

S. 2961

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2961, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 3013

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3013, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to require Congressional approval before the President adjusts imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security.

S. 3038

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3038, a bill to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales.

S. 3041

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3041, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for disaster recovery reforms, and for other purposes.

S. 3142

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to provide for proper oversight of North Korea policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3178

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3178, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 527

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 527, a resolution congratulating the people of Georgia on the 100th anniversary of its declaration of independence as a democratic republic and reaffirming the strength of the relationship between the United States and Georgia.

S. RES. 557

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 557, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strategic importance of NATO to the collective security of the transatlantic region and urging its member states to work together at the upcoming summit to strengthen the alliance.

S. RES. 565

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 565, a resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Kings Bay, Georgia.

S. RES. 566

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 566, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States must immediately establish an interagency Office for Locating and Reuniting Children with Parents in order to protect separated children from suffering additional trauma resulting from the "Zero Tolerance" policy.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. JONES):

S. 3186. A bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to establish, incrementally over five years, a nationwide program to provide personal identification numbers to taxpayers to help prevent tax-related identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce with my colleague from Alabama, Senator JONES, the Taxpayer Identity Protection Act of 2018, a bill that seeks to help prevent American taxpayers and seniors from falling victim to identity theft and tax refund fraud.

As of May 17, the IRS had received more than 141.5 million individual income tax returns for the 2018 filing season. Of that number, nearly 75 percent were eligible for refunds. These refunds are not a gift from the Federal government—they are the return of funds belonging to taxpayers that were withheld from their paychecks last year. In the past few months, millions of American families have been eagerly awaiting these tax refunds, money they may need to pay off debts, medical bills, and plug gaps in the family budget. Unfortunately, for many Americans these refunds have not yet come.

Taxpayers are not the only ones eagerly awaiting these refunds. Criminals have figured out that, in many instances, it is cheaper and easier for them to steal taxpayers' identities and hijack their tax refunds than it is to traffic in drugs or rob banks.

Identity theft-refund fraud occurs when a criminal files a false tax return using a stolen Social Security Number and other sensitive personal information from sources like hospitals, schools, or assisted living facilities, often by recruiting employees to steal that information. The fraudster then uses this information to prepare fraudulent tax returns.

The thieves make sure to file early, as soon as the tax filing season opens in January, to increase the odds that they can get a refund before the real

taxpayer files his or her return. The criminals are known to hold what they call "make it rain parties," where they bring stolen laptops to a motel room with Internet access, and work together churning-out scores of fake returns.

These fraudsters work under the premise of "file early, file often." Once the thieves file the fraudulent tax return, the IRS processes it and issues a refund. With each refund worth on average \$2,778, the money can add up quickly.

This is not a victimless crime. Last year, the Federal Trade Commission received more than 371,000 complaints of identity theft, including 82,000 complaints related to employment or tax-refund fraud. Taxpayers who have their refunds hijacked by fraudsters often have to wait years to get the refunds to which they are legally entitled. Many are re-victimized year after year. A substantial number become victims of other forms of identity theft. Worst of all, victims are often the most vulnerable: elderly citizens who earn so little they are not even required to file a tax return. The IG estimates that 76,000 low-income elderly citizens were victims of tax-fraud identity theft in 2010 alone.

In 2016, the Lewiston Sun Journal published a story about a couple, Rick Zaccaro and his wife, Bonnie Washuk, who were victims of tax refund fraud. They had filed their taxes in late January 2015, and when Rick, a retired financial analyst for the Postal Service, was checking the status of their return online in early February, he learned that they were the victims of identity theft. Someone had filed and claimed a tax refund using their names, dates of birth, and Social Security Numbers. That claim was paid while their legitimate tax filing, with their appropriate W2s, was in limbo. It took months of worrying, frozen bank accounts, and a lot of calls to multiple government offices for them to try and straighten things out. When they did finally receive their refund, they also received something called an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number—better known as an IP PIN.

To provide relief to some victims of identity theft, the IRS began issuing IP PINs to eligible taxpayers in fiscal year 2011. An IP PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers that allows their tax returns and refunds to be processed without delay and helps prevent the misuse of their Social Security Numbers on fraudulent income tax returns. If a return is e-filed with their Social Security Number and an incorrect or missing IP PIN, the IRS's system automatically rejects the tax return until it is submitted with the correct IP PIN or they file on paper. If the same conditions occur on a paper-filed return, the IRS will delay its processing and any refund that may be due while the IRS determines if the return actually belongs to the taxpayer.

In addition to victims of identity theft, in 2013, the IRS began a pilot

program in which it offered IP PINs to all taxpayers, not just those who were victims of identity theft, who filed their federal tax returns as residents of Florida, Georgia, or the District of Columbia. According to the IRS, these three locations have the highest per-capita percentage of tax-related identity theft in the country. Taxpayers in these three jurisdictions are not required to use an IP PIN but may opt-in to the program if they want the extra layer of identity protection.

In preparation for the 2018 Filing Season, the IRS issued nearly 3.5 million IP PINs to taxpayers, up from 770,000 in 2013. According to the IRS, as of February 28, 2018, it had rejected approximately 7,376 fraudulent e-filed tax returns, and as of March 15, 2018, it had stopped 1,442 paper-filed tax returns from posting to the Master File.

The Taxpayer Identity Protection Act of 2018 would expand and make permanent the IRS's IP PIN pilot program to help combat identity theft refund fraud across the nation. Specifically, our bill would authorize the IRS to incrementally expand its pilot program nationally, in phases, over a five-year period. Scaling out the program would give all taxpayers the opportunity to further protect themselves from falling victim to tax refund fraud and identity theft, while also saving taxpayers billions of dollars every year. The IP PIN pilot program has worked to protect against identity theft and the IRS supports its expansion over the next five years. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the adoption of Taxpayer Identity Protection Act of 2018.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 115-123, on behalf of the minority leader of the Senate and the ranking member of the Finance Committee, respectively, appoints the following individuals as members of the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: Donald R. Cohen of California and Harlan Yu of Washington, D.C.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 10; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed. I further ask that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bennett nomination. I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings. Finally, I ask that all time during adjournment, lead-

er remarks, morning business, and recess count postcloture on the Bennett nomination.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:49 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

R. CLARKE COOPER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS), VICE PUNEET TALWAR, RESIGNED.

KATHLEEN ANN KAVALEC, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA.

PHILIP S. KOSNETT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO.

FRANCISCO LUIS PALMIERI, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

JOHN COTTON RICHMOND, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, VICE SUSAN COPPEDGE AMATO, RESIGNED.

DANIEL N. ROSENBLUM, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.

STEPHANIE SANDERS SULLIVAN, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA.

KAREN L. WILLIAMS, OF MISSOURI, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

##### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BRYAN JARRETT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE WILLIAM E. SPRIGGS, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WILLIAM BRYAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE L. REGINALD BROTHERS, JR., RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN M. GARRISON, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT L. HOBBS, RETIRED.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

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

##### To be brigadier general

COL. SUSAN J. PIETRYKOWSKI

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. JON T. THOMAS

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION

OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 514:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. FREDERICK M. PADILLA  
IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

##### To be major

NISHA R. BAUR

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

##### To be colonel

JAY T. FLOTTMANN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

##### To be major

CHRISTOPHER P. WHERTHEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

##### To be major

ISSA M. ALVAREZ

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

##### To be major

NATHANIEL P. LISENBEE

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

##### To be major

SEAN P. MALANOWSKI

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

##### To be major

JAMES W. BARNES  
MICHAEL A. BECKWITH  
KATELYN M. BUHROW  
ANDREW J. GAUSEPOHL  
ROBERT B. GERARD  
REBECCA L. LEE  
ELI H. LESSARD  
JULIA ANN VETTER NUELLE  
ALLISON L. OVERMON  
RYAN O. PARKER  
OMESH S. QASBA  
KEVIN V. SCHRAND  
DANIEL B. SIMMONS  
ERIN A. TRACY  
DOMINICK A. VITALE  
BENJAMIN W. WESTCOTT  
BRADLEY A. WISLER

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

##### To be lieutenant colonel

ADAM D. AASEN  
DAVID A. BRAUN  
GEORGE E. QUINT

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

##### To be major

MATTHEW W. ALLEN  
CORY L. GOODALL  
FRANCIS E. SANFORD, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

##### To be major

BRIAN C. MORGAN

##### IN THE NAVY

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

##### To be lieutenant commander

BRUCE S. KIMBRELL, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

##### To be lieutenant commander

SAMANTHA C. DUGAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

##### To be lieutenant commander

BRIAN L. LEES