

would eliminate programs like community development block grants and the HOME Program. These grants help our cities and small towns repair their infrastructure, retrofit homes for seniors and people with disabilities, combat homelessness among families, veterans, and people struggling with mental illness and substance abuse.

Just last week, Congress approved new CDBG funds to speed up disaster recovery assistance to communities upended by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Ms. Patenaude came in front of this committee and defended those budget cuts—programs for which she has advocated but doing, apparently, the dirty work for the administration and for the HUD Secretary, she agreed with this budget.

This budget would devastate public housing. It would cut funding for major repairs by some 70 percent. Again, in the face of substandard housing, unavailable shortages of affordable housing, it would cut funding for repairs by 70 percent, and it would expose more families to poor building conditions and health hazards.

I have told this story before on the floor. My wife and I live in Cleveland, OH, in ZIP Code 44105. Ten years ago, in 2007, that ZIP Code had more foreclosures than any ZIP Code in the United States of America. Within a not very great distance from my home, there is block after block of homes that are in need of repair—rentals and people living in homes they own—far too much devastation, crying out for some help from this HUD budget. Yet this administration turns their back on them.

It reduces funding for lead hazard control and healthy housing grants. Secretary Carson, whom I voted for—and not many Democrats did—I voted for him because he is a neurosurgeon. He didn't know much about housing when he took this job, but he knew about lead paint and what the exposure to lead meant to babies and infants. Yet this budget cuts lead hazard control.

I know, in my city, the public health department has said that in the old sections in my city of Cleveland, where homes are generally 60, 70, 80 years old, virtually almost every single home has high toxic levels of lead. Do we not care about what we sentence the next generation of children to by doing nothing about the lead-based paint around the windows, the lead around the pipes? All of that we have a moral responsibility to do something about.

These cuts to HUD programs have generated bipartisan concern about their effects on our communities, including concerns raised, in fact, by Republican members of the Banking Committee.

I am voting against Ms. Patenaude's nomination because I can't support the direction the President's budget proposes for HUD, proposes for housing, proposes for our communities, and proposes for our country. She has pledged

allegiance—in spite of her background, her skills, and her advocacy inside and outside the Department since, she has pledged allegiance to that disastrous vision and those horrible budget cuts to HUD.

I hope she uses her experience and knowledge to convince others in the administration of the importance of the Federal Government's role in housing and community development.

Too often, in this administration, we see officials who come to their agencies with valuable experience and they quickly set it aside to push an agenda that does not serve working families in Appalachia, OH, and inner-city Ohio, in inner-ring suburbs, and affluent suburbs.

We have two very visible crises; one on the gulf coast and one stretching from Florida to the Virgin Islands, which we absolutely must tackle. We have a less visible crisis as well—not because of flooding or hurricanes but because decent affordable housing is beyond the reach of more and more Americans.

Ms. Patenaude is intelligent. She has good insight. She knows this. She knows in her heart what this budget would mean to a whole lot of Americans who work full time, who have generally low incomes—\$8, \$10, \$12 an hour—who simply can't find affordable, clean decent housing. Her support for that budget will make the problem worse, and it is very troubling. I ask my colleagues to vote no on her nomination.

DATA BREACHES IN CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES

Mr. President, last week, 143 million Americans—in essence, half of our country—had their personal information exposed through no fault of their own. We are talking about names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, addresses, and probably much more.

Equifax, one of three huge data collection companies in our country, makes their money off of this information, and they failed to protect it.

If a student at Bowling Green, in Northwest Ohio, or a homeowner in Springfield, OH, fails to make that monthly payment for her student loan debt or for their home mortgage, Equifax dings them on their credit report. Yet Equifax, even after last year when they allowed the breach of 400,000 employees of an Ohio company, Kroger—one of our best companies domiciled in Ohio—they just don't seem accountable when that happens. This is the worst example, so far, that we have seen.

I spoke yesterday on the phone with Bill of Hamilton, OH, who is one of those 143 million Americans whose personal data was exposed to criminals, to somebody who can use this information, use this data, on literally up to 143 million Americans. Bill and his wife are retired. They have worked hard to pay their bills. They have excellent credit. He went to the Equifax website

after this happened and discovered his information may have been breached.

He talked about how worried he was. He talked about, after all his family's hard work, after years of following the rules, that someone could get access to his personal information and shred his credit history.

This is a company whose job it is to gather this data and to protect this data, and they failed, without being held accountable.

I am worried for folks in Ohio like Bill.

I am really worried for servicemembers around this country whose private information might be compromised. The servicemember's credit history isn't just important when they want to buy a home or open up a new credit card. For a servicemember, a credit history damaged by hackers could mean losing their security clearance and maybe their job along with it. These patriotic men and women move around the country, around the world. They are not especially well paid. Their families rely on good credit to get housing and jobs wherever our military chooses to send them.

Life for military families is stressful enough. I know that from Ray Patterson Air Force Base, one of the most important Air Force Bases in this country, near Dayton. I know that from meeting with these families. I know that when I see the kinds of consumer protections the Federal consumer bureau has provided to these servicemembers. So often financial companies try to prey on these servicemembers who, as I said, are not paid well. Maybe a servicemember is deployed overseas and the family struggles at home without one of their parents being present and with the generally low income they make. They sacrifice enough without them also having to worry about credit corporations and this company's breach putting them at risk.

That is why I filed an amendment to the NDAA that would provide servicemembers with crucial consumer protections. First, the bill requires credit reporting agencies such as Equifax, TransUnion and Experian, the three big companies, to implement a cost-free and convenient way for all servicemembers to be able to lock down their credit reports if they think they are at risk.

While credit freezes are currently available in some States, there is no national standard. There are often charges for starting and stopping a freeze, and it can be hard to figure out whom they should even contact. This amendment would create a standard simple and free process for servicemembers to protect their credit histories.

There is so much more in this bill that will matter to servicemembers. We have an opportunity right now to move quickly to make sure this breach does not put our military men and women at risk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Patenaude nomination?

Mr. BROWN. 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 196 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Alexander	Feinstein	Murkowski
Baldwin	Fischer	Murphy
Barrasso	Flake	Murray
Bennet	Franken	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Peters
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Cantwell	Hassan	Reed
Capito	Hatch	Risch
Cardin	Heitkamp	Roberts
Carper	Heller	Rounds
Casey	Hoeven	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Shaheen
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Coons	Kaine	Stabenow
Corker	Kennedy	Strange
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Tester
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	Manchin	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	

NAYS—17

Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schumer
Booker	Hirono	Udall
Brown	Markey	Warren
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Sanders	Wyden
Harris	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—3

Menendez	Nelson	Rubio
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—Continued

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, there be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment No. 1003, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous consent to make brief remarks and engage in a colloquy with the chairman and ranking member.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I have filed Baldwin amendment No. 329. This deals with the subject matter of "Buy American" in the National Defense Authorization Act.

I have long been a strong supporter of our manufacturing sector, of our national security, and I believe this amendment strongly supports both.

All week we have been going back and forth about whether we are going to vote on amendments to this measure. The Senate is supposed to be an institution where we can debate and bring our ideas forward, represent our States, represent the hard workers of this Nation, and I reserve the right to object to this unanimous consent request because I am frustrated, on behalf of those I represent, that we are not going to see a vote on this "Buy American" amendment.

I would additionally note the unique status we have—actually, in this case, a Statement of Administration Policy indicating strong support for the amendment that I have filed. To me, the ultimate test will be what is in the final bill that is signed into law. I am going to continue to push on, but I am, again, disappointed that this Senate is not operating in a fashion where we can offer amendments, debate those amendments, and have votes on those amendments.

I wish to yield to both the chairman and ranking member, as we have had discussions on this subject matter during these negotiations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wisconsin. I thank her for her agreement that we should move forward with this important legislation, and I am very proud of the way this legislation has proceeded before the Senate most of the way. But now I am not very proud because we are now not allowing Senators to have a vote.

I do not agree with the amendment from the Senator from Wisconsin, but I strongly believe she should have the right to have her amendment considered, debated, and voted on.

I am very proud of the fact that we have approved and agreed to 103

amendments. We still have three or four amendments that have caused us to be where we are today. It will be a conference item, the amendment of the Senator from Wisconsin, and although I do not agree with it, I will certainly make sure that it is part of the conference.

But I want to remind my colleagues again that one of the reasons we had 107 votes for and 0 against is that we went through a process of days, weeks, and months of hearings, study, debate, discussion, and bringing it to the floor. That is the way the Senate should work.

I thank the Senator from Wisconsin, and I want to tell her and the Senator from New York, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, that I will continue to do everything I can to make sure they are given the rights that they earned by being elected in the States they represent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the Senator from Wisconsin has pointed out one of the shortcomings in this process, which is that we have not had a series of amendments on the floor to vote on.

Through the chairman's leadership, we have, as he has indicated, cleared 103 amendments on a bipartisan basis. We think we have legislation that is important for the Nation, particularly for our men and women in uniform.

Senator BALDWIN raises an extremely important question. "Buy American" is not only for the people we represent all across the country but for the quality of goods and services that our men and women in uniform will receive. I thank her, and I join with her in the frustration of not having a vote, despite the progress we have made in so many other areas. This is something that both the chairman and I would like to see remedied in the next national defense debate on the floor.

As the chairman pointed out, this will be an issue at conference. I know Senator BALDWIN will not cease her efforts. She has been incredibly tenacious in pushing forward this "Buy American" provision on behalf of her constituents and all of our constituents. I do, in fact, support this provision, and I will work to my utmost to see that we can move this issue forward. I appreciate very much the fact that it will be considered in conference.

Again, I think we have done a lot over the last several days with the leadership of Chairman MCCAIN. I regret that we can't wrap up this legislation with several votes on issues, which each side would like to see, but I commit myself to work with the Senator from Wisconsin to see if we can move this "Buy American" provision forward.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I had reserved the right to object, but I will not object to proceeding to the vote to move the NDAA forward. I would note that this amendment is germane