

disturbingly little about how U.S. military assistance is used on the battlefield, including whether our refueling enables the bombing of civilians. Most critically, with both sides at a total impasse, the prospect of a political settlement is farther from reach now than at the beginning of this devastating war.

In short, U.S. policy in Yemen has been an abject failure, and by continuing our military assistance unmitigated, we are complicit in this tragedy.

This complicity is fueled by President Trump's unquestioning embrace of the Saudi monarchy, and his apparent inability to use our leverage to place meaningful restraints on the Saudi attacks in Yemen. In addition, more than a year after his inauguration, the President has not put forward nominees to fill key diplomatic posts that would be responsible for addressing this conflict, including the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs or the U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He has alienated our counterparts at the United Nations. In action and in deed, President Trump has all but ensured the onslaught in Yemen will continue.

I believe it is incumbent on the Congress to hold the Saudi-led coalition accountable and no longer to abdicate our responsibility in decisions of peace and war. S.J. Res. 54 reins in the President's largely unencumbered war making powers and ends unconditional U.S. military support for the Saudi campaign in Yemen without an authorization from Congress. For these reasons, I voted against the motion to table this resolution.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGULATORY RELIEF, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to discuss S. 2155, the banking bill, and explain the provisions of the bill I supported, those I opposed, and my reasons for ultimately opposing this legislation.

Over the past year, I have appreciated the opportunity to meet with Maryland community bankers, consumers, and an array of stakeholders who would be impacted by this bill. I have organized roundtables on economic development in Howard County and Baltimore. I have met with consumer groups who want a strong regulatory framework to ensure fair lending and to protect taxpayers from excessive risk-taking by some of the biggest banks. Most recently, I held a forum with my State's attorney general, Brian Frosh, where hundreds of passionate Marylanders came out on a rainy night to talk about consumer protection.

We need a healthy banking system that serves Maryland businesses and consumers, and banking regulations should be appropriately tailored to the risks a bank poses to consumers, taxpayers, and the economy. Community

banks should not have to comply with all of the regulations that apply to large Wall Street banks. That is why I support many of the reforms in this bill to relieve community banks of some unnecessary regulations. I also support provisions to modernize the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, so that reciprocal deposits are not considered to be brokered deposits.

While I supported most of the reforms relating to community banks and credit unions, I have concerns with provisions in the bill that will encourage excessive risk-taking in systemically important banks and am disappointed by the absence of strengthened protections for consumers.

For example, this legislation significantly raises the threshold for enhanced prudential standards for systemically important financial institutions, SIFIs. While I can support an increase in the threshold, I believe this bill goes too far. Gary Gensler, the chair of the Maryland Financial Consumer Protection Commission, and the former chairman of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, has pointed out that this bill dials down prudential oversight for about 20 percent of U.S. banking sector assets. Mr. Gensler also noted that section 401 could be construed as possibly requiring the Federal Reserve to raise the threshold at which foreign megabanks are subject to the enhanced standards, thereby potentially allowing the very biggest banks to escape some of the current regulations.

I am also concerned that section 402 of the bill modifies the supplementary leverage ratio by excluding custodial assets for custodial banks. This provision allows for greater risk-taking among megabanks. Removing custodial assets from the denominator of the supplementary leverage ratio will allow these banks to take on risk in all areas. Former Federal Reserve Governor Daniel Tarullo said that removing one type of asset from a ratio on the grounds that it is safe "would defeat the whole purpose of a leverage ratio, which is to place a cap on total leverage, no matter what the assets on the other side of the balance sheet may be." Former FDIC Chair Sheila Bair wrote that "Section 402 will create an uneven playing field by giving big systemic banks a special capital break not applicable to community and regional institutions." Moreover, this could create a slippery slope where we start excluding other items banks deem "safe" from the ratio.

Additionally, I cannot ignore the fact that this bill does very little to help strengthen consumer protections at a time when the Trump administration is eliminating rules that protect consumers. If we can reach bipartisan agreement to modify regulations for banks, surely we can find agreement on ways to help protect consumers from the abuses we have seen from the likes of Wells Fargo and Equifax.

I am particularly troubled by two last-minute changes that benefit

Equifax. Section 310 has the admirable goal of increasing competition in the credit scoring industry. However, the primary beneficiary of this provision is VantageScore, a company jointly created by the three consumer credit reporting agencies, Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian. This means that a company that is essentially owned by the credit bureaus will also have the ability to determine your score. In short, this bill gives the credit bureaus a key tool to take over the credit reporting and scoring markets. Be assured that I will closely watch how the Federal Housing Finance Agency implements section 310.

After both Republicans and Democrats spent the past 6 months saying that we would hold the credit reporting agencies more accountable, this bill makes a second last-minute change that would prevent members of the armed services who receive a free credit freeze from suing the credit reporting bureaus for wrongdoing.

We hear time and time again about how poorly the credit reporting bureaus treat consumers. False information in credit reports can do great harm to consumers; yet the credit rating agencies face no real sanctions for their culpability. That is unacceptable. We need to change the system so that these companies have better incentives to produce accurate credit reports, including sanctioning them for inaccurate and breached data. We must give consumers the power to control their own data and provide them with the ability to take legal action against the bureaus when they have been wronged. Providing the bureaus with a shield from legal liability and opening the door for them to manipulate the credit reporting industry is going in the wrong direction.

In conclusion, while I support many provisions in the bill, especially those relating to community banks and credit unions, I believe other provisions in the bill create excessive risks. Those risks, as well as the failure to use this opportunity to further protect consumers, led me to oppose this bill.

TRIBUTES TO THAD COCHRAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Senator COCHRAN and I met while serving together in the House of Representatives, but it was in the Senate that we became close colleagues. Throughout his service, Senator COCHRAN has remained devoted to the U.S. Senate functioning as a bipartisan, deliberative body. It is a goal I have long admired about Senator COCHRAN and a mission I share.

As only the second Republican to be elected to represent Mississippi in the House of Representatives since Reconstruction and the first Republican to win a statewide election in a century at the time he was elected to the U.S. Senate, Senator COCHRAN proved that it is ideas and commitment to constituents that move communities and

States forward. Throughout his career, Senator COCHRAN continued to prove time and again that this is the path to legislative success.

You really get to know a colleague when you travel with them. I know Senator COCHRAN as a deliberative and thoughtful colleague. Though collegial and cautious, Senator COCHRAN was dogged in his pursuit to represent the interests of Mississippi. Senator COCHRAN and I often exchanged ideas in the Senate Agriculture Committee while he served as chairman. I can say with certainty that he represented the farmers of his State extremely well.

A hallmark of Senator THAD COCHRAN's distinguished career has been his ability to work effectively and thoughtfully on behalf of Mississippi. He has a courteous manner but commands the attention and respect of his colleagues. His deep institutional knowledge and dedication to public office will make him a sorely missed member of the United States Senate.

I thank him for his faithful service to this body and wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize my friend and colleague Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi. On April 1, the Senate will lose a tremendous public servant.

Between the House and Senate, Senator COCHRAN devoted nearly 46 years of service to his State, and I am sad to hear it is coming to an end.

The son of two educators and a fellow 4-H alumnus, Senator COCHRAN knows the importance of serving his community. In 1973, he answered the call to represent the people of Mississippi and hasn't stopped since.

As outgoing chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator COCHRAN leaves a legacy of providing many victories to Florida. From funding the restoration of the Everglades, to ensuring our Nation's military has enough funding to defend our country, Senator COCHRAN's enduring contributions are to be commended.

I think TIME Magazine said it right when Senator COCHRAN was selected as one of America's 10 Best Senators in 2006, accurately dubbing him the "quiet persuader" after he secured nearly \$29 billion for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in our Gulf Coast.

His proven bipartisanship will be remembered by the people of Mississippi and by his colleagues here in the Senate.

I am proud to have served with Senator COCHRAN, and we will all miss his leadership. I wish him well on his next endeavor.

Mr. CARDIN, Mr. President, while we are all looking forward to the Passover-Easter recess, wrapping up our work this week feels bittersweet because, when we return on April 9, our dear friend and colleague THAD COCHRAN will not be returning with us. It is fitting, given his retirement, that we passed the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus Ap-

propriations Act since the senior Senator from Mississippi deserves so much of the credit for negotiating that package and getting it to the floor.

Senator COCHRAN was born and raised in Mississippi in a close-knit family that valued academic achievement, civic engagement, and hard work. Both of his parents were teachers. Senator COCHRAN was an Eagle Scout. He earned varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball, and tennis at Byram High School, where he gave a piano and voice recital his senior year, and he graduated as class valedictorian.

Senator COCHRAN attended the University of Mississippi, where he was student body vice president and earned a bachelor of arts degree with a major in psychology and a minor in political science. After he graduated, he was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve and assigned to duty aboard the USS *Macon*, a heavy cruiser homeported in Boston, MA.

After Senator COCHRAN completed his tour of Active Duty in the Navy, he attended the school of law at the University of Mississippi. While in law school, he won an award for having the highest scholastic average in the first-year class, served on the editorial board of the Mississippi Law Journal, and argued before the Mississippi Supreme Court as a moot court finalist. He was awarded a Rotary Foundation graduate fellowship and studied jurisprudence and international law for a year at Trinity College in Dublin before returning to Ole Miss for his final year of law school. Senator COCHRAN's law school grade point average was the third highest of all students who graduated from the Ole Miss law school during the 1960s.

Senator COCHRAN joined the law firm of Watkins & Eager in Jackson, MS, and was made a partner in less than 3 years. It was around this time that he became a Republican, and in 1972, he elected to Congress to represent the Fourth District. He became just the second Republican to be elected to represent Mississippi in the U.S. House of Representatives since Reconstruction, after Prentiss Walker was the first in 1964. He won reelection twice, in each instance with more than 70 percent of the vote.

In 1978, Senator COCHRAN became the first Republican in more than 100 years to win a statewide election in Mississippi when he was elected to the U.S. Senate. He has since been reelected six times. Last March, he became the tenth longest serving Senator in U.S. history.

Our Nation and the State of Mississippi have benefited from Senator COCHRAN's long service. His legislative accomplishments are too numerous to list here, but I will highlight a few. First, Senator COCHRAN has been a champion of a strong national defense, both as chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Defense. Second, he has been a champion of America's farmers and ranchers

through his long service on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, which he also chaired. Third, he has been a champion for education and our Nation's cultural institutions, including the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian Institution, serving as a regent. He has a passion for education. I mentioned that his parents were teachers; so, too, is his daughter. Senator COCHRAN has worked hard to improve educational opportunities for students in Mississippi and across the country. He has advocated for early childhood education, literacy programs, teacher development, vocational education, arts education, year-round Pell grants, and the Promise Neighborhood Program. He has increased funding for title I and to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In 2005, Senator COCHRAN spearheaded the effort to secure more than \$87 billion in supplemental Federal assistance to Mississippi and the other Gulf Coast States devastated by Hurricane Katrina. More recently, he coauthored the 'RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act' to help Gulf Coast States recover from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He helped develop, maintain, and improve the Natchez Trace Parkway, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Vicksburg National Military Park, and the Gulf Islands National Seashore. In addition, he authored provisions to promote National Park Service efforts to research and preserve sites associated with the Civil Rights movement.

Senator COCHRAN is a sportsman and a conservationist in the tradition of Teddy Roosevelt. He authored the Mississippi Wilderness Act, which was the first Federal legislation ever passed for the perpetual protection of lands in the State of Mississippi. He helped to establish national wildlife refuges as a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, and he authored the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. He has received numerous awards from conservation groups, including Ducks Unlimited, the North American Waterfowl Federation, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Nature Conservancy.

I could go on, but I hope this summary of just some of Senator COCHRAN's accomplishments is sufficient to illustrate how remarkably effective he has been over a long and distinguished career in public service. Senator COCHRAN is an exemplary public servant. In 2006, TIME magazine selected him as one of "America's 10 Best Senators"—a distinction I am sure no one in this Chamber would dispute. TIME called him the "quiet persuader"—an apt description—and commented on his "courtly manner." We use the term "gentleman" frequently here in the Senate, perhaps too frequently sometimes, but Senator COCHRAN truly is a gentleman, and he is a gentle man. He doesn't raise his voice. He doesn't solicit attention to himself. He goes about his work quietly but effectively.

His word is his bond. The Senate is a better place because of his service, and we will miss him. Rather than feel sorrow over his imminent departure, I feel gratitude that we are so fortunate he chose a life of public service and I have had the privilege of serving with him here in the Senate for the past 12 years.

I wish all the best for our dear friend from Mississippi, his wife, Kay, and the rest of his family and thank them for their willingness to share him with us.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wanted to pay tribute to my colleague THAD COCHRAN as he retires from the Senate after almost 40 years of service.

Former Senator Margaret Chase Smith once said, "Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be complete dedication to the people and the nation." Senator THAD COCHRAN brought that dedication to the Senate every day. During his tenure, Senator COCHRAN has served as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, using those positions to help the people of Mississippi. The Senator's commitment to help alleviate the poverty in the Mississippi delta is well documented.

As Senator COCHRAN ends this chapter of his life, I wish him well and thank him for the decency and courtesy that he consistently brought to the Senate. We are better for it.

REMEMBERING LOUISE SLAUGHTER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am deeply saddened by the recent death of my friend and colleague, Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER. We served together in the House of Representatives and on the Helsinki Commission, which monitors human rights commitments across the globe. Her time on the Commission is one of the many examples of her unwavering commitment to justice and human dignity.

Louise first became interested in the Helsinki Commission's work in the early 1990s when she joined congressional efforts to address the mass rape of women and girls as a deliberate and systematic part of the ethnic cleansing campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In her calls for justice, she worked to ensure that rape wouldn't be considered as unfortunate violence incidental to conflict, but as a war crime and crime against humanity to be prosecuted as such. Her commitment to peace, justice, and reconciliation in Bosnia and the Balkans extended well beyond the period of conflict. In 2009, she joined a Helsinki Commission delegation I led to Sarajevo, where she championed the efforts of university students who saw the politics of ethnicity and nationalism—and the corruption it perpetuates—as denying them opportunities for a brighter future in a more prosperous Bosnia. She also worked to ensure those guilty of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia

were prosecuted and to provide humanitarian relief to victims of the conflict.

As part of her efforts to promote human rights around the world, we traveled together on a commission delegation to Greece in 1998 to advance the rights of Roma, Europe's largest ethnic minority population that historically faced persecution, were the victims of genocide during the Second World War, and continue to face disproportionate levels of racism and discrimination to this day.

Few other Members of Congress, House or Senate, matched her ongoing and effective engagement. During her time on the Helsinki Commission, Louise represented the United States at numerous meetings of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly, an interparliamentary body which has encouraged diplomats to focus on issues of concern and importance to the United States, especially human rights and fundamental freedoms. From 1993 to 2010, she participated in more than a dozen assembly meetings as a member of U.S. delegations, helping to show the depth of our country's commitment to transatlantic relations.

LOUISE was born in Kentucky. Her father was a blacksmith for a coal mine. She had a sister who died of pneumonia as a child, which impelled Louise to pursue degrees in microbiology and public health at the University of Kentucky. She moved to New York to work for Procter & Gamble and was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1982 and then to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986. We were House freshmen together. She coauthored the Violence Against Women Act—VAWA—secured funding for breast cancer research, and was responsible for establishing an office of research on women's health at the National Institutes of Health, NIH. In 2007, she became the first woman in U.S. history to chair the House Committee on Rules.

LOUISE was legendary in the Rochester area as her constituents know well. Her background as a microbiologist shaped her priorities in securing infrastructure upgrades, research funding for local universities, and bringing two manufacturing institutes to the area. She most recently secured funding for Rochester's new Amtrak station, which is rightfully being renamed in her memory.

LOUISE was universally respected, and it has been an honor to call her a friend and colleague, as well as to have served on the Helsinki Commission with her for two decades. My thoughts and prayers go out to her children and the rest of her family, friends, and constituents during this difficult time. She had an extraordinary life and her myriad accomplishments on behalf of her constituents, other New Yorkers, all Americans, and indeed all of humanity secure her legacy and are a wonderful testament of her commitment to public service.

NATIONAL STOP THE BLEED DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I would like to take the time to recognize March 31, 2018, as National Stop the Bleed Day. Stop the Bleed is a program offered by the American College of Surgeons to help educate the general public on techniques to assist victims suffering from uncontrolled bleeding using direct pressure, gauze and bandages, and tourniquets. As someone who has personally been trained to "Stop the Bleed," I can attest to its importance and value.

Each year, more than 180,000 people die from traumatic injuries sustained as a result of events including vehicle crashes, falls, industrial and farm accidents, shootings, and natural disasters. The most common preventable cause of these deaths is losing too much blood in the minutes before trained responders arrive. Just like CPR training, a civilian familiar with basic bleeding control techniques is better equipped to save a life. The effort to make this training available to the public is driven by the goal to reduce or eliminate preventable death from bleeding.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Stop the Bleed Day so that we may raise awareness and work to end the loss of life from uncontrolled bleeding by getting trained to "Stop the Bleed."

WEEK ON THE STATUS OF BLACK WOMEN

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator Gillibrand, we rise to request that, for the 4th year in a row, the U.S. Government officially recognize the last week in March as the Week on the Status of Black Women. During the week of March 26, 2018, as part of Women's History Month and in honor of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent, several leading social justice organizations will be holding events across the country to honor Black women's momentous contributions to our country and to shed light on the struggles Black women continue to face in American society.

Black women have long gone above and beyond the call of duty in their contributions to American civic society, particularly when it comes to voter turnout and political participation. They have routinely stepped up as leaders and bulwarks in their communities, sacrificing their own health and time for the betterment of others. Even in the face of grave oppression dating back to our Nation's origins, Black women have continued to stand strong and contribute to the well-being of families, communities, the economy, and our country as a whole. A recognition of the Week on the Status of Black Women would send a critical message that the government wishes to elevate Black women's role in history and contemporary society and recognizes the unique struggles they continue to experience today.