipartisan bill introduced by my colleague from Wisconsin that I am pleased to cosponsor: the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act. The bill aims to improve VA opioid prescribing guidelines and ensure greater coordination and oversight for patient treatments.

When I learned of the problems at the Tomah VA, I immediately directed my Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff to investigate. They reviewed thousands of pages of documents and conducted 22 interviews. We held two hearings in Tomah and two in Washington, DC, to examine what happened at the facility and hear from whistleblowers across the country. On May 31 of this year, we released a 359-page report detailing the findings of our bipartisan investigation. The unfortunate conclusion of our investigation is that with proper disclosure, the tragedies of the Tomah VA could have been prevented.

One of the individuals who blew the whistle on these problems was a psychologist at the Tomah VA named Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick. His portrait stands beside me.

Chris came to Tomah in 2008. He treated veterans, the finest among us, for PTSD, substance abuse, and chronic pain. It didn't take long for him to realize that something was not right. Chris told his family and the union that he thought doctors were overprescribing, overmedicating patients.

The chief of staff of the facility was a doctor who had been known as the Candy Man as far back as 2004 because of the amount of opioids he prescribed for veterans. When the Candy Man

found out that Chris was questioning his prescription practices, Chris was warned to stop. But rather than address Chris's concerns, the VA fired him. Tragically, late on the day that he was terminated, Chris committed suicide.

Chris's managers later said they felt coerced into firing him. Yet no one ever investigated Chris's suicide, and the agency was never held accountable.

Inspectors general are supposed to be the government's watchdogs. Instead of promptly investigating, preparing, and making a report of its investigation public, the VA Office of Inspector General took almost 3 years to prepare a short, extremely flawed report, administratively closed the investigation, and then buried the report.

Then last year, under pressure from news reports and my committee's investigation, the office issued an unsolicited white paper that defended its flawed work and attacked Chris. It even accused him of being a drug dealer. They were retaliating against a dead man.

Sean Kirkpatrick, Chris's brother, summed up the office's actions best. He told our committee: "The haphazard attempt to discredit and slander Chris was absolutely outrageous to us when our brother was merely questioning opioid abuse and concerns that the veterans were not being cared for properly."

Sean Kirkpatrick offered invaluable testimony to our committee and asked us to make commonsense changes to help ensure that what happened to Chris will not happen to someone else.

To address these recommendations and the problems our investigation uncovered, I introduced the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act. Among other things, the bill requires agencies to discipline supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers and mandates training so employees know their rights and supervisors know how to handle complaints. The bill requires the VA to inform its employees about mental health services available to them and review their protocols to address threats from patients. The bill also prohibits VA employees from accessing the private medical records of coworkers when they blow the whistle as a means to retaliate against them.

I ask the full Senate to honor Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick and protect veterans and future whistleblowers by passing these commonsense reforms. It would be particularly special for the Senate to pass the bill today as, sadly, it is the 7-year anniversary of Chris's passing.

This bill received unanimous support of Democrats and Republicans on my committee in December by a vote of 16 to 0. It has the support of every Republican in the Senate. Yet, unfortunately, one or more Democrat Members have been blocking it. I haven't been told who they are, so I have come to the floor to ask that if a Senator objects to this bill, he or she explain why.

Protecting whistleblowers and putting our veterans first shouldn't be a partisan issue. I know it sure hasn't been one for me.

In fact, just yesterday the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act was approved as part of CARA. I was pleased to cosponsor the bill that the junior Senator from my State, a Democrat, introduced. I am not aware of any Republican Member who tried to block its inclusion in CARA, and I was pleased to do whatever I could in the Senate to ensure its passage because it is just good policy and it is just good for our veterans.

I ask my colleagues to give this bill the same respect by judging it based on policy, not politics. Put our veterans first.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 499, S. 2127. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Johnson substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. We, as the Republicans, want to work to improve veterans' benefits. It is so very important. They give a lot, and we don't take good enough care of them.

I understand Senator JOHNSON's legislation. I appreciate that, but there are a number of bipartisan bills to help our veterans that Democrats want to pass as well. We have our bills; he has his bill. So I hope we can work together in the next little bit to come up with a package of bills that would give the Republicans a few of the things they want and give us some of the things we want because the issue before us, as valid as it could be and might be, addresses a very narrow issue the Senator from Wisconsin seeks to address, but a variety of matters are left undone.

I hope we will be in a position to pass the legislation by the Senator from Wisconsin, but we are not there yet. So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, might I ask the majority leader: Are you objecting for yourself or on behalf of others? Further, is there a reason for the objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is not in order to ask questions of someone who does not have the floor.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is extremely disappointing that the minority leader has objected to a commonsense piece of legislation that was passed—again, let me repeat—unanimously out of my committee. Not one

Democratic member of our committee objected to this. It was a good piece of legislation. It is so important.

I am shocked, coming from the private sector, how much retaliation actually occurs within government even though we passed numerous bills protecting whistleblowers. The fact is, had these tragedies been known, had the whistleblowers been protected, had the Office of Inspector General made its investigation reports public, tragedies would have been prevented.

One of the veterans who died at the Tomah VA was Thomas Baer. I was talking to his daughter a week or so after he passed from neglect, as he suffered a couple strokes waiting to be cared for.

She said: Senator, had I only known of the problems at the Tomah VA, I never would have taken my father there. He would be alive today.

All I am asking for is a commonsense bill that again was passed unanimously by my committee. Unfortunately, it is being objected to and will not pass today.

At a moment in time in our history when there are so many divisions in this country, this is one thing we all agree on in this body, to honor the promises to the finest among us, our veterans. This bill honors those promises. This bill would protect the whistleblowers who have the courage to come forward and report problems at the VA health care centers. This bill would help protect veterans in the future.

One of the things I am most proud of as chairman of the committee is I have worked in a very bipartisan fashion. I have forged agreements. I have looked for areas of agreement that unify us. By using that approach, a businessperson's approach, we have reported out of my committee 83 pieces of legislation—this is one of them—and 26 of those have been signed into law, again by finding areas of agreement that unify us as a committee, as a Senate, as a Congress, and as a Nation. This should have been one of those bills.

I sincerely hope we can overcome whatever objection, which was not stated on the floor, and pass this very important piece of whistleblower protection as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I share the regret of my colleague from Wisconsin that our friends across the aisle—the dysfunction that characterized the last Congress, when they were in charge, is unfortunately creeping into this Congress as well, in spite of roughly a year and a half of relatively good productivity by the Congress on a bipartisan basis. To come in and make objections against commonsense ways to protect whistleblowers determined to try to make sure we keep our commitments to our veterans is just—well, it is shameful, and I share the disappointment of my colleagues.

Moments ago, our Democratic colleagues failed another test, a test of whether they care more about American families or about special interest groups. This is what I am talking about.

The test our Democratic colleagues failed is one to see whether they care more about averting these sort of devastating birth defects caused by the Zika virus or whether they care more about the special interest groups that raise money off of legislation designed to solve problems and prevent public health disasters like this. Unfortunately, they made the wrong choice. They failed the test.

This is what the Zika virus can do. This is an example of microcephaly or, basically, shrunken skull. We can imagine what this does to the baby's brain, what this means in terms of trying to provide medical care by a loving mother and father, trying to make sure this baby, no matter how long it may live, has at least as comfortable a life as it can have until it passes away. Of course, the prognosis—the life expectancy of a baby with microcephaly is not good, and that is an understatement.

We know Zika is a preventable disease. We know, with mosquito eradication, we know with proper precautions people can take—not leaving standing water in places where mosquitoes can propagate—if we do our job by providing the adequate funding needed to avert this public health crisis, someday—and, hopefully, not too long, not too far away—we can actually develop a vaccine so pregnant women and women of child-bearing age don't have to worry or live in fear that this might happen to their baby.

Just yesterday, the Harris County Public Health Office in Houston—as the Presiding Officer knows—confirmed that the first baby in Texas was born with Zika-related microcephaly. This tragedy depicted by this photograph is real and it is at our doorstep. This particular case involves a pregnant woman who had traveled to South America, where we know Zika virus is present, but all of our public health officials are telling us it is slowly working its way up from Central and South America and it is literally at our doorstep.

This is not a time to refuse to do our duty and simply coast through the rest of the summer. We are talking about lifelong irreversible problems that take lives and affect families for years to come. Experts across the country that I have visited with, in Galveston at the National Lab, at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, say we need to act, and we need to act now.

They are not alone. It was just last May when our Democratic colleagues asked us to act and to act with urgency, but today they turned down the very money they argued for last May, when they decided to gamble with the lives of children like this instead of protecting them. As I said, they ig-

nored their own calls to get this done quickly, and they have refused to pass urgent measures that would protect our country from a public health crisis.

As I said when I started, this was a test today to see whether our Democratic colleagues cared more about babies like this or special interest groups, and they failed the test. It is as simple as that.

I want to make sure everyone understands how we got here.

Two months ago, a bipartisan agreement was introduced to handle the Zika threat. That was 2 months ago. Senator BLUNT of Missouri and Senator MURRAY of Washington worked together, as we are supposed to do, to come up with a bipartisan compromise, in this case, to an appropriations bill. About a week after it was introduced in this Chamber, it passed overwhelmingly. Not one Democrat opposed the \$1.1 billion appropriations amendment that was attached to the VA-Military Construction appropriations bill. Not one Democrat opposed it because, until recently, they seemed to agree with us that this is a major public health crisis in the making—particularly, as I said, because we expect the mosquito-borne virus to hit the mainland in places like Texas, Florida, Louisiana, and other warm parts of the country. We expect it to hit the U.S. mainland in full force as temperatures continue to rise this summer.

The legislation we passed in the Senate was reconciled, as it is supposed to be, in a conference committee with different legislation passed by the House. That bicameral, bipartisan compromise is what we considered earlier today—after Senate Democrats decided to block it for the first time a few weeks ago. It seems that after they called upon us to pass the bill in May, they have decided in the interim it is not as urgent as they once said.

For months now, Senate Democrats have talked about the need to get this legislation passed to prepare us for the Zika virus, and it was the Democratic leader who said this on May 23, 2016—May 23. It is now July 14. He said:

Instead of gambling with the health and safety of millions of Americans, Republicans should give our nation the money it needs to fight Zika, and they should do it now. Not next month, not in the fall—now.

This is the Democratic leader. When we delivered on his request that he made on May 23, he voted no—even though he and every Senate Democrat voted yes to pass the Senate bill at exactly the same level that this conference report provided.

Then, in an amazing reversal, Senator MURRAY of Washington—who, as I said a moment ago, quite responsibly worked with Senator BLUNT from Missouri to come up with the original amendment funding this Zika prevention effort at \$1.1 billion—she then in effect voted against her own amendment. Back in May, she was singing a different tune. She said:

Families and communities are expecting us to act. Parents are wondering if their babies will be born safe and healthy. In Congress, we should do everything we can to tackle this virus without any further delay.

That was on May 26, 2016. But today, again, this same Senator who said these words on May 26 voted no.

We have to ask ourselves why. What do they consider is more important than stopping this? What could it possibly be? What could be more important, more demanding? What could be a higher priority for these Senate colleagues than voting to fund the research on prevention that would stop this from happening to one more baby in America?

Unfortunately, the hypocrisy we have heard doesn't end there.

On June 20, the senior Senator from New York, the next Democratic leader in waiting, said: "Every day we wait, every day is increasing the risk that we will have problems with Zika." That is not exactly a profound statement, but it is a true statement.

My point is that people are pretty disgusted with what they see here in Washington these days, where rather than trying to find consensus, people really find ways to say no and to block important legislation like this. This is the very definition of dysfunction.

I have to tell you that I am beyond disappointed at the hypocrisy demonstrated by all of our Senate Democrats voting for the funding at the \$1.1 billion level, only now for the second time to vote against this rescue appropriation to prevent this sort of thing from happening. It really is beyond frustrating. It is disgusting.

If there is anything good, any good news in all of this, I would say that, fortunately, months ago the Obama administration finally agreed with Senate Republicans to set aside more than half a billion dollars of unspent funds for the Ebola crisis. There was roughly \$589 million that was set aside and reprogrammed for that purpose, but that is no excuse for failing to act comprehensively as our Senate Democrats have urged us to do time and again.

This is nothing to play around with. This is not a trivial matter. This is a life-altering, life-shortening, devastating birth defect that is preventable. What could be more important? It is our job to send this bill to the President's desk. As long as our Senate Democratic colleagues refuse to do so, as long as they refuse to defend the health and well-being of Americans across this country, as long as they refuse another chance to protect our children from devastating birth defects, there is not much we can do about it.

There is something the American people can do about it, and they can call and they can write to their Senator. They can say: I don't care what your objection is; it better be pretty darned important if you are going to block funding that would prevent this from happening to my baby or to ba-

bies in my family or in my neighborhood.

Health experts across our country need resources to study the virus, to contain the virus, to keep it from spreading, and, hopefully, eventually to develop a vaccine. For our Democratic colleagues to block this legislation again months after saying it was so urgent amounts to tying the hands of our doctors, our local public health officials, and researchers from city to city. Clearly, the responsibility rests with them.

When we see locally transmitted cases of the Zika virus in the United States caused by mosquitoes carrying that virus, the responsibility will be with them for refusing to act in light of the clarion call by public health officials that this is a real public health emergency.

To take this bill hostage is not only hypocritical; it is profoundly irresponsible. I don't know how some of our colleagues can sleep at night knowing that they are putting these babies and their families at risk. There is simply no excuse for blocking this critical funding. As I said, there is a test that was taken today, and our Democratic colleagues once again failed the test.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK IN DALLAS

Mr. President, on a separate and equally somber note, today Senator CRUZ and I submitted a simple resolution that would condemn the horrific attack in Dallas of last week that took the lives of five police officers and wounded several more. It is a small way but an important way that we can honor those whom we have lost, express sympathy to their families, and take a stand against violence and hatred targeting police officers. I hope this Chamber adopts this resolution without delay.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TIANA GARRETT AND INGRID HOPE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, for more than a year now, I have come again and again to the Senate floor to highlight some of the remarkable work that is being done by the men and women who work at the Department of Homeland Security for our country. The Department of Homeland Security—created in the wake of the attack on 9/11—today has over 200,000 employees. It was created by combining some 22 Federal agencies, including the Coast Guard, FEMA, and others.

The Department's employees are stationed all over this country. In fact, you can find them all over the world. From keeping drugs from crossing our borders to screening passengers at airports, to safeguarding critical cyber security networks, the men and women at the Department of Homeland Security take on some of the most diverse and challenging jobs of any Federal employee.

Last month I spoke on this floor to highlight the work being done by a

small group of folks who work at the Department of Homeland Security and an agency called the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. With just 125 employees, this office tracks and detects radiological and nuclear materials. They protect Americans from some of the most dangerous materials that are known to humankind.

Another office within the Department of Homeland Security, charged with tracking dangerous yet nearly invisible threats, is the Office of Health Affairs. The Office of Health Affairs leads the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to track and to coordinate the response to potential biological threats from infectious diseases.

In 2014, with the outbreak of Ebola in Africa, the Office of Health Affairs was charged with tracking this deadly virus and studying the potential threat it posed to Americans here at home. This office has had to disseminate that threat information to other Federal agencies and to State and local health officials, as well, as part of our efforts to coordinate and be ready if this disease does make it to our shores.

The Office of Health Affairs also worked with Customs and Border Protection to establish a screening protocol for passengers arriving here from Ebola-impacted countries. The Office of Health Affairs continues to monitor and to keep us prepared for any remaining threats we might face from Ebola. This summer, as we heard, we have yet another challenge on their plates. As we discussed in this Chamber as recently as a few minutes ago, over the past couple of months, the Zika virus has spread explosively throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean. Here at home, we have confirmed more than 1,100 travel-related cases, including more than 320 affected women.

Given the potentially devastating effects that Zika can have, Americans are understandably concerned about how best to protect themselves, their families, or their future families from this previously little-known virus. That is why we are lucky to have the hard-working men and women at the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security. As we speak, the Office of Health Affairs, through its National Biosurveillance Integration Center, is coordinating closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control to track the spread of the disease of the Zika virus.

They are also communicating prevention and detection information to help officials across our country and our partners overseas. Already, the office has produced several Zika-related safety advisories on everything from Zika transmission and prevention to mosquito abatement, to Zika screening procedures. As we reach the height of mosquito season here in the United States, the Office of Health Affairs is actively coordinating response activities with agencies across the Federal

Government and with State and local partners.

Two exceptional employees within the Department and the Office of Health Affairs who are helping to coordinate the Department's Zika preparedness and response activities are LCDR Tiana Garrett and Ingrid Hope. Here she is to my left, LCDR Tiana Garrett.

I am an old Navy guy. People look at this, and in the Navy or in the Coast Guard, this indicates that you are a lieutenant commander, and this indicates what her rank is. She is a lieutenant commander. We call lieutenant commanders in the Navy "commanders," just to give them a compliment. So if I call her Commander Garrett, then I am not messing up. It is the way we do things in the Navy and the way we do things here.

Commander Garrett is an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service—not in the Navy, not in the Coast Guard. She serves in a vitally important agency called the U.S. Public Health Service. As a biosurveillance operations analyst, Commander Garrett is responsible for tracking and providing updates to Federal, State, and local partners on the spread of the Zika virus and other disease outbreaks. Through her work at the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, Commander Garrett provides regular updates to thousands of government officials, representing the Office of Health Affairs in inter-agency calls and presentations and ensuring that others know that the Department of Homeland Security and its Office of Health Affairs is there to help.

Commander Garrett also uses her master's degree in epidemiology and her Ph.D. in cell biology to help develop health advisories to inform the Department of Homeland Security's workforce about Zika virus exposure and how to prevent it. Commander Garrett's colleagues describe her as a true public servant who has dedicated her career and much of her life to ensuring the health and well-being of others.

Another Office of Health Affairs employee within the Department of Homeland Security who is focusing on the Zika virus is this lady right here, and her name is Ingrid Hope. Ingrid is the Acting Deputy Division Director for the Workforce Health and Medical Support Division. Miss Hope is charged with making sure that the Department of Homeland Security's policies protect its own employees from the threats posed by the Zika virus and other infectious diseases. Given the potential for frontline DHS employees to come into contact with this virus and other viruses, it is vitally important that they have the guidance they need to reduce their own risk of exposure.

Just like families in Delaware and around the country, Department of Homeland Security employees have been hearing about the Zika virus on the news. We have heard about it here on the floor today. While you and I can

make changes to our schedule or change our travel plans to limit our exposure, the Department of Homeland Security employees at our ports of entry and along our boarders cannot do that. Their jobs put them in harm's way to protect us against any number of threats to our homeland. The Zika virus is no different.

Miss Hope does invaluable work by informing the Department of Homeland Security employees on how to limit their exposure while on the job. She also makes sure that the workforce knows how to detect the virus and how to keep themselves and their families as safe as possible. Without her important work, our officers on the frontlines will be far less prepared to deal with the potential public health crisis.

As we continue to debate supplemental funding to combat the Zika virus, we cannot forget the hard work needed to turn this funding into results. It is my hope that Congress can reach a bipartisan agreement to provide the Zika funding that is needed. Once that funding is approved, we must all keep in mind that the Zika virus will not simply disappear. Countless man-hours and woman-hours are put into collecting information, analyzing this relatively unknown virus, developing tests, treatments, vaccines, and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

So we say thank you. We say thank you to the men and today especially to the women at the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to think about how much work is done each day—every day—in an effort to make it safer for the rest of us on this planet and also to enable us to stay several steps ahead of this virus and eventually to overcome it.

We cannot let our differences here hinder the work of our dedicated public servants. So to Miss Hope, to Lieutenant Commander Garrett, and to all the men and women at the Office of Health Affairs and the Department of Homeland Security, we say thank you today and every day. Thank you for your selfless and tireless efforts to keep Americans safe and secure from the many threats we face. While you continue to track and keep us informed about these threats and viruses and other organisms that would otherwise go unnoticed, know that your efforts behind-the-scenes have not gone unnoticed. We have noticed. They know they have not gone unappreciated. We appreciate them. I am not the only Senator who appreciates your hard work. I know I speak for all of my colleagues as well.

Thank you and God bless you.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. President, I wish to take a moment before I say a word about the battle against ISIS in other parts of the world. I want to talk about Zika funding for a moment. The administration has asked for \$1.9 billion to combat this disease. I think there has been a

disagreement as to whether it should be that amount, \$1.9 billion or something less.

We held a roundtable several weeks ago on the Zika virus, and we had folks with medical backgrounds and other backgrounds to talk about some of the smartest things we can do to reduce the threat and spread of the Zika virus in this country. I believe there was unanimous agreement that one of the best things we can do is improve access to contraception.

They told us about the cost of providing care for an infant who is born with this dreaded disease. We have heard a lot stories about babies being born with distorted heads and damaged brains. One witness told us the cost of raising that child from birth to the end of their life can be as high as \$10 million per child. If we, through our efforts, can reduce a total of 190 births, the likelihood that some child will be born with this terrible deformity and condition—190 times \$10 million is \$1.9 billion. I think we can avoid even more pregnancies if we find a way to narrow and eliminate our differences and provide the funding that has been requested by the President.

Again, what I think Democrats object to, in terms of paying for the funding for the Zika virus, is this pay-for actually reduces funding for family planning and reduces funding for contraception. What we heard at our roundtable a week or two ago was that is where we should be putting our emphasis and our dollars. I wanted to leave that thought, if I may.

ISIS

Mr. President, I came to the floor a week or two ago, and I brought this map with me. This map is familiar to some and not familiar to others. This is Iraq down here. Iran is over here to the east, and to the west of Iraq, we find Syria. This is Damascus, and Turkey is up here. This is a place I have been to a number of times, and I suspect the Presiding Officer has been here as well. This is the capital of Iraq, which is Baghdad.

What the ISIS folks started about 2 years ago was a very effective drive from this part of the world and heading for Baghdad. They almost reached Baghdad. They were within 20 miles or so of Baghdad. Anbar Province, which is represented here, has three cities, or three towns, that we consider the Sunni Triangle—Fallujah, Ramadi, and a place up here called Tikrit. If you actually connect the lines between those cities, it is called the Sunni Triangle. There are a lot of Sunnis who live in that area.

The area almost due north of Baghdad is one of the largest cities in Iraq called Mosul, and today it is held by ISIS forces. This salmon-colored area here represents areas that are still held by ISIS forces. The area in green, generally to the northeast and southeast, are the areas that have been liberated from ISIS.

When this started 2 years ago, the amount of land controlled by ISIS used

to be the salmon and green colors combined. The amount of land they now control has been reduced by half. In addition to that, the number of people from around the world signing up to fight on behalf of ISIS 2 years ago was 2,000 per month. Last month, there were 200. Two years ago, when ISIS was on a roll and going through Syria and Iraq, they had 10 fighters per month from the United States sign up to fight with ISIS. Last month, there was one.

During the battle for this part of the country against the ISIS forces that were trying to establish their caliphate—their own country—we not only reduced the land mass they held in Iraq by half, we significantly reduced the land they controlled in Syria. We have seen this coalition that we have been a part of actually begin to gel into an effective fighting force.

I spent 5 years of my life as a naval flight officer in the Vietnam war in Southeast Asia, and 18 years after that, as a P-3 aircraft mission commander flying a lot of missions out of the naval air station in an area that is just north of Philadelphia called Willow Grove. I flew on missions all over the world tracking Soviet nuclear submarines. I have some experience with being involved in missions where we had naval aviation assets, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, working and communicating with naval ships, naval submarines, and not just in the United States but with our NATO allies. I will tell you, it is hard to do. We have different procedures and sometimes different languages, and it is difficult to coordinate our operations and our exercises. I think when you put together a coalition with 60 different nations and try to figure out how to work and coordinate what everybody is doing—some are providing air power, which is what we do. We have two carrier groups in this part of the world. One is over here in the Mediterranean Sea and the other is down here in the Persian Gulf. We are launching F-18s and F-16s off of those carriers, and we are still using B-52s, which are literally older than the P-3s I used to fly on in the Navy all those years ago. They are operating out of a variety of bases, including Qatar and other places, to do high-precision bombing against the ISIS forces. We are using drones and A-10 warthogs. We have a lot of air and naval assets, as well as others in the Air Force, and we have helicopters as well.

It is not just us. While we are doing work in the air and providing ground support from the air, we are also providing a lot of help with intelligence, and our allies in this part of the world are helping us with that.

We also have boots on the ground. A lot of the boots on the ground in this part of world for this fight are from Iraq, and there are boots on the ground who frankly fled from ISIS 2 years ago and are now taking the fight to ISIS today.

When Ramadi was retaken, the Iraqi troops led the way. When Fallujah was

taken a couple of weeks ago, the Iraqi troops led the way. When Tikrit was taken several months ago, the Iraqi troops led the way. They were supported by us and other elements of the coalition, but they led the way.

This is Mosul, which is a big city, and right below it is a smaller city called Qayyarah. I think a bunch of our military folks call it Key West. Qayyarah has been taken by the Iraqi forces. It is in the salmon-colored area, but is now in the hands of the Iraqi troops and government. There is a large airbase in Qayyarah. It is about 40 miles from Mosul, and this large airbase will be used to help stage the effort coming up this summer and fall to retake Mosul.

While this is going on in this part of the country, this part of the country al-Raqqa, which is really the spiritual capital, if you will, of the ISIS caliphate. Over here we have a combination of U.S. alliance forces coming in from the northeast and approaching al-Raqqa, and we have Syrian troops, supported by Russian air, going this way, and that is the movement that is underway today.

When people ask how things are going with this fight, I think most people really don't know about the progress being made. A lot of people may think it is like it was 2 years ago, but it is not. A great deal has been accomplished, and during that period of time, not only have we recaptured a lot of land, a lot of folks around the world, including from this country, who wanted to sign up for ISIS, those numbers have dropped dramatically.

In the last 2 years, we also know the FBI has arrested close to 100 individuals here on ISIS-related charges. In cyber space, over 125,000 pro-ISIS Twitter handles have been taken offline, and today for every pro-ISIS Twitter handle, there are 6 anti-ISIS handles that are tweeting to criticize ISIS's actions and challenge its twisted ideology, which has nothing to do with the Muslim faith.

I think even ISIS may now suspect it is losing. Two days ago, a Washington Post story had the headline: "ISIS quietly preparing for the loss of the 'caliphate.'" This area right here. "ISIS quietly preparing for the loss of the 'caliphate.'" The article detailed how ISIS is trying to compensate for losing this battle and territory that was so important 2 years ago. They are trying to compensate for that in ways that undermine their claims of legitimacy and relevance.

As ISIS suffers these defeats, it is important to show them, and us, that despite the horrific terrorist attacks in Orlando, Brussels, Istanbul, and other places, ISIS is losing this war. When ISIS loses on the battlefield, it can no longer credibly use its winner's message that they are a winning team to attract recruits or inspire attacks.

I will close with this. I am a baseball fan. I was in Cleveland less than a month ago for the funeral of one of our

former colleagues, former Gov. George Voinovich. Former Senator and Governor, George Voinovich passed away. He was a wonderful human being.

I went to the funeral. It was literally at the time of the NBA finals, and everywhere I went in Cleveland, I saw people wearing Cleveland Cavalier hats and shirts or paraphernalia to make it clear they were supporting the team.

The Cleveland Indians have a pretty good baseball team. The all-star game was this week, and a number of the Indians played in the game. If you go to Ohio these days, you will see a lot of people wearing Cleveland Indian hats, shirts, and so forth. When a team is winning, it is kind of natural for people to want to be a part of a winning team.

When 2,000 people a month were coming from all over the world to fight with ISIS, ISIS was perceived as a winning team. Two years ago, when 10 Americans per month were going to this part of the world to fight with ISIS, they were depicted and seen as a winning team. They are not a winning team. They are becoming a losing team. To the extent we can continue to make sure they are seen as a losing team and can successfully convey that, at least in this country, I think we reduce the likelihood of people in this country being radicalized, particularly young people, and convinced to do horrific things against Americans in this Nation.

I will close by quoting a fellow named Peter Bergen, who is one of the most knowledgeable people on terrorism and threats we face with these kinds of attacks. I was reminded of his testimony from last month in the Senate. He said that since 9/11, every American who has died in a terrorist attack in this country has died at the hands of an American citizen or someone who is here legally. I will say that again. Peter Bergen reminded us that since 9/11, everybody in this country who has died at the hands of a terrorist attack has been killed by an American citizen or by someone who is here legally in this country. People in this country will be far less inclined to do those kinds of horrific things if we can successfully convey what is going on on this battlefield on the other side of the world. That is why I come to this floor every week or two to remind us of that truth.

With that, I yield the floor to my friend Senator SCOTT, who is yearning to speak, and I wish him well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

OUR AMERICAN FAMILY

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I rise today for the final time this week. This has been a very emotional time for all of us and I believe a pivotal time for our Nation. For me personally, I believe our brightest days are still ahead of us, and I will tell you why.

I am a kid who grew up in a single-parent household, mired in poverty, disillusioned at times, who nearly flunked out of high school, whose life

was changed by a strong, powerful African-American mama and an optimistic, visionary Chick-fil-A operator named John Moniz, who happened to be White.

I think it is incredibly important that while our problems appear in black and white, our solutions are black and white.

My life is a testament to God's love—a mother's love and the love of my mentor. I don't deny that our Nation must have tough, painful conversations—family conversations—but I have experienced what is possible when the family talks, and it is really a cool thing. My life story is a story of second chances—a love story of sorts. It is a dark hour in race relations for America, but I bring you hope—real hope.

In the Deep South, with a provocative racial history, the voters of the First Congressional District of South Carolina—a heavily White district that is the home of the birthplace of the Civil War—elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton. I want to say that one more time. In the heart of the South, the home of the Civil War, a majority White district—these voters elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton over the children of the former U.S. Senator and Presidential candidate Strom Thurmond, and a very popular Governor, Governor Carol Campbell.

I am hopeful because I have experienced the power of a State that has been transformed, the great State of South Carolina. So to my American family, please remain optimistic.

On Monday, I discussed the importance of supporting our law enforcement community. I followed on yesterday by asking all of us to also realize that although the vast majority of our law enforcement officers only seek to protect and to serve, there is still work to be done. There is a lack of trust between the Black community and law enforcement—one that we as an American family must come together and solve. I believe an old saying is a vital part of finding solutions: The only way to know where you are going is to know where you have been.

As I mentioned earlier, part of the rich and sometimes provocative history of America is to point in one of two directions. One is to realize that over the past 240 years we have had our challenges. Our Nation has nearly been pulled apart. But out of the crisis of our past has come the hope for our future. In a relatively short amount of time, we have made, in my estimation, remarkable progress as a nation. And while I will talk about a few of the policies I believe will help us move forward, as well as some things that are more about simply getting us to interact together—to sit down and break bread—the one thing our collective history has taught us is that we must not lose hope.

Yes, there is unresolved pain, suffering, and misery, but this is the greatest Nation on Earth, and we are the greatest Nation on Earth for a rea-

son. Flawed men at our foundation opted to sacrifice themselves on behalf of other flawed men, and together we have done something unique in the history of our planet; that is, simply to create a country that is based on the premise that all men are created equal and that our path forward will be blazed together.

As the Book of Joshua says, we have to recognize our memorial stones so that we have a chance to move forward.

So there is obviously no single solution here. I hope to share a few today, some of which I have talked about before, some of which have broad support in Congress, and some that have nothing to do with the Federal Government. Believe it or not, the government is not the answer to what ails us. The Federal Government can help in places, but the good news is that 300 million Americans, we as a nation, as a family, we are the solution.

The first section of solutions sits in the realm of law enforcement and the Justice Department. Over the past few years, I have talked to a wide variety of officials from across the law enforcement arena, as well as groups like the Urban League and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and many other groups. One solution that seems to be acceptable and almost exciting to so many folks is the notion of body cameras. So I have introduced my Safer Officers and Safer Citizens Act, which provides more resources for police departments to obtain body cameras, as well as to help pay for some of the startup costs for storage units and other requirements.

While we know body cameras cannot be the panacea, we also know this: If an officer is wearing one, we have a much better chance of understanding the situation from all sides. This is why so many law enforcement officers and agencies support using them. It is why we are seeing cities from Los Angeles to New York outfitting their officers with more and more body cameras.

I have also introduced the Walter Scott Notification Act, along with my good friend Senator GRASSLEY. Our system for tracking police shootings is not working for our Nation. It is a patchwork system not built for the 21st century. So, long story short, this bill changes that. Hopefully it fixes the problems. We must know where we are to know where we must go.

I am also glad to see my colleagues in the House, including my very good friend Congressman TREY GOWDY, starting a bipartisan working group to take a hard look at the relationship between the Black community and the law enforcement community. I am very hopeful that a similar group will start in the Senate.

My final point on the Federal level is that I have had the pleasure of working with a group of colleagues—with JOHN CORNYN and many others—working on this notion of criminal justice reform. I am very hopeful that work will con-

tinue to move forward and produce real fruit.

Much of this work that needs to be done won't be done on the Federal level if it is done by the government; it will be done by the local government and the State government.

I have talked to so many in the law enforcement community who talk about the need for more training—specifically, deescalation training, diversity training—and more efforts to get police officers out of their cars and into communities so that they form positive, healthy relationships so that when they are walking down the street, the folks know them. I spoke earlier with Senator LANKFORD, who talked about this notion of getting officers embedded in communities so that the officers know the very people they are talking to. This seems like common sense, and it seems like the right direction. It is a two-way street.

I think the Dallas police chief said it very well. He made the point better than I ever could. He said: If you have issues with policing in your neighborhood, well, we are hiring. That is very important. The Dallas Police Department, along with police departments all across this country, are hiring. He said: We will train you up, and we will put you back into your community.

These are the sorts of real-world solutions and actions that build trust in communities.

The second set of issues we have to tackle—and this is no surprise to anyone who has heard me over the last couple of years—focuses on one specific word. The word is “opportunity.” Too many communities in our Nation feel like they have been left behind, like no one cares, so why should they care? As someone, as I said earlier, who grew up in a single-parent household, I can tell you how strong that sensation to quit becomes, how quickly it grows. When you feel the way I felt in the past, frustration rises and you start seeing the world differently. You don't trust people who aren't from your neighborhood. That is a dangerous recipe.

How do we tackle this problem? The answer, from my estimation, is kind of simple: education, jobs, and investment—the cornerstones of my opportunity agenda.

On the jobs front, I have worked across the aisle with Senators like CORY BOOKER to introduce the LEAP Act, which allows for a very successful South Carolina apprenticeship program to become a national model so that kids can earn and learn at the exact same time. We know not everyone wants to or can afford to go to college, but that doesn't mean they should not be able to find opportunities to provide for their families. By incentivizing apprenticeship programs, we can help folks see their potential, experience their potential, and live fulfilling and profitable lives.

I have also introduced the Investing in Opportunity Act, which seeks to create a path for private sector dollars—

not government dollars but private sector dollars—to be invested in distressed communities. We have 50 million Americans living in distressed communities and over \$2 trillion of unrealized capital gains just sitting there. We should invest those dollars in those communities.

Finally, education. My good friend TREY GOWDY said that education is the closest thing to magic in America. I think he is right. You can look at our incarceration rates, our unemployment rates, our high school dropout rates, our lifetime average incomes, and they all point to one specific area: educational achievement. Trust me, I am the guy who just told you I almost failed out of high school. I know this firsthand. For me, the answer is very clear: Give parents a chance to find the best school for their children, and they will—period.

Finally, solutions on a personal level. Again I turn to Dallas. As I was watching one of the surgeons at Parkland Hospital, he was talking about his feelings toward law enforcement. He was saying that he was struggling the night after the shooting. He had worked all night trying to save the lives of these officers, and he was tossing and turning, torn up on the inside that he could not save their lives. I can't imagine how he felt. I can't—Dr. BARRASSO, a surgeon—I can't imagine how he felt, trying to save the lives of men and women who were willing to give their lives for others. I can't imagine it. He is an African-American man. As he woke up and prepared for the next day, he struggled. He struggled with his personal relationship and his personal concerns with law enforcement.

What is he doing? I think this is instructive for all of us. He said he is making sure his daughter sees him buying lunch for officers and sees them interacting in a friendly way because he doesn't want to pass on to his daughter any sense of fear of law enforcement, but respect, appreciation, and affection for the men and women who wear the uniform.

I have seen it in my hometown of North Charleston, SC. It is an amazing experience. On Christmas morning, dozens of officers with dozens of volunteers show up at city hall, and at 6 o'clock in the morning, these guys and gals go door-to-door in the poorest neighborhoods in North Charleston. I have been there with them once or twice. They knock at the door, and they look into the eyes of a little girl or a little boy who is expecting nothing for Christmas, and they hand that child a toy.

There are simple ways to bridge the divide between the African-American community and other poor communities and law enforcement. There are powerful ways, simple ways, to make a difference. As I have said a couple of times, the government cannot make us get along. We have seen it tried before. It simply cannot force you and me to take the leap of faith to try to trust again.

The notion of America is really built on the foundation of faith—faith in each other, faith in a higher calling. If we are to mend the relationships in our family, we will have to do so by looking into each other's eyes, walking in each other's shoes, and listening—not waiting to talk, but listening—listening, not only with your head, but listening with your heart so that you hear and feel the pain and the challenges of others.

This is a simple commandment from God's Word, Matthew 22:39, to love your neighbor as yourself. This is not simply a commandment, however. This requires action. You have to do something.

TREY GOWDY, a Congressman from South Carolina, and I are going to bring pastors and law enforcement officials together in South Carolina so that we can have an honest, sometimes painful conversation about how to move forward together.

In Charleston County I had a chance to speak with Sheriff Al Cannon, a longtime sheriff of Charleston. He simply said that both sides have to come together because this is not a one-sided issue.

Senator LANKFORD and I are discussing a new idea called Solution Sunday, a wonderful idea that Senator LANKFORD shared with me earlier this week, and we will talk about that more in the coming weeks, but the premise of the idea is you have to do more than just go to church together. We as a nation aren't even doing that very well. But we have to eat together and do projects together. So we will hear more about the exciting idea of Solution Sunday in the upcoming weeks.

I will continue to reach out to my colleagues and my friends who may not look like me, who may have a different philosophy than I do, so I can understand their hopes, their dreams, and their frustrations because listening is so important. As we look around our Nation, it appears to me that we haven't done nearly enough listening to each other.

In closing, I hope we all remember that we have survived turbulent times before: the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, 1968, and in South Carolina, 2015. I still marvel at how our State responded to the shootings at Mother Emanuel—the power of forgiveness, the power of love conquering hate.

Earlier this year, I lost my grandfather. I haven't really talked about it publicly. He was 94 years old and meant so much to me. This was a man born in Salley, SC, in 1921. I can only imagine what he had seen in South Carolina. I can only imagine the life, the challenges, the struggles of an African-American male in the Deep South in 1921, 1931, and the 1940s. He didn't finish elementary school. He had to pick cotton. He never learned to read. He eventually got a job at the Port of Charleston—a job that, while it didn't give us much in the way of tangible re-

sources, provided an immeasurable lifeline for our family.

This is a story that has been repeated generation after generation in this country. I have heard the story from a very different frame from my good friend MARCO RUBIO. It is a story of success. It is a story of significance. It is a story of America.

My grandfather's grandson, yours truly, is a U.S. Senator. My brother, another grandson, rose to the rank of command sergeant major in the U.S. Army. My nephew, his great grandson, has graduated from Georgia Tech, Duke University, and now is on his way to Emory for medical school. That is the beauty of America—from cotton to Congress in one lifetime.

We are a beautiful Nation. We are an amazing family. Families fight sometimes. That is OK. We must remember that we are one single family. We can all get to where we are going, we must get to where we are going, and we will get there together.

I want one more time to slow down, pause, and remember the sacrifices made by five Dallas police officers, the tragedies in Baton Rouge and Minnesota.

We have been through so much, but a bright future is still there for our taking. Let's make sure we grab it together.

Let me just say thank you to my staff, who worked very hard all week long to make sure we were prepared for these presentations, and I want to specifically thank my communications director Sean Smith, who helped put most of these words together, helped us work through the emotions, the challenges, and how to frame the conversation that we believe America must have. As my communications director, who happens to be a White guy, and my chief of staff who happens to be an African-American female—as we worked together, it reminded me that in the midst of our struggles, our challenges, and our difficulties, I depend on a rainbow coalition, a patchwork quilt, to present my thoughts, my heart to America.

We are America. We are Americans. God has blessed the United States of America.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I haven't watched the last three speeches in detail of my esteemed colleague from South Carolina, but I have watched good parts of them. I am tremendously impressed by his personal experiences, his empathy for what is going on in America today, and his positive attitude, which I admire very much.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT ATTACK IN DALLAS AND RECOGNIZING THE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS

Today, before we adjourn, the Senate will unanimously adopt a resolution condemning last week's violent attack in Dallas. This attack was on the police officers in the Dallas community, and other law enforcement agencies

were also targeted. The people killed were Dallas police officers.

We were all devastated by this murderous rampage that claimed the lives of five officers and wounded nine other police officers. Every Member of the Senate stands with the Dallas Police Department, and we have been so impressed with the chief of police. We stand with the Dallas Police Department, the victims, their families, and the brave men and women who serve the people of Dallas.

I support this resolution because the least we can do in the Senate is honor these heroes. I support this resolution because the least we can do in the Senate is to recognize the sacrifices made, much of it on national television.

I think it is important that we also acknowledge the peaceful protesters who were marching that day for justice and an end to violence. They were calling for—and doing it in a peaceful manner—the end to the brutality and hostility that has taken the lives of Americans of all backgrounds but disproportionately people of color.

In the days leading up to the rally in Dallas, as we heard from my friend from South Carolina, two men were killed: Alton Sterling of Baton Rouge, LA, and Philando Castile of St. Paul, MN.

The young man in Louisiana was held down by two police officers and then killed. Just the next day, a man was killed in his car with his fiancée and her 4-year-old daughter there, listening and watching. Our friends in the African-American community demand recognition that their lives are valued and respected, as everyone's life should be. It should be done equally.

It was my suggestion that we add just a word or two to the resolution to at least recognize the purpose of the peaceful demonstrators in this resolution. There was a decision made that that not be a part of the resolution, and I accept that, but I wanted to make sure we recognize these peaceful protesters and why they were there.

There are many victims here, be they law enforcement officers, innocent people, innocent people of color. They all deserve to be acknowledged. As has been said by a number of people here over the last few days, you can't sweep these problems that we have under the rug.

I thought it was tremendous that the Senator from South Carolina talked about three things we should all agree on: body cameras, data collection—which is a code word for profiling—and of course something with the criminal justice system that we are so close to having on this floor that we could vote on. It is bipartisan. It should be done. So I appreciate very much the Senator from South Carolina mentioning these three things, and I think they are certainly worth mentioning again.

We can support the police officers of America, the men and women, and mourn those who have fallen and honor their bravery while also acknowledging

that we must do better in preventing the senseless killings of people of color.

I echo President Obama's words from the memorial service in Dallas. He must be recognized for these great words when he said: "Find the character, as Americans, to open our hearts to each other."

We need to do that. If we do, we can find empathy for each other, the empathy to understand the challenges law enforcement faces every day, and the empathy to understand the frustration and anger within the communities of color across our Nation.

I look forward to the resolution being adopted. It is something the Senate should be proud of.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MEGABYTE ACT OF 2016

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 4904, the Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016, and that is an acronym for the MEGABYTE Act.

H.R. 4904 is the House companion to a piece of legislation Senator GARY PETERS and I introduced, S. 2340. I would like to thank Senator PETERS for being the lead cosponsor of the Senate version of the MEGABYTE Act and thank Senator THAD COCHRAN for cosponsoring it. S. 2340 passed the Senate by voice vote last week.

My friends in the House of Representatives—Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT, Representative WILL HURD, Representative STEVE RUSSELL, and Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS—are the lead sponsors of H.R. 4904. It passed the House on June 7, 2016, by a vote of 366 to 0.

The MEGABYTE Act reforms the Federal Government's management of information technology software licensing. The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, or the GAO, found that implementing oversight and management policies of Federal software licenses saved a single agency 181 million taxpayer dollars per year.

If implemented, the MEGABYTE Act could yield billions in savings across the Federal Government. Now, the Federal Government spends \$82 billion a year on information technology. In 2015, for example, for the second year in a row, GAO listed IT software license management as a top priority for its annual duplication report. The GAO stated that the executive branch "does not have adequate policies for managing software licenses." Of the 24 major Federal agencies, only 2 have implemented comprehensive and clear management policies of Federal software licenses. Furthermore, none of the 24 major Federal agencies have fully implemented all 5 industry-best practices recommended by the GAO.

The MEGABYTE Act saves taxpayer dollars and cuts government waste through the following actions:

The Office of Management and Budget Director shall issue a directive requiring that the chief information officer of each executive agency is to identify clear roles, responsibilities, and central oversight authority within the agency for managing enterprise software license agreements and commercial software licenses.

Agencies will also establish a comprehensive inventory, including 80 percent of software licensing spending and enterprise licenses in the agency.

They shall regularly track and maintain software licenses to assist the executive agency in implementing decisions throughout the software license management lifecycle.

They shall analyze software usage and other data to make cost-effective decisions. I notice that every now and then, someone has a database software package and they never use the database. We the taxpayer can save that money.

They should provide training relevant to software license management and establish goals and objectives of the software license management program of the agency.

Lastly, I will mention that they should consider the software license management lifecycle phases—including the requisition, reception, deployment, maintenance, retirement, and disposal phases—to implement effective decisionmaking and incorporate existing standards, processes, and metrics.

Congress has the responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively.

For all the reasons stated above, I offer my strong support for the MEGABYTE Act and urge the Senate to pass H.R. 4904, sending it to the President's desk.

With that said, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4904 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4904) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 4904) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.