

1196, a bill to expand the capacity and capability of the ballistic missile defense system of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1270

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1270, a bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1428, a bill to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

S. 1522

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1522, a bill to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes.

S. 1586

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1586, a bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

S. 1595

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1595, a bill to amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes.

S. 1598

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1598, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1652

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1652, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DUR-

BIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of public elementary schools and secondary schools, to establish a school infrastructure bond program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 233

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 233, a resolution designating August 16, 2017, as "National Airborne Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 436

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 436 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 448

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 448 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 681

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 681 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1689. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise to talk about the Marijuana Justice Act—a bill I introduced today that would end the Federal prohibition on marijuana and start to end the War on Drugs. For far too long we have ap-

proached drug use and addiction as something we can jail ourselves out of. It is beyond clear that approach has failed. It is time we start to address the persistent and systemic racial bias that has plagued our criminal justice system and adopt policies that will move us forward, not backward. It is time to de-schedule marijuana.

Since 2001, arrests for marijuana have increased across the Country and now account for over 50 percent of all drug arrests in the United States. The ACLU conducted a thorough study of over 8 million marijuana arrests between 2001 and 2010. It found that 88 percent of those were for marijuana possession. Alarming, the study also found that African Americans are 3.73 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than their white peers, even though they use marijuana at similar rates.

Over the last five years, States have begun to legalize marijuana in an effort to push back on the failed War on Drugs and combat the illicit drug market. Currently, eight States and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana and more States are taking up measures to follow suit. We know from the experiences of States that have already legalized marijuana that we will gain far more than we lose—these States have seen increased revenues and decreased rates of serious crime, and a reallocation of resources toward more productive uses. In Colorado, arrest rates have decreased and State revenues have increased. Washington saw a 10 percent decrease in violent crime over the three-year period following legalization.

However, the Federal government still treats marijuana as an illegal substance. It is time for the Federal government to end the Federal prohibition of marijuana.

Today, I introduced the Marijuana Justice Act, a bill that would remove marijuana from the list of controlled substances, thereby ending the Federal prohibition. The bill would also automatically expunge records for people who were convicted of Federal marijuana use and possession offenses. We must help people with criminal records get back up on their feet and obtain jobs, and expunging their records is an important step in that process.

The legislation would allow individuals currently serving time in Federal prison for marijuana offenses to petition a court for a resentencing. One of the greatest tragedies from the Fair Sentencing Act was that it did not provide retroactive relief to individuals serving time under the old crack and powder cocaine sentencing laws. The Marijuana Justice Act would allow people currently serving time for a marijuana offense to seek immediate relief.

The bill would also use Federal funds to encourage States where marijuana is illegal to legalize the drug if they disproportionately arrest or incarcerate low income individuals or people

of color. Too often drug laws are enforced disproportionately against minorities and the poor. This is unacceptable and belies our values.

Finally, the Marijuana Justice Act would establish a community reinvestment fund, which would invest money in communities most affected by the War on Drugs. Building new libraries, supporting job training, and investing in community centers will improve public safety and is the right thing to do after decades of failed drug policies.

The Marijuana Justice Act is a serious step in acknowledging, that after 40 years, it is time to end the War on Drugs. It is time to stop our backward thinking, which has only led to backward results. It is time to lead with our hearts, our heads, and with policy that actually works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1693. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I would like to talk today about the criminal act of sex trafficking.

Today we introduced legislation that is incredibly important to combating sex trafficking. The Senate also passed a resolution today by unanimous consent to provide information to the Justice Department that comes out of an investigation that we did in the U.S. Senate regarding sex trafficking. This is an important day in pushing back.

Let me talk about this for a second in personal terms. Imagine, if you will, that your daughter is missing. You do everything you can do to find her. Finally, you see her picture on the internet, and she is being sold for sex. That may sound like a horror movie to you, but it is very real. Unfortunately, it is happening across our country.

Families in Ohio and in your State have experienced this nightmare situation. Let me tell you about Kubiiki Pride. Kubiiki Pride gave powerful testimony before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations in the Senate. Ms. Pride said her daughter had been missing for 9 months when she found her picture on the top website for commercial sex activity— backpage.com. She was actually glad to have found her daughter. So she called backpage.com and said: That is my daughter. She has been missing for

9 months. She is 14 years old. Thank you for taking down the ad.

Backpage.com said to her: Did you pay for the ad?

She said: No. It is my 14-year-old daughter.

They said: We are not going to take down the ad. You didn't pay for it.

Imagine if this were your daughter. Imagine how you would feel.

These traffickers are using the internet to sell girls and women. Congress has a responsibility to act. We have a responsibility to act because human trafficking is now becoming a national crisis.

Human trafficking, including sex trafficking, is a \$150 billion-a-year industry. That makes it the second biggest criminal enterprise in the world, only behind the drug trade. And this ruthless, corrupt industry is growing significantly. Why? Because of the internet in the digital age. Victims of sex trafficking told me: ROB, this has gone from the street corner to the smart phone.

Since 2007, the Polaris Project—a leading anti-trafficking advocacy group—received 33,000 reports of human trafficking through its various hotlines.

By the way, Polaris endorsed our legislation, which I appreciate.

In 2016 alone, Polaris-operated hotlines received 8,000 reports of human trafficking. Almost 25 percent of trafficking incidents reported to Polaris in the past decade happened just last year. Human trafficking reports through these hotlines went up dramatically—35 percent—between 2015 and 2016. There is no reason to believe this trend will reverse unless we act.

This is a 21st-century epidemic. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children noted an 846 percent increase in reports of suspected child sex trafficking through its CyberTipline from 2010 to 2015. In just 5 years, that is an increase of over 800 percent. They found this dramatic spike to be “directly correlated to the increased use of the internet to sell children for sex.” That is what is going on.

How is this happening? People are being bought and sold on public domains accessible from a simple search. And the majority of online sex trafficking can be traced to one website called backpage.com. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said 73 percent—three-quarters of all suspected sex trafficking it receives from the general public through its CyberTipline comes from this one website.

According to leading anti-traffic organizations, including Shared Hope International, service providers working with child sex trafficking victims have reported that between 80 percent and 100 percent of the victims they help were bought and sold on backpage.com.

My experience in Ohio is similar to that. I will tell you anecdotally, as I

talked to women and girls who had been victims of sex trafficking, almost all of them tell me they have been sold on backpage. By the way, almost all of them tell me that they had become addicted in the process to an opioid, heroin, or prescription drugs and that is used to keep their dependency on their trafficker.

In January of this year, a nearly 2-year investigation by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations produced a report finding backpage to be more deeply complicit in illegal online sex trafficking than anyone imagined. Everyone already knew sex trafficking was taking place on this website. It is there. But our report found that backpage actively and knowingly facilitated the criminal sex trafficking of women and children; then it covered up evidence of these crimes to increase its own profits. This is the information we have now provided to the Department of Justice.

We also know from a recent Washington Post report that, despite its claims, backpage aggressively solicited and created sex-related ads to lure customers to its website. It claims it “leads the industry” in its screening of illegal activity, including sex ads for children, but that isn't true. To the contrary, it appears the industry backpage leads is online sex trafficking, valuing its profits more than the rights of vulnerable women and young children. They have known their site has been used for illegal sex trafficking for years, but instead of putting a stop to it, the company has actively facilitated these crimes.

That is why Congress has to act. Last month, I, along with Senators MCCASKILL and CARPER, launched a criminal review of backpage.com. Today, the Senate passed a resolution releasing materials from our 18-month investigation to the Department. I hope the Department of Justice will join in this fight against backpage, but I believe achieving justice for these victims requires a legislative fix once and for all.

There is a recent documentary, and I would encourage you to look at it. It is powerful and tough, but it is important. It is called “I am Jane Doe.” It chronicles the cases of three young girls who were sex trafficking victims bought and sold on backpage. In 2014, these girls brought cases against backpage, accusing them of knowingly assisting in their trafficking. The ads on backpage for each of these girls explicitly promoted their youth. These were underage girls.

The court found that the victims made a strong case that backpage tailored its site to make underage sex trafficking easier, but the court ruled that third-party websites facilitating sex trafficking are immune from charges brought on by victims, no matter how complicit the website was in the crime, citing the blanket immunity granted by a 1996 law called the Communications Decency Act, or CDA.

Around the same time in Massachusetts, three young victims sued

backpage after they were bought and sold on their website for sex. They, too, argued that backpage made sex trafficking easier. This case reached the First Circuit Court of Appeals, but backpage was once again spared of any legal ramifications because of the Communications Decency Act, specifically section 230 of that law—the clause courts credit to giving third-party providers blanket immunity from crimes committed through their website.

Despite its ruling, the court recognized the immoral nature of backpage appearing to profit from online prostitution but maintained they couldn't do anything about it because the law protected these acts. The court opinion stated that in order to fix the problem, "the remedy is through legislation, not litigation." That is who we are. We are the legislators. The court of appeals said: Congress, do your job.

Numerous judicial decisions have suggested that Congress must act, before the courts, to bring justice to the victims and families of online sex trafficking. That is my intention in introducing this legislation today.

I believe that we need to have free internet. All of us do. I believe that the Communications Decency Act is a well-intentioned law that has an important purpose. But the law was not intended to protect those who willingly facilitate illegal conduct, such as sex trafficking, and it wasn't intended to protect backpage.com. That is why today I, along with a number of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, have introduced this bill called the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act. It clarifies section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to ensure that websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking can be held liable and the victims can get justice. It is very narrow. You have to knowingly be involved in supporting, assisting, and facilitating sex trafficking. This will not be a broad net.

The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act puts in place three narrowly crafted and commonsense reforms.

First, it allows victims to seek justice against websites that knowingly facilitate crimes against them.

Second, it eliminates the Federal liability protections for websites that assist, support, or facilitate a violation of Federal sex trafficking laws—laws already on the books.

Finally, it will enable State law enforcement—not just the Department of Justice—to take legal action if these businesses violate Federal sex trafficking laws. Forty-seven attorneys general asked for this.

The internet revolutionized illegal sex trafficking, and Federal law has not kept pace. It is time for this 21-year-old law to be brought into this century. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act is legislation our courts have been calling for, our attorneys general have been calling for, and most importantly, what victims and their families have been insisting that we do.

Again, this law was never intended to protect sex traffickers who prey on the most innocent and vulnerable among us. This narrowly crafted bill gives law enforcement the tools they need to go after criminals who traffic women and children online for sex.

There are some groups who have been critical of this effort to hold backpage accountable and stop this online exploitation. They have suggested that this bipartisan bill could impact mainstream websites and service providers—the good actors out there. That is false. Our bill does not amend, and thus preserves, the Communications Decency Act's Good Samaritan provision. This provision protects good actors who proactively block and screen for offensive material and thus shields them from any frivolous lawsuits. That is in the legislation and needs to be in there.

This bipartisan legislation preserves internet freedom, while holding those who actively facilitate online sex trafficking accountable.

I recently visited the Ranch of Opportunity in Washington Court House, OH. This is a place of hope for girls between ages 13 and 18 to find healing and recovery during a residential treatment program. Most of the girls at the ranch, I am told, have been victims of sex trafficking. As I heard heart-breaking stories from these girls who have had their most basic human rights stripped from them, backpage came up. As I said earlier, it almost always does. We can never take back the horrors they had to endure. What we can do and what this legislation will do is bring justice to these victims and their families.

I am proud to stand with my 20, now 25, bipartisan colleagues, as well as 18 anti-human trafficking advocacy groups and law enforcement organizations around this country, to support this legislation as we fight against this abhorrent evil.

In a letter of support, the president and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said: "This bill will help ensure justice for child sex trafficking victims and clarify remedies available to civil attorneys and State attorneys general to assist victims in holding everyone responsible who participated in their trafficking."

That is what it is about. It is about securing justice for those who have had their most basic human rights taken away, and it is about protecting vulnerable women and children. Victims of sex trafficking know evil far worse than many of us can ever imagine. The trauma they go through is unbelievable. We owe it to them to fix flaws in the justice system that allow people complicit in these crimes to profit from human misery and suffering. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act will do that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1694. A bill to improve quality and accountability for educator preparation programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we know that the quality of teachers and principals are two of the most important in-school factors related to student achievement. Yet the pipeline into the profession has been neglected. If we want to improve our schools, it is essential that we invest in the professional preparation of teachers, principals, and other educators. As such, today, I am reintroducing the Educator Preparation Reform Act with my colleagues Senators CASEY and COONS to ensure that the Federal government continues to be a partner in addressing this critical national need.

Today, we are facing a crisis in education. According to a research brief from the Learning Policy Institute, we have seen dramatic declines in enrollment in teacher preparation programs—an estimated 35 percent decline between 2009 and 2014. We also continue to see high rates of attrition among educators. If these trends continue, there will be an estimated gap of more than 100,000 between the number of teaching positions open and the number of teachers available to be hired annually through 2025.

The impact of these shortages falls the hardest on our most vulnerable students in our highest need communities. Rhode Island is no exception. Providence, our largest school district, is facing an acute shortage of teachers certified to teach English language learners. My home State has also reported shortages in special education, science, math, and school nurses.

We cannot solve this problem without improving both teacher and principal preparation. We need to make sure that our educator preparation programs are worthy of the professionals entering the field and the students they will serve. That is why it is more urgent than ever that we enact the Educator Preparation Reform Act.

Our legislation builds on the success of the Teacher Quality Partnership Program, which I helped author in the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. It continues the partnership between high need school districts, institutions of higher education, and educator preparation programs to reform pre-service programs based on the unique needs of the partners. Among the key changes are specific attention and emphasis on principals and the addition of a residency program for new principals. Improving instruction is a team effort, with principals at the helm. This bill better connects teacher preparation with principal preparation. The Educator Preparation Reform Act will also allow partnerships to develop preparation programs for other areas of instructional need, such as for school librarians, counselors, or other academic support professionals.

The bill streamlines the accountability and reporting requirements for

teacher preparation programs to provide greater transparency on key quality measures such as admissions standards, requirements for clinical practice, placement of graduates, retention in the field of teaching, and teacher performance, including student-learning outcomes. All programs—whether traditional or alternative routes to certification—will report on the same measures.

Under our legislation, States will be required to identify at-risk and low-performing programs and provide them with technical assistance and a timeline for improvement. States would be encouraged to close programs that do not improve.

We have been fortunate to work with many stakeholders on this legislation. Organizations that have endorsed the Educator Preparation Reform Act include: the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, Higher Education Consortium for Special Education, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of State Directors of Special Education, National Disability Rights Network, National Network of State Teachers of the Year, Public Advocacy for Kids, Rural School and Community Trust, and the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children.

I look forward to working to incorporate this legislation into the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort and support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 237—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution on documentary production by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, earlier this year the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs completed an investigation into internet sex trafficking. After completing that investigation, the Sub-

committee referred its staff reports and findings to the United States Department of Justice for additional investigation. The Subcommittee has received a request from the Department seeking access to records that the Subcommittee obtained during the investigation.

In keeping with the Senate's practice under its rules, this resolution would authorize the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide records, obtained by the Subcommittee in the course of its investigation, in response to this request and requests from other Federal or State government entities and officials with a legitimate need for the records.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the material of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. RES. 237

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs conducted an investigation into Internet sex trafficking;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a request from a federal law enforcement agency for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal or state governments, records of the Subcommittee's investigation into Internet sex trafficking.

SENATE RESOLUTION 238—RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE INTERSTATE 35W MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 238

Whereas, on August 1, 2007, the Interstate 35W Mississippi River bridge (referred to in this preamble as the "I-35W bridge") collapsed, killing 13 people and injuring 145 people;

Whereas the I-35W bridge was one of the busiest bridges in the State of Minnesota, carrying more than 140,000 vehicles each day;

Whereas first responders and commuters collectively responded quickly and effectively to provide help and ensure safety;

Whereas, during the first 2 hours after the I-35W bridge collapsed, the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center received and processed more than 500 calls, 51 of which came directly from the scene of the disaster;

Whereas, after the collapse, there was a bipartisan effort to pass legislation that provided emergency funding to replace the I-35W bridge;

Whereas construction of the Interstate 35W Saint Anthony Falls bridge (referred to in this preamble as the "new I-35W bridge") to replace the I-35W bridge began on November 1, 2007;

Whereas the new I-35W bridge opened to traffic on September 18, 2008, which was 3 months ahead of schedule;

Whereas residents, businesses, community members, and local government officials contributed to the design of the new I-35W bridge;

Whereas the new I-35W bridge—

(1) has a 100-year lifespan;

(2) is 189 feet wide; and

(3) accommodates 10 lanes of traffic;

Whereas the new I-35W bridge won the America's Transportation Awards Grand Prize on October 30, 2009; and

Whereas, on September 11, 2009, the new I-35W bridge was named one of the 10 best transportation projects in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 10th anniversary of the tragic Interstate 35W Mississippi River bridge collapse;

(2) honors the victims of the bridge collapse and their families;

(3) commemorates the bravery and commitment of the public safety personnel that effectively responded to the collapse; and

(4) acknowledges the successful community-wide effort to design, plan, and construct the Interstate 35W Saint Anthony Falls bridge.

SENATE RESOLUTION 239—CONGRATULATING THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS FOR WINNING THE 2017 STANLEY CUP HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 239

Whereas on June 11, 2017, the Pittsburgh Penguins won the 2017 Stanley Cup hockey championship;

Whereas the Penguins, in their 50th year playing in the National Hockey League (referred to in this preamble as "NHL"), won their fifth Stanley Cup;

Whereas the Penguins defeated the Western Conference Champion Nashville Predators in the Stanley Cup Finals, clinching the series with 4 wins and 2 losses;

Whereas the Penguins are the only NHL team to win back-to-back Stanley Cup championships since the NHL instituted salary caps in 2005 and the first team to do so since 1998;

Whereas the Penguins endured 3 tough opponents en route to the championship, defeating the Columbus Blue Jackets, the Washington Capitals, and the Ottawa Senators to clinch the Eastern Conference title and win their sixth Prince of Wales Trophy;

Whereas the city of Pittsburgh is fittingly nicknamed "The City of Champions", highlighting the success of Pittsburgh professional sports teams, which have tallied 16 championships;