

Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator COCHRAN—who are all Republicans—onboard this legislation.

I believe, if that bill came to the floor today as a stand-alone bill, it would pass overwhelmingly because people in rural America, people in urban America—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—understand the very important role community health centers are playing. What this bill is about, significantly, is funding for 5 years not quite at the level I would like to see but at about 4 percent a year which, in terms of medical inflation, really means level funding. Now, that is in contrast to a bill that is being discussed in the House, which is simply not satisfactory. The House bill is talking about 2 years of funding, which means it is level-funded, which means it is a significant decline in real dollars for community health centers. Also, there are pay-fors for the bill which are totally unsatisfactory. It is a question of taking money from Peter to pay Paul and taking money from very important healthcare programs to put money into this important program.

It is widely acknowledged that we currently have the most wasteful, inefficient, and expensive healthcare system in the world, despite spending almost \$10,000 per capita on healthcare, which is twice as much as any other country. I just returned from Canada the other day. They spend about 50 percent per capita of what we spend of guaranteed healthcare to all of their people, and many of their healthcare outcomes are, in fact, better than they are in the United States. So we spend a whole lot of money, and we are not getting particularly good value.

One of the areas where we are getting good value is in the area of community health centers. We need to not allow a bad situation to get worse. We have a very serious crisis in this country with primary healthcare, dental care, and certainly, mental health counseling. We are in deep trouble. If we do not immediately fund the Community Health Center Program, the National Health Service Corps, and the other workforce programs, a very bad situation will become tragically worse. We cannot tell millions of low-income and working people in every State in this country that they will no longer be able to access the healthcare, dental care, mental health counseling, and low-cost prescription drugs they desperately need. We cannot tell pregnant women they will not be able to get the necessary prenatal care they require in order to deliver healthy babies. We cannot tell the tragic number of people who are struggling today with opioid or heroin addiction that there is simply no treatment available to them because community health centers do a lot of that treatment. We cannot tell chronically ill senior citizens they will have to survive without the prescription drugs they have used for years. We cannot force community health centers—

which provide some of the most cost-effective healthcare in this country—to lay off doctors, nurses, dentists, and administrators who keep these centers going.

Historically, the Community Health Center Program has enjoyed widespread bipartisan support, and I am glad to say that for this program, that support continues. What I am asking today is for strong support for the Blunt legislation. Let's get it onto the floor of the Senate as quickly as we can. Let's pass it. Let's demand that the House work with us to pass strong legislation. The time for delay is over. Congress must act immediately to fully fund the Community Health Center Program, the National Health Service Corps, and the Teaching Health Centers Program today.

We know these programs work. We know they save money and lives. These programs must be funded for 5 years, which is what the Blunt bill does. We should not continue to ignore this very serious problem for another day.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:35 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 31, 2017:

THE JUDICIARY

AMY CONEY BARRETT, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. STACEY D. HARRIS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL J. LACAMERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. TWANDA E. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROGER D. MURDOCK

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID D. THOMPSON

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE

OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. RALPH L. SCHWADER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DONALD B. ABSHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. RICHARD E. ANGLE

COL. MILFORD H. BEAGLE, JR.

COL. SEAN C. BERNABE

COL. MARIA A. BIANKE

COL. JAMES P. BIENLIEN

COL. BRIAN R. BISACRE

COL. WILLIAM M. BORUFF

COL. RICHARD R. COFFMAN

COL. CHARLES D. COSTANZA

COL. JOY L. CURRIERA

COL. JOHNNY K. DAVIS

COL. ROBERT B. DAVIS

COL. THOMAS R. DREW

COL. MICHAEL R. EASTMAN

COL. BRIAN S. EIFLER

COL. CHRISTOPHER L. EUBANK

COL. OMUSO D. GEORGE

COL. WILLIAM J. HARTMAN

COL. DARIN P. HELMLINGER

COL. DAVID M. HODNE

COL. JONATHAN E. HOWERTON

COL. HEIDI J. HOYLE

COL. THOMAS L. JAMES

COL. CHRISTOPHER C. LANEVE

COL. OTTO K. LILLER

COL. VINCENT F. MALONE II

COL. CHARLES R. MILLER

COL. JAMES S. MOORE, JR.

COL. MICHAEL T. MORRISSEY

COL. ANTONIO V. MUNERA

COL. FREDERICK M. O'DONNELL

COL. PAUL E. OWEN

COL. WALTER T. RUGEN

COL. MICHELLE A. SCHMIDT

COL. MARK T. SIMERLY

COL. MICHAEL E. SLOANE

COL. WILLIAM D. TAYLOR

COL. WILLIAM L. THIGPEN

COL. THOMAS J. TICKNER

COL. MATTHEW J. VANWAGENEN

COL. DARREN L. WERNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. KEITH Y. TAMASHIRO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ERIC P. WENDT

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. CHRISTOPHER W. GRADY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. BRUCE H. LINDSEY

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES A. FANT AND ENDING WITH DUSTIN D. HARLIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ERIK M. MUDRINICH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT M. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH KRISTINA M. ZUCCARELLI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADRIAN L. NELSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TODD M. CHARD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TRISTAN D. HARRINGTON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID S. LYLE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GEORGE B. INABINET, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN A. BARBEAU AND ENDING WITH BLAIR D. TIGHE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GARRETT K. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH ROGER D. PLASTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA A. AKERS AND ENDING WITH D013005, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN L. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH BOVEY Z. ZHU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JANETTA R. BLACKMORE AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY E. OLIVER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN A. BATTY AND ENDING WITH ALISA R. WILMA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WESLEY J. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH HOPE M. WILLIAMSONYOUNCE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GINA E. ADAM AND ENDING WITH DAVID R. ZINNANTE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID J. H. CHANG AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW J. YANDURA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SAMUEL A. REDDING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SATIVA M. FRANKLIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MAURICE O. BARNETT AND ENDING WITH AARON C. BARTA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GRANT R. BARGE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL W. CHUNG, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHEMIRTA M. CLAY AND ENDING WITH JOHN C. HUBBARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHARLES K. BERGMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT S. PATTON, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON P. AFFOLDER AND ENDING WITH D012388, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDRE B. ABADIE AND ENDING WITH G001060, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WINFIELD A. ADKINS AND ENDING WITH D013260, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN J. STRAUB, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SUZANNE T. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH LAURA C. YOON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROY A. ADUNA AND ENDING WITH KIRTELY N. YEISER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CALVIN LOPER AND ENDING WITH BILLY W. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MAUREEN M. DERKS AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY P. SHARP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL T. BARNES AND ENDING WITH JACQUELYN O. VERMILLOHERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHAMIRE E. BRANCH AND ENDING WITH ALANNA B. YOUNGBLOOD,

WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID L. AGUILAR AND ENDING WITH DAVID K. ZIVNUSKA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REBECCA L. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH KENNETH R. VANHOOK, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARTHUR D. ANDERSON III AND ENDING WITH JOHN E. WEAVER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA D. ALBRIGHT AND ENDING WITH LISA L. SNOH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSICA B. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH MIRANDA V. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARCO A. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH KEITH E. ZUMAR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM J. ROY, JR. AND ENDING WITH RAQUEL T. BUSER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY F. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH CLINTON M. WOODS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 16, 2017.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JULIE P. AKEY AND ENDING WITH VERA N. ZDRAVKOVA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 2, 2017.