

concerns that last Thursday's vote to use the Congressional Review Act to repeal the Department of Education's ESSA regulations will roll back that compromise and leave our neediest students without the Federal safeguards they deserve.

Ensuring access to a high-quality education is one of the most important duties of Federal, State, and local governments. I supported ESSA, along with 84 other Members of this body, to move our State and local school systems away from a Federal, one-size-fits-all "adequate yearly progress" accountability system and allow States to design their own accountability systems to identify, monitor, and assist schools. Rather than rely on a collective set of test scores to measure student performance as under No Child Left Behind, ESSA allows States to design accountability systems that will take into consideration student growth over the course of a school year. States will be able to consider multiple measures of student learning, including access to academic resources, school climate, and safety, access to support personnel, and other measures which can allow for differentiations in student performance within a school or a local school district. All of this is being done while ensuring students are held to the high, yet achievable, standard of being college- and career-ready upon completion of high school. While State and local school systems have newfound flexibility under ESSA, they must adhere to a Federal civil rights safeguards meant to ensure children with disabilities, students of color, low-income students, and our English language learners are not forgotten.

Just as the Bush administration led Department of Education provided after the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2002, the Obama administration led Department of Education worked to enact regulations and provide States with guidance and technical assistance to properly implement ESSA. After work for nearly a year and feedback from more than 20,000 education stakeholders, the Department published its final accountability, State plans, and reporting regulations in November 2016. The regulations provided broad flexibility for State and local school systems to improve student outcomes in their States and districts while ensuring all students receive an excellent and well-rounded education. The regulations provided certainty to States and local school systems and clarified how to comply with their statutory requirements.

The Congressional Review Act was the wrong instrument to modify the Department's accountability regulations. In 2006 and 2008, the Bush administration led Department of Education responded to concerns regarding the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act by education stakeholders and updated the regulations and guidance necessary for State and local school systems to adhere to the law.

Now that the Congressional Review Act has struck down the existing regulations, the Department is prohibited from issuing similar regulations or addressing future implementation concerns raised by those same stakeholders. Just as we have worked to move away from the one-size-fits-all Federal solutions under the No Child Left Behind Act, the Congressional Review Act wrongly utilizes a one-cleaver-eliminates-all approach. We could not pick and choose which parts of the regulations we would have wanted to keep, such as the regulation's additional year for States to implement their State-designed accountability systems before taking corrective action, all aspects of the regulation, and nearly a year's worth of the Department's work is eliminated. School systems will now have to rely on non-legally binding guidance from the Department on how to adhere to their statutory requirements.

In my home State, the Maryland State Department of Education has worked for more than a year to develop our State's education plan as required under ESSA. Our State superintendent of schools, Dr. Karen Salmon, has traversed the State, listening and engaging with Marylanders who seek to have a voice in their child's education. The purpose of ESSA was to ensure that we return the ability of our State and local school systems to provide for the education of our children in exchange for staying within certain Federal safeguards for our neediest students. This is what we are doing in Maryland. The concerns and feedback expressed by Marylanders will be incorporated into a revised State plan and submitted to the Department of Education later this year. All of this work to comply with the Department's draft and final ESSA regulations, all of the consultation with members of the local community, is now for naught now that the Senate agreed to the use of the CRA. Our State and States are left with uncertainty as to how to comply with their statutory Federal requirements. Our States are clamoring to move away from the uncertainty of the Department's No Child Left Behind waivers from 2012 and have a clear understanding of how to comply with Federal law. The elimination of the Department's accountability regulations further delays the ability of State and local school systems to move away from No Child Left Behind policies.

Throughout Secretary DeVos's confirmation hearing, the Secretary repeatedly demonstrated a lack of depth in the longstanding debates surrounding the education community. I have concerns that Secretary DeVos, who did not understand the protections afforded to children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, would be a forceful advocate to require States and local school systems to ensure that children with disabilities are counted and not forgotten. Given Secretary DeVos's ex-

pressed support for the privatization of our Nation's public schools and resistance to meaningful Federal oversight of nontraditional schools, I have concerns that any new regulations created by the Department could incentivize States and local school systems to promote the privatization of low-performing public schools or set different accountability standards between public schools and nontraditional schools. These concerns are not unfounded; Secretary DeVos has already informed States that the Department will be creating a new template for submitting State plans outside of what is required under the Department's existing accountability regulations. Our students need a Secretary of Education that will uphold Congress's ESSA compromise, local control for Federal safeguards.

The use of the CRA to repeal the Department's ESSA accountability regulations provides Secretary DeVos with the ability to significantly undermine the bipartisan nature of ESSA and Federal safeguards necessary to protect our students. I am disappointed a majority of my colleagues voted in favor of this shortsighted measure that fails to protect our children with disabilities, students of color, low-income students, and our English language learners.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DEWEY AND VIRGINIA RIEHN

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor two individuals from Missouri that have selflessly dedicated their lives to the military and public service. Dewey and Virginia Riehn have both held significant leadership roles within the veterans' community, and their decision to turn over that role to the next generation will be felt by the numerous lives they have impacted.

Dewey Riehn is a retired chief warrant officer of the U.S. Army, originally from Jackson, MO. He married his beloved wife, Virginia, on August 24, 1958. Enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1956, Dewey transitioned to the Army, where he served as a counterintelligence agent, seeing multiple tours in Vietnam. He and Virginia were stationed overseas on multiple occasions. After retiring from the Army, he transitioned to the Missouri Department of Social Services, where he successfully completed a 24-year career as a child abuse investigator.

From the time Dewey retired from military service, he and Virginia have both been pinnacle figures within the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America. Dewey has testified on numerous occasions before the Missouri Legislature, ultimately helping legislators shape State and national policy.

Dewey was paramount in helping secure funding for the Veterans Commission's Capital Improvement Trust Fund

through gaming entrance fees. In addition, he was instrumental in the establishment of veterans treatment courts throughout Missouri. His extreme proficiency and vast dedication to veterans' issues resulted in his selection as the national legislative chairman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mrs. Riehn has enjoyed a successful career as a nurse, while also maintaining strong roles within the veterans' community. She was previously the legislative chairman of VFW Post 280 Ladies Auxiliary. Dewey and Virginia have five children and currently live in Ashland, MO.

As Dewey and Virginia relinquish their roles from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I would like to pause and reflect on their lifelong commitments of profound service. I extend my heartfelt thanks to him and his wife and wish them the very best as they transition to a new chapter after decades of service to veterans and public service.●

#### REMEMBERING PAUL IRON CLOUD

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the achievements of Paul Iron Cloud of Pine Ridge, SD, who passed away on February 18, 2017, at the age of 76. Paul Iron Cloud was a tribal leader on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and tireless advocate for the indigenous peoples of South Dakota.

In the 1980s, Paul established himself as an unwavering advocate for the Oglala Sioux Tribe, where he rose to the position of chairman and eventually president. During his time in leadership, Paul was a champion for housing on the Pine Ridge Reservation, a fight that would define his career.

Over the course of his career, Paul served as executive director of the Oglala Sioux Housing Authority, as well as its successor, Oglala Sioux Housing. Nationally, he served on the National American Indian Housing Council and was elected chairman of the United Nations American Housing Association Board. In 2015, Paul received the George Nelson Outstanding Lifetime Service Award for his tireless efforts to improve the living conditions of the people of Pine Ridge.

Thanks in large part to his unwavering commitment, Paul was able to make improvements to reservation housing programs. His fierce dedication to the people of Pine Ridge left a lasting impression upon his home, as well as the Native American community across the Nation. He will be forever remembered for his dedication to Native People both in South Dakota and across the United States.

With this, I welcome the opportunity to recognize and commemorate the life of this great public servant, Paul Iron Cloud.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA FARM BUREAU

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the South Dakota Farm Bureau.

Established in 1917, the South Dakota Farm Bureau has worked tirelessly to promote, uphold, and improve agriculture across our State. What started as a small group of farmers and ranchers, joining together to protect their homes and livelihoods, has grown to represent more than 16,000 families in South Dakota today.

As advocates for rural America, their mission is to "make the business of farming more profitable, and the community a better place to live." They accomplish this by educating consumers, leading grassroots advocacy efforts, and providing youth programs to train the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

I congratulate the South Dakota Farm Bureau on 100 years of successfully supporting South Dakota farmers and ranchers, so they can continue to supply safe, high-quality food to consumers around the globe.●

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 616. A bill to amend section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services as members of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and to require the Committee to consider the security of the food and agriculture systems of the United States as a factor to be considered when determining to take action with respect to foreign investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 617. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 618. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to more comprehensively address the interstate transportation of firearms or ammunition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 619. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 620. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 621. A bill to establish an advisory committee to issue nonbinding governmentwide guidelines on making public information available on the Internet, to require publicly available Government information held by the executive branch to be made available on the Internet, to express the sense of Congress that publicly available information held by the legislative and judicial branches should be available on the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 622. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 623. A bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 624. A bill to allow servicemembers to terminate their cable, satellite television, and Internet access service contracts while deployed; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 625. A bill to preserve the integrity of American elections by providing the Attorney General with the investigative tools to identify and prosecute foreign agents who seek to circumvent Federal registration requirements and unlawfully influence the political process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 626. A bill to require Senate confirmation of the Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 627. A bill to establish the Maritime Washington Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 628. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to raise the quality of career and technical education programs and to allow local eligible recipients to use funding to establish high-quality career academies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 629. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drugs, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety and effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials approved for use in the prevention, control, and treatment of animal diseases, in order to minimize the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.