

of Pennsylvania in 2012. After graduation, she took a job in public service at Church World Services in assisting refugees with resettlement. This past fall, Audrey accepted a nearly full scholarship to American University, here in Washington, where she will obtain a master's in international development. She has chosen that course of study, in part, due to fear of deportation. She is hoping to arm herself with the tools to make her country a better place.

We should be supporting young, hard-working people like Audrey who want to work in the service of others and our Nation. Instead, there are people here in Washington who are threatening their futures—not only her future but our Nation's future—by making us less safe and damaging the economy.

I say “less safe” if that is the way we treat law-abiding individuals in our country, people who have lived here their whole lives. They may not have been born here—they may not have a number—but for all intents and purposes, they are Americans. They live in American communities and attend American schools. They have achieved things that we would hope every American would achieve, and they have worked hard. In some cases, they didn't realize they were any different from any other child until much later in life when they were told they might not have had a number or a special status that others around them might have had. In any case, in addition to being the wrong thing to do—violate a promise—and in addition to hurting our economy, if you end DACA, it will not be good for our security.

Again, why would anyone believe that we could enter into a hard and fast security agreement or protect our own people if we would not be willing to protect people in our own country who have followed the law? This would be an insult and an outrage if it were hundreds of people, but we are talking about 800,000 who will be subject to losing their status and, ultimately, be deported because the U.S. Congress doesn't have the guts and doesn't have the integrity to protect them.

So this is a test, a test of the U.S. Congress—both Houses—and it is a test for the administration as well. I hope they can pass this test, the test of whether we keep our promise or whether we lie to the people. That is what this is about. This is about basic integrity, and there is no in-between here. You either keep your promise or you don't. We will see what the administration does, we will see what the Congress does, and we will see whether people care about the economy.

There is a lot of talk about growing the economy. How can we say we want to grow the economy, when you reject because of some ideology or some special interest—reject and compromise and damage the future of 800,000 people who live here? That is inexcusable and unforgivable. I hope we see some moral courage over the next couple of weeks when it comes to these young

people. Ending DACA is bad for our economy, it tears away the integrity of our government, and it is bad for our security. If this program is ended, we are less safe as a country, without a doubt.

This is why Congress must move immediately to pass the bipartisan Dream Act. It is a bill I was proud to vote for and move forward in 2007 and 2010. The bill would allow Dreamers to become permanent residents if they meet the very stringent qualifications outlined in the bill. This means giving those 5,900 Pennsylvanians who have been granted DACA status some security and a future they can count on. This is why we can say America is a great country, when we keep our promises, when we protect our own folks in our communities, especially these individuals who work very hard.

So this is a basic test. I hope our government will meet it. I hope the administration will work with us to make sure we can finally pass into law a measure that will remove this uncertainty and remove the fear people live with.

Let me conclude with one observation. I was in a meeting a couple of weeks ago with a young woman who said: The only country I have ever known doesn't seem to want me.

Another young woman in the same meeting said her whole goal in life was pretty simple. She wanted to be a nurse. She said she wanted to heal people. She had done well in school, had followed all the rules, and now she may be in trouble, subject to deportation down the road, if somehow this DACA policy isn't upheld, if our promise is violated, our sacred promise to 800,000 people. This young woman was telling a room full of people about this goal she had, this aspiration to be a nurse, and when she said, “All I want to do is heal people,” she became very upset.

Another young woman who had achieved in school and had done well was a volunteer firefighter in Pennsylvania. She worries about it as well. Story after story, example after example of young people who have worked very hard their whole lives, have achieved in school, their friends are all around them, and their families are a part of these communities. Is our government going to violate a promise to them? Why would anyone believe our government after that on any promise if it violates a promise that fundamental? Why would anyone trust the U.S. Congress if these young people aren't protected?

I hope Congress will meet this test, support the Dream Act, and get it done. If we get that done, then we can say we are a government people should trust. If you don't get this done, it is a lot more difficult to make the case that our word is good here at home and that it is good internationally.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUNT). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H.J. Res. 123, which was received from the House, and that there be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form, in relation to H.J. Res. 123; further, that following the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on the joint resolution with no intervening action or debate.

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

The clerk will report the resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 123) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

RECOGNIZING THE UAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AND THE GREAT ALASKA SHOOTOUT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, every week I have been coming down to the floor to talk a little bit about my great State, about the wonders of its natural landscape—a land that everybody should see for themselves—and we talk about special people. I know the Presiding Officer looks at this as one of the favorite times in his long week. We talk about the people who have made a difference in Alaska, our Alaskan of the Week. It is one of the best things I get to do here as Alaska's Senator because I get to talk about Alaska's beauty; the people who make my State so special; the kind, generous people full of rugged determination, full of patriotism, full of drive, full of life.

Living in the North in some of the most difficult terrain and extreme conditions of the world breeds competition in the best ways possible. It also sparks creativity all across the State. When creativity meets competition, great things can happen.

You saw great things happen on the basketball court late last month when University of Alaska Anchorage's women's basketball team, who are our Alaskans of the Week, won the championship at the Great Alaska Shootout in Anchorage, the seminal sports event of the year that for four decades has corresponded with Thanksgiving weekend.

Let me talk for a few minutes about the Great Alaska Shootout. In the late 1970s, a coach from the University of Alaska Anchorage's basketball team had a vision to put the fledgeling UAA basketball program on the map. How

would he do that? He would create a preseason college basketball tournament, and he would make sure that participation in any tournament outside the contiguous lower 48 States didn't count against the limits for how many games a team was allowed to play. And so was born the Great Alaska Shootout.

For the past 40 years, tens of thousands of Alaskans from all over the State—and I would say Americans from all over the country—many who had never been to a professional game or even a college game, traveled to Anchorage to watch some of the best basketball in the country. In Anchorage, people opened their homes to the teams from the lower 48 to enjoy a home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner.

The teams and the players who came to Alaska over the last 40 years are legion—Patrick Ewing, Glenn Robinson, Sam Perkins, Ray Allen, Dwayne Wade, and Alaska's own Trajan Langdon, just to name a few. All the great college basketball coaches at one time or another came to our State—Coach K, Jim Valvano, Bobby Knight, Denny Crum, Roy Williams, Tom Izzo, Pat Summitt, and so many others. As one reporter put it, "It was an annual Thanksgiving week staple for ESPN and it made Anchorage the center of the college basketball world for one bright, shining week."

Time and again, the UAA Seawolves—both the men and women's teams—Division 2 programs, who were up against some of the biggest Division 1 powerhouses in the country, showed the world what basketball in Alaska looked like, and it looked strong.

The Great Alaska Shootout was a gift to the world, to America, and to all of Alaska. Times have changed, and so have college basketball tournaments. More choices are available. Other States have begun to compete with Alaska. So this past Thanksgiving, sadly, was the Shootout's last tournament. But, again, UAA's basketball teams made us proud. All told, the men's teams won 39 games in 40 Shootouts. This past Thanksgiving Day, the UAA women, which has become a Division 2 powerhouse under the leadership of Coach Ryan McCarthy, claimed the women's championship in the final Shootout, beating the Division 1 University of Tulsa Golden Hurricanes 59 to 52 in a thriller. It was their seventh title in tournament history.

Everyone involved—the businesses that sponsored the Shootout over the years, the many avid fans who haven't missed a game, and all those who played in the Great Alaska Shootout over four decades—is deserving of recognition. But at this year's final Great Alaska Shootout, the UAA women's team showed us all the true meaning of grit and determination.

So here is to the Seawolves, our Alaskans of the Week. Here is to the history of the Great Alaska Shootout. It is a great day to be a Seawolf. Thanks

for all the great games, the great memories, and a truly great Alaskan and American basketball tournament.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore emeritus, the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, first, I applaud the Senator from Alaska. He makes us all want to be there.

Mr. President, let me speak for a moment in my role as vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee about the continuing resolution that the distinguished majority leader has just mentioned.

The current spending caps set in place by law will not responsibly fund the government or alleviate the consequences of sequestration on both our domestic priorities and our military readiness.

Since March 1, along with many others, I have constantly repeated that we must reach a bipartisan budget deal that is based on parity, free of poison pill riders, not waste taxpayer dollars on a useless border wall, which we will never be reimbursed for by Mexico. But with the current continuing resolution expiring tomorrow, we are running out of time to reach an agreement.

The continuing resolution before us today will allow us more time to reach a bipartisan agreement and keep the government's lights on during negotiations. I will join with the distinguished majority leader in voting for this, but the key to successful negotiation during that time is parity. Sequestration has had devastating consequences on our country that are going to impact a generation, but we have to raise the caps on both sides of the ledger—defense and nondefense.

Anywhere you go, the vast majority of Americans will agree that it is not an academic exercise. The decisions we make here today have real impacts on people's lives.

There is no question that sequestration has hurt our military readiness, but it has also hurt our Nation's economy, and it has led to a decline in critical government services on which millions of Americans depend.

Our veterans have been shortchanged. An average of 558,000 veterans fail to get a healthcare appointment during the 30-day standard. The average wait time for the VA to process a benefit appeal is over 3 years.

Our infrastructure is crumbling. America, this great Nation, now gets a D-plus rating from the American Society of Civil Engineers. This means that the roads, the bridges, the dams, the drinking water, the public parks, and the schools we all use and depend on have a near-failing grade.

Education programs have suffered. The purchasing power of the maximum Pell Grant now covers only 29 percent of the average price for college.

Our elderly citizens are getting shortchanged. More than 1 million Social Security benefits appeals are backlogged an average of 605 days. An esti-

mated 10,000 people die each year before their appeals are completed.

I could go on and on.

If we raise the caps for defense programs but do not also raise the caps to properly fund our nondefense priorities, we will still shortchange our men and women in uniform. If we don't invest in our Nation's economy and educate our youth, the military will not have the expertise, qualified soldiers, or advanced research that it needs to be the best in the world. If we don't invest in diplomacy, our world will become less safe and we will be less safe. As our Secretary of Defense said: If you are not going to invest in diplomacy, you better buy me more bullets. And we would fail to provide the level of care for our veterans that they deserve.

I have talked with both Republicans and Democrats. I am confident we can reach an agreement that addresses our country's needs and responsibly funds our government.

As we in the Congress work on it, it is discouraging that the President has cast doubt on these negotiations. He has even invited a "good [government] shutdown." His party is in charge, so I don't know why he would say that. Even more discouraging is a recent Washington Post story that said the President has told his confidants that a government shutdown would be good for him politically.

Well, there are 325 million Americans who are going to be affected by a government shutdown. It is irresponsible. It is no way to govern. In all my years in the Senate, with Republican and Democratic Presidents alike, never have I heard such damaging rhetoric come from either a Republican or Democratic President of the United States.

The last Republican shutdown in 2013 dealt a devastating blow to the Nation's economic growth. It amounted to an estimated \$1.5 billion lost for each day of the 16 days of the shutdown. Federal workers were furloughed through no fault of their own for a combined total of 6.6 million days, stalling important research and grinding our government to a halt.

I know the Republicans are in charge of the House, the Senate, and the White House. If there is a Republican shutdown this fiscal year, it is because they want one. I have talked to a lot of Republicans and Democrats, whom I respect and work with every day, who hope the 2-week continuing resolution before us is an indication we will not go down that path. I hope these Republicans will work with Democrats to produce a responsible, bipartisan budget deal that meets the needs of our Nation.

We have squandered enough time. I stand ready, as I have been since March, when we negotiated a budget agreement that kept us from having a shutdown last time. I will work with the Republican leadership, as I did then, to secure the funding agreements we need to complete our appropriations

work for this fiscal year. This 2-week continuing resolution will give us that chance.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to join with the Republican leader and vote aye.

Mr. President, how much time is remaining before the vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 8 minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. And how much time is there on the other side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Nine minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. So we will not vote unless time is yielded back.

I believe there are no other speakers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back on both the Republican and Democratic sides.

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

All time is yielded back.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. LEAHY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 311 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Donnelly	Leahy
Baldwin	Duckworth	Manchin
Barrasso	Durbin	McCaskill
Bennet	Enzi	McConnell
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Menendez
Blunt	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gardner	Murkowski
Brown	Graham	Murphy
Burr	Grassley	Murray
Cantwell	Hassan	Nelson
Capito	Hatch	Perdue
Cardin	Heinrich	Peters
Carper	Heitkamp	Portman
Casey	Heller	Reed
Cassidy	Hoeven	Risch
Cochran	Inhofe	Roberts
Collins	Isakson	Rubio
Coons	Johnson	Schatz
Corker	Kaine	Schumer
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott
Cortez Masto	King	Shaheen
Cotton	Klobuchar	Shelby
Daines	Lankford	Stabenow

Strange	Tillis	Whitehouse
Sullivan	Udall	Wicker
Tester	Van Hollen	Wyden
Thune	Warner	Young

NAYS—14

Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Cruz	Lee	Sanders
Ernst	Markey	Sasse
Gillibrand	McCain	Warren
Harris	Merkley	

NOT VOTING—5

Crapo	Franken	Toomey
Flake	Paul	

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 123) was passed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES— H.R. 1

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the authority granted on a motion yesterday, the Chair appoints conferees on the part of the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. HATCH, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARPER conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to make a motion to proceed to Executive Calendar Nos. 533, 534, and 535 today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 533.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leonard Steven Grasz, of Nebraska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leonard Steven Grasz, of Ne-

braska, to be the United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Michael B. Enzi, Johnny Isakson, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, Ron Johnson, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, Cory Gardner, James E. Risch, Jeff Flake.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 534.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Michael B. Enzi, Johnny Isakson, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, Ron Johnson, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, Cory Gardner, James E. Risch, Jeff Flake.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 535.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.