

(2) CONSULTATION.—In the examination required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult public and private stakeholders with expertise in using technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models in health care settings.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and post on the appropriate website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a report based on the examination under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include findings from the examination under subsection (a) and each of the following:

(A) An analysis of—

(i) the use and integration of technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models by health care providers;

(ii) the impact of such models on health care provider retention, including in health professional shortage areas in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iii) the impact of such models on the quality of, and access to, care for patients in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iv) the barriers faced by health care providers, States, and communities in adopting such models;

(v) the impact of such models on the ability of local health care providers and specialists to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and licensure, including the effects on patient wait times for specialty care; and

(vi) efficient and effective practices used by States and communities that have adopted such models, including potential cost-effectiveness of such models.

(B) A list of such models that have been funded by the Secretary in the 5 years immediately preceding such report, including the Federal programs that have provided funding for such models.

(C) Recommendations to reduce barriers for using and integrating such models, and opportunities to improve adoption of, and support for, such models as appropriate.

(D) Opportunities for increased adoption of such models into programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are in existence as of the report.

(E) Recommendations regarding the role of such models in continuing medical education and lifelong learning, including the role of academic medical centers, provider organizations, and community providers in such education and lifelong learning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 5110 is agreed to.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, Montanans have always been on the cutting edge of frontier medicine, using ingenuity to overcome the challenges in frontier and rural America to make sure we have access to high-quality health care. In fact, going back to the time my great-great-grandmother homesteaded near Conrad, MT, our health care providers have worked and continue to work to increase access despite geography, weather, limited resources, and government regulation.

Rural Montanans are often hours away from a hospital and even farther away from any kind of trauma center.

Our local providers are the first-line responders. They tackle everything from the common cold to emergency situations. It is their actions that can make the difference between life and death. Rural providers give Montanans access to preventive and behavioral health services. They help ward off chronic illness with early detection and provide care and support through cancer and other debilitating diseases. They deserve our respect and the resources that will help them better serve Montanans. That is why I am honored to join my colleagues in supporting the ECHO Act and making sure it is passed and signed into law. I am thankful for the leadership of the senior Senator from Utah, Senator HATCH, who has been out front leading in this effort.

Geographic location should not dictate the quality of care. This bill will promote opportunities to improve access to high-quality care in rural communities, such as access to specialists and support and training for rural health care providers. In fact, this year the Billings Clinic launched the Montana-based Project ECHO hub in an effort to address a lack of access to mental health and substance abuse resources. The hub connects rural providers with a team of specialists to collaborate, share case studies, and offer support. The hub is built to be flexible, allowing teleclinics on any topic or any disease. It also allows Montana's providers to collaborate with specialists at academic centers, such as the University of Washington and the University of New Mexico. Because of the success of this first hub, the Billings Clinic will launch two more teleclinics next year to help primary care sites across Montana integrate behavioral health services in their practices.

The ECHO Act will promote these programs throughout the country and increase access for all Americans. I am thankful to see strong bipartisan support on the passage of this bill as we work together to improve rural health care.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Leg.]

Yeas—97

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Boxer	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Capito	Johnson	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Scott
Carper	King	Sessions
Casey	Kirk	Shaheen
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coats	Lankford	Stabenow
Cochran	Leahy	Sullivan
Collins	Lee	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	
Fischer	Murray	

NOT VOTING—3

Corker Gardner Sanders

The bill (S. 2873), as amended, was passed.

# MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

# NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to spend a few moments talking about National Adoption Month.

I thank the Senator from Maryland and my colleagues for letting me talk for a few minutes about an issue that I think every single Member of the Senate cares about. The month of November is National Adoption Month. It

gives us the opportunity to recognize the recent celebration of National Adoption Day, which was November 19.

As cochair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, I have had the opportunity to work with so many of our Members and understand the broad bipartisan support for what we need to do to be looking at and more dedicated to adoption and to child welfare issues.

Last year, Senator KLOBUCHAR and I came to this new role as the Senate's cochairmen of this caucus. I am pleased to be working with her on a resolution that would support National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day again this year.

We also have the good fortune to work with Members of the House. The idea that every child deserves to grow up in a loving, safe family is something I think we can all agree on.

We have a lot of agreement, while we have been working with Members of the Congress, on adoption issues over the last year. Just last week, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Congressman TRENT FRANKS, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, and others, along with me, finalized a comment letter to the U.S. Department of State expressing concern over new international adoption regulations.

We have specifically highlighted the negative impact some of the Department's proposed changes could have on the adoption process.

Lately, the adoption process seems to have become more complicated internationally, and we need to make it less complicated.

We worked—many Members, including the Members I just mentioned—very hard on behalf of families who have currently been trying to resolve pending adoption cases from a number of countries, most recently finalizing adoptions out of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Uganda, Guatemala, and other countries as well.

In June Senator KLOBUCHAR and I introduced the Vulnerable Children and Families Act, which would help more children living without families or in institutional care to find permanent homes by enhancing our U.S. diplomatic efforts rather than making those efforts more difficult. We need to enhance what we do as a country. We need to enhance what we do through the State Department to where we are more focused on international child welfare, ensuring that intercountry adoption to the United States becomes a more viable and more fully developed option.

I am also continuing to support legislation to ensure that American families have the resources and support they need so that adoption domestically works. Specifically, there is the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act and the Supporting Adoptive Families Act.

Before I conclude, I want to make a few comments to highlight three stories of foster children in Missouri who

are currently waiting to get the family they would hope to have forever. According to the Missouri Heart Gallery, more than 1,200 Missouri children are in need of permanent homes. One of those children is Jason, age 15, who is an expressive young guy and, in his own words, "likes to play soccer when it is not too hot." He also likes art and music. He feels like he is creative. He is looking for a supportive family to call his own, one who will also help him stay in contact with his brothers and sisters.

Michelle, who is 9 years old, loves to dance and hopes to have her own pets in the future. However, she will tell you she would really rather have a dog than a cat. But what she would really like to find is a family—a family where she could have sisters, a family who would allow her to stay in touch with her biological sister as well.

Lastly, Terrance, age 13, and Terion, age 10, are brothers with a special bond. When you first meet Terrance, he appears shy, but after getting to know him, he really has an incredible sense of humor. He enjoys listening to music, sports, and playing outside. Terion has a smile that just goes on and on. He is very active. He has been on a Little League Baseball team, and he loves to bowl. The brothers are strongly committed to each other. They have a strong bond to each other, beyond just the normal bond of brothers. They want to find a home where they can stay forever and stay together.

Last year, I shared the stories of these two siblings on the Senate Floor. They are still looking for a family to call their own. Like so many children across the United States, Jason, Michelle, Terrance, and Terion are in need of a permanent, safe, loving home as a launching pad for their lives.

I am an adoptive parent. I am always encouraged to see families giving children the most important gift one can give somebody else, and that is a family. I urge my colleagues to join Senator KLOBUCHAR and me in marking November as National Adoption Month by passing this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor as the vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations. That means I am the Democratic leader on appropriations for this session of Congress, and next to me is the distinguished Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, who will have that responsibility next year.

I come to the floor to say that, sadly, I am concerned we will not finish our job on appropriations the way we should finish it—to do an omnibus, to get the job done. Alas, the clock is slipping away.

Now, one needs to note that the Committee on Appropriations, during the

past year, under the leadership of Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi, worked constructively, worked in a well-paced, well-sequenced way, and we were poised to finish our work, with the Committee on Appropriations reporting all 12 bills for floor consideration 5 months ago. So we were ready 5 months ago to bring them up either as individual bills or in a series of minibuses. But instead of finishing Congress's work to fund the government, we are now contemplating putting the government on autopilot by something called a continuing resolution—a short-term continuing resolution that would only last for maybe 3 months.

I am very frustrated about this. It did not have to be this way. As I said, we have worked very constructively on both sides of the aisle and have been cooperating to do our job. We attempted to write bills that meet the needs of the American people—bills related to national security and economic growth and that meet compelling human needs.

For those Republicans who are obstructionists, they really have been setting us back. For those on both sides of the aisle who want to save money, they are actually going to cost us more money by delaying.

So where are we? There is only one bill—the VA-Military Construction bill, which is signed into law. There are 11 other bills left.

Funding for every mission—let's start with the Department of Defense. Our troops are fighting overseas, and we need to support them. There is Federal law enforcement, foreign policy and embassy security, infrastructure, education—from child care to college affordability. So instead of making choices about what to fund, what to cut, we leave these missions on autopilot, spending the same amount as last year on the same items with the same policies. No business operates this way. No family operates this way. It is irresponsible to spend \$1 trillion this way with no thought, delaying important investments, and thus resulting in increasing cost to the taxpayers.

Let me talk about why this really can give you heartburn. Last week, Department of Defense Comptroller Mike McCord warned that a stopgap CR delays ships and weapons our troops need. Hello. Did you hear that? It actually delays the construction of ships and the purchase of weapons our troops need. Without a special provision in the CR, DOD would have to delay planned replacement for their Ohio-class submarines, disrupting contract awards and ultimately delaying production for the length of the CR.

These new subs are necessary. They are the backbone of our nuclear deterrent—our nuclear deterrent. The current ships' nuclear reactors reach the end of their useful lives in the mid-2020s. So this isn't some new whiz-bang thing that might be untried. So without special provisions, other things will be delayed.