

technologically advanced aircraft ever built. I am told that next month, the last raw forging shipment will come to the facility for Hoosier workers to manufacture these components. Honeywell is planning to send that manufacturing work for the F-35 overseas to a plant in Turkey.

While Turkey is a member of NATO, it is on a concerning path of crumbling democratic norms, and it is in the process of purchasing a missile defense system from Russia. That is not the kind of place where we should be manufacturing critical components for one of the most advanced warfighting machines in our arsenal, particularly when we have trained, experienced, talented, patriotic, devoted American workers in South Bend, IN, who want to continue doing this work protecting our men and women and keeping our Nation safe.

What is more, if the U.S.-Turkey relationship deteriorates further, I am concerned our country will not have access to a critical component of our most sensitive aircraft or missile or radar. We don't currently know what future threats to our supply chain will emerge. This Congress and the American people should know the answers to those questions. I believe my provision will help us get to the bottom of it and find those answers.

Another provision I authored that the Senate Armed Services Committee adopted as part of this bill would ensure that our Nation retains key national security capabilities within the Federal workforce.

I also fought to keep key sectors of our defense industrial base robust and secure from threats, such as tampering and counterfeit parts. That work happens at the Naval Support Activity Center in Crane, IN.

In addition, another measure I supported that is included in this bill ensures that companies that provide products crucial to our national defense are not purchased by a foreign adversary like China. When it comes to our national defense work, I believe it is critical that our policies encourage companies to invest in American workers and communities at home and penalize those that ship work to foreign countries. That is why I proposed an amendment that is simple and clear: Federal defense contracts, funded by American taxpayers, should go to companies that employ American workers.

My amendment, which is based on my End Outsourcing Act, would allow contracting officers to take into consideration a company's outsourcing practices when awarding Federal contracts. It is common sense. Our Federal tax dollars should go to companies that invest in and support American workers. When defense work is shipped from American companies to other countries, it can hurt our national defense, our workers, and our communities.

Finally, I want to highlight a provision that has been mentioned by my colleagues that I strongly supported in

this bill that helps protect American telecommunications security, which is an important part of our national security.

Specifically, this bill includes a provision that prohibits the Department of Defense from procuring, obtaining, or renewing contracts that utilize equipment or services from China's Huawei Technologies or ZTE Corporation. Huawei is reportedly being investigated by the Department of Justice for potentially violating U.S. sanction laws as it relates to Iran. ZTE sold sensitive technologies to Iran and North Korea in violation of U.S. sanctions laws.

I am concerned about the administration's recently announced deal to roll back penalties against ZTE, and I think this measure in the Senate, in our national defense bill, would be an important step toward helping safeguard our telecommunications industry's security.

I am hopeful the Senate will soon pass the national defense bill. It is bipartisan. It is not Democratic, it is not Republican; it is American. It is an example of what we can accomplish together. I am proud it will help protect our national security and American jobs, and it also includes a number of provisions that are vital to Indiana.

I would like to close by again saying how honored we are that this is the JOHN MCCAIN Defense bill. What an extraordinary chairman he has been for us. We wish him well. We hope he is getting stronger every single day, and we look forward to seeing him in the Chamber soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF PASTOR ANDREW BRUNSON

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am coming back to the floor, sadly, to make a speech that I promised to make every week that I am in the U.S. Senate as long as a pastor from North Carolina, who has been in mission in Turkey for almost 20 years—until his release from a Turkish prison.

Before I get started with that, I want to thank Senator DONNELLY for his comments because I think we share a common concern with respect to the Joint Strike Fighter Program. That is something I am going to suggest in my discussions.

I also thank, in advance, Senator SHAHEEN, who has worked with me, on a bipartisan basis, to highlight the concern we have for a man who has been in a Turkish prison for 614 days.

Pastor Brunson was arrested in October of 2016 for nothing more than being a missionary. I went to Turkey about 2 months ago and visited him in a Turkish prison, after almost 17 months of being in prison, without any charges. They brought charges against him that are some of the most bogus excuses for evidence you could possibly imagine. I am certain that if it were somebody with these charges in the United States in a jail system or prison system, they would be released the day the charges were filed.

This is Pastor Brunson. He is a little over 50 years old. Since he has been in prison, he has lost 50 pounds and has spent almost 17 months in a prison cell designed for 8 people that had 21 people in it, that entire time without a single formal charge levied against him.

Pastor Brunson is a Presbyterian minister from Western North Carolina, an area called Black Mountain. He was swept up in the arrest that occurred after the illegal coup attempt that I think was inappropriate and that I would probably oppose because I think there is a peaceful way to change regimes, but Pastor Brunson wasn't one of the people who caused the coup. If you went to that courtroom like I did and spent 12 hours in that room, you would have heard absurd charges from over a dozen secret witnesses, many of them in prison, talking about the food that somebody may have eaten, which is a preferred food of a terrorist organization, or the fact that a light was on in a small church in Izmir for hours, and certainly there had to be something bad going on.

That is the nature of these charges. I am not making it up. This man is doing everything he can to have the truth be heard, but I actually believe this is not about a judicial process. This is not about valid charges. This is about a political hostage.

I will tell you the day I absolutely confirmed that this pastor became a political hostage. It is the day President Erdogan had the audacity to make this statement. President Erdogan believes that there is someone in this country who was involved in the coup attempt. We have reached out to Turkey and said: If you can process a valid basis for extradition—we have an extradition treaty with Turkey—we would be happy to consider that, based on the merits of the case, and we still would be, but the President had the audacity to say: We can just short circuit all of those by you trading your pastor for our pastor. President Erdogan clearly demonstrated that he has the authority to release this illegally and improperly imprisoned American, who has been in prison for 614 days, but he chooses not to.

Now, on a bipartisan basis—I should tell my colleagues that one of the reasons I find this so insulting is because Turkey has been a NATO ally since 1952. We have to understand what being a NATO ally means. What it means is the greatest, the most powerful Nation

on Earth has committed to deploying men and women in American uniforms to Turkey to protect Turkey if they are attacked by an outside aggressor. We have a commitment to protect the Turkish people. We have a commitment to our men and women in harm's way to protect the Turkish people, but we have a Turkish President who is acting less like a NATO ally and more like an adversary.

By the way, this is not an argument with the Turkish people who are great people. I have been to Turkey several times—they are wonderful people—but this President is taking a position that has to have a consequence.

Again, we can go back and talk about what our obligations are under the treaty. First and foremost, it is to treat an ally that has that very heavy obligation to defend another Nation—to go to some other soil and defend that Nation—to treat them with respect, to treat their citizens with respect. If they are a criminal, present the evidence and prosecute them.

There are Americans in Turkish prisons. They have committed murders, robbery, and other crimes, and there was legitimate evidence put forth for me to be OK with that, but I am not at all OK with the way Pastor Brunson has been treated by the Turkish judiciary.

We tried everything we could for about 1½ years on a diplomatic basis and that has gone nowhere. After my last trip to Turkey, I decided we had to get Turkey's attention, and on a bipartisan basis, we started that by passing an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act that will ask for the answers to very important questions. Some of those have to do with the illegal detainment of American persons in Turkey. The other one has to do with a very important—in fact, the most sophisticated tactical fighter that has ever flown through the air, the Joint Strike Fighter, or the F-35.

Turkey is a very important part of the supply chain to the Joint Strike Fighter and Turkey has requested Joint Strike Fighters to be put into their arsenal. On the surface, because they are a NATO ally, I don't object to it, but, today, I strongly object to it.

We passed language in the national defense authorization that we will be voting on fairly soon that will actually put Turkey on notice: Choose what you want to be. Do you want to be an ally that treats your other ally citizens with respect; do you want to be an ally that actually builds defense systems that come from allies, not from a would-be adversary like Russia; or do you want to actually go down the path and lose the support of the American people along the way?

I thank Chairman INHOFE for his support of the amendment. I want to thank the members of the Senate subcommittee—the Senate full Committee on Armed Services who voted for this amendment. I look forward to getting this passed into law when we finally

confer with the House and sending a message to Turkey: We want to be your ally. We want to be there in your darkest hour to defend your security. Convince Members of the Senate that you want to be our ally, that you want to treat our citizens with respect, and that you will free Pastor Brunson.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator TILLIS on the floor today as he discusses Turkey and Pastor Andrew Brunson. I applaud Senator TILLIS for his continued commitment in seeking justice for Pastor Brunson. Since March, Senator TILLIS, Senator LANKFORD, and I have joined together to keep pressure on Turkish President Erdogan.

We are not driven by diaspora politics, we have no hidden agendas, and we are not agents for Gulen or other actors like the Turkish papers have claimed—quite the contrary. As co-chairs of the Senate NATO Observer Group, Senator TILLIS and I are ardent supporters of NATO. We value Turkey's importance as an ally. We want U.S.-Turkey relations to improve. Yet, supporting Turkey and the Turkish people should not mean appeasing the Turkish President.

It is clear that the less we push back as a nation against Turkish President Erdogan, the more emboldened he becomes.

Five years ago, if you had asked any diplomat or military official whether Turkey would stoop so low as to take innocent Americans hostage and leverage them for political gain, no one would have said that this was a possibility. Yet that is where we are today.

Turkey has not only joined the ranks of Iran, Syria, North Korea, and Venezuela as a hostage-taker, but it has shifted its orientation away from NATO and toward Russia for no other reason except for Erdogan's financial and electoral gain.

Even with the near-constant propaganda, however, there are things the Turkish Government can't hide: Turkey's rapidly falling currency, the faltering state of their judiciary, the inexplicable enrichment of President Erdogan, his family, and his inner circle. All these issues are well-known concerns. In fact, according to New World Wealth—the research outfit that tracks millionaire migrations—in 2017, the largest exodus of millionaires was seen in Turkey—a clear indication that those who can leave Turkey are choosing to do so.

Unfortunately, the Turkish people can only do so much while living under a dictatorship—a dictatorship that is about to expand on June 24, the date of Turkey's next election. For this reason, the United States should not stay silent about what is happening in Turkey and what is happening to NATO because of Turkey.

Senator TILLIS and I both serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee,

and we successfully added a bipartisan and widely supported amendment to this year's Defense bill that is moving through the Senate. The amendment would stall the delivery or transfer of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters to Turkey.

I hope that both the Departments of State and Defense hear Congress loud and clear: We should have no signing ceremonies, no planes, and no moves to weaken NATO are acceptable at this time.

Our government is well aware of the serious security concerns that may come if Turkey takes control of any F-35 aircraft. My colleagues Senator DONNELLY and Senator TILLIS have already spoken eloquently to that.

First, the Turkish Government claims to have purchased a Russian air defense system designed to shoot these very planes down. NATO partners need these F-35s to counter Russian activity. We would be handing this technology over to the Kremlin if we granted Turkey these planes, and Congress will not stand for it.

Second and absolutely critical to this afternoon's discussion is that nothing should be more important than the safety of American citizens.

Pastor Brunson has been held in Turkey since October of 2016. The charges against him are clearly fabricated, and the legal proceedings have been a farce. His defense is not allowed to call up witnesses, and the identities of the secret witnesses in his indictment are known to be petty criminals.

What is happening to Pastor Brunson is an absolute shame, but it has become a sad reality for those living in Turkey because Turkey has already imprisoned over 50,000 of its own people. I wish we could do more for all of those people, but at the very least, our government has a duty to act when any American anywhere is held unjustly by a foreign government. We must do everything we can to bring Americans home, to bring Pastor Brunson home.

I encourage the administration to use every tool available in their diplomatic and economic toolbox to bring the pastor and all innocent Americans home at once. In the meantime, Senators TILLIS, LANKFORD, and I will continue to push for targeted sanctions against Erdogan and all officials who are involved in the unlawful detention of Americans in Turkey. We will not cease our efforts until Turkey rejoins the community of democracies it once belonged to. We all hope this day comes sooner rather than later.

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to also talk about an issue that has not made it into the Defense authorization bill, unlike the amendment that Senator TILLIS and I support.

Sadly, help for the Afghans who aided our troops in the war in Afghanistan is not included in this Defense authorization bill. As most of us know in