

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6157), making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by all the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 13, 2018.)

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the conference report.

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 conference report to accompany H.R. 6157, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, Marco Rubio, Johnny Isakson, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, James M. Inhofe, Cory Gardner, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEITH KELLEHER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, American jobs have changed dramatically in the last century, but the reasons Americans work have not changed.

Work is about more than a paycheck. A job is—or ought to be—a source of dignity. Men and women who work hard may not be able to live on Easy Street, but they ought to be able to walk down Main Street with their heads held high, knowing that they can provide for the basic needs of their families, and they ought to be able to retire with dignity and security.

Keith Kelleher understands this. He understands that treating workers—all workers—fairly is not an outdated

idea; it is a requirement for a sound economy and solid future. He has devoted more than four decades of his life to improving the lives of some of the lowest paid workers in our economy, including nursing home workers and home health aides.

As founding president of SEIU Healthcare in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Kansas, Keith Kelleher has helped secure the right to form and join a union for more than 91,000 traditionally low-paid healthcare workers and to negotiate for better wages and working conditions.

Not only that, like Walter Reuther and other great labor leaders of the last century, Keith Kelleher has championed broader causes of social justice. In 2014, Keith Kelleher and the members of SEIU Healthcare helped lead the fight in Illinois for marriage equality, a year before the U.S. Supreme Court made marriage equality the law of the land.

This week, Keith Kelleher is stepping down officially from the union he helped found. He is retiring after more than 30 years at the helm of SEIU Healthcare, and I want to thank him for his contributions to economic and social justice in Illinois and in our Nation.

Keith Kelleher moved to Chicago in the early 1980s from Detroit. He was working with a group called the United Labor Unions, an organization that trained people on how to organize and work together to advance their common good.

He lived as simply as the people he came to help. He focused on the home care industry because it had some of the lowest paid workers in the state. Private-sector workers hired by the State to provide services for seniors and people with disabilities earned an hourly rate of \$3.35, with no benefits. They were a forgotten group, one largely ignored by traditional labor unions.

In 1983, Keith Kelleher gathered seven home health aides in the basement of the United Methodist Temple in downtown Chicago, and they voted to organize a union. That moment was the beginning of Union Local 880. Twenty-five years later, Local 880 had grown from 7 members to 68,000 members. All great things come from small beginnings.

Keith Kelleher built Local 880 from the ground up by going door-to-door in some of Chicago's poorest, most neglected neighborhoods. He helped convince thousands of workers to pay membership fees even before Local 880 could engage in collective bargaining. They won that right in 1984, when the National Labor Relations Board officially recognized Local 880.

He convinced people that they mattered and that they could change their own lives through collective action.

He found innovative ways to raise funds for the fledgling union, canvassing for donations, selling chicken dinners on payday, and holding tag

sales. Keith and his wife even figured out how to turn their wedding into a union fundraiser.

In 1985, the independent Local 880 merged with SEIU, the Service Employees International Union.

In 2007 and 2008, Local 880 merged with two other SEIU local unions in Indiana, Local 20 and Local 4. In 2009, SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana merged with the SEIU Healthcare local unions in Missouri and Kansas. Keith Kelleher was elected founding president of the new combined union.

For nearly 40 years, Keith Kelleher has helped forge new partnerships and fought new battles. He is as determined as they come. One battle took nearly 20 years to win, but SEIU Local 880 never gave up, and in 2005, Illinois' Governor finally signed an executive order recognizing unionized home care workers who work as contractors for State agencies as public employees. That victory gave 50,000 workers the legal right to bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions. They have since won a 35 percent wage increase over 4 years and other improvements in benefits.

Under Keith Kelleher's leadership, Local 880 has become a significant political force. You cannot miss SEIU Health members at public events. They are often known as "the purple people" because of the color of the t-shirts they wear.

Keith Kelleher has fought for justice for union members and for those who don't have the benefit of union membership.

In addition to marriage equality, he has fought for a higher minimum wage across the country.

Like Tom Joad in "The Grapes of Wrath," wherever there are people in need of justice, Keith Kelleher seems to be there.

As he steps down officially this week from the union he helped create, I want to thank Keith personally and wish him, his wife Madeline, and his two daughters Ryan and Aileen well. He has made a real difference in the lives of tens of thousands of workers, and his life's work will continue to lift workers up for generations to come.

#### JUAN REQUESENS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit Venezuela, a once proud Latin American democracy that is now in a state of collapse. The country was planning a Presidential election a few weeks after my visit in late May.

My message to President Maduro and members of his government during this visit was clear and simple. They should run a clean election in which opposition candidates are released from detention and allowed to participate. Local and international observers should be allowed to observe the entire electoral process. The election should be administered in a fair and open manner by credible nonpartisan election commissioners.

These were the same messages told to Venezuela by its neighbors in Latin America.

I suggested that meeting these obvious international norms and restoring the power of the country's duly elected National Assembly would help ease Venezuela's isolation and the suffering of its people.

Tragically, obstinately, President Maduro and his circle of corrupt colleagues chose to double down. They held a sham election.

Its legitimacy was rejected by the international community and the consequences have been predictable: continued mass exodus of desperate Venezuelans to neighboring countries, inflation nearing 1 million percent, deepening international isolation, and of course, an increasingly ruthless crack-down on political opponents to further solidify the regime's illegitimate hold on power.

This regime already had a shameful history of jailing political opponents. Their victims include Judge Maria Afiuni, who had the courage to rule against the government on a case before her, Leopoldo Lopez, the former mayor of Caracas who was a highly popular national candidate and therefore remains under house arrest and unable to compete in elections, and so many others including a number of dual American-Venezuelan citizens.

And now, it has jailed young elected National Assembly Member Juan Requesens on highly questionable charges.

His crime? Criticizing President Maduro and the staggering human suffering and the demise of democracy under his dictatorial rule.

Haunting videos of Requesens in detention have surfaced which strongly suggest torture and inhumane treatment.

Several months ago, I had the great pleasure of sitting down with several of Juan's colleagues when I was in Caracas. These are the next generation of young leaders, brave men and women who won at the ballot box in many areas previously won by Hugo Chavez and Maduro.

They won because they made an effort to understand voters' economic concerns and how former ruling parties had too often become corrupt or ignored the poor. They were the hope for the future, but to this Maduro regime, they were a threat.

So voter and candidate registrations were manipulated to make it harder for

opposition parties and candidates to compete. Elected National Assembly Members were harassed and threatened. In some cases, their passports were confiscated.

I will never forget when they told me that, if I returned a year later, that half of them might be gone, jailed or chased into exile. Sadly, they were right.

My colleagues Senators MENENDEZ, NELSON, RUBIO, CORNYN, and I will introduce legislation in the days ahead that will further targeted sanctions against those Venezuelan officials responsible for this scandalous regime and those responsible for Juan's detention. It will also provide additional aid to help with the humanitarian crises in and along Venezuela's borders.

I wish we had not reached this desperate moment. I wish the Maduro regime would play by basic democratic rules and let the Venezuelan people freely decide their leaders. I wish the Maduro regime had the courage to compete in a free and fair election.

But it didn't.  
So until it does and until Leopoldo, Juan, and the many other Venezuelan political prisoners are freed, the National Assembly's powers restored, and a legitimate democratic process is re-established, I will continue to support pressure on this corrupt regime and sanctioning those responsible for the Venezuela's misery.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate will soon consider the conference report to H.R. 6157, a spending measure covering programs within the jurisdiction of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Labor-HHSE. The Defense portion of this legislation includes funding designated as overseas contingency operations funding pursuant to section

251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of BBEDCA. The Labor-HHSE portion includes spending designated for various program integrity efforts pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(B), section 251(b)(2)(C), and section 251(b)(2)(E) of BBEDCA. The inclusion of these designations with these provisions makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

On August 16, 2018, I filed an adjustment relating to S. Amdt. 3695 to H.R. 6157, which contained appropriations for the same two appropriations subcommittees. The Defense portion of the amendment contained \$67,914 million in revised security budget authority designated as overseas contingency operations and \$37,285 million in outlays, and the Labor-HHSE portion contained \$1,897 million in revised nonsecurity budget authority for program integrity initiatives with \$1,573 million in outlays. The budgetary adjustment was made to accommodate this spending.

Since the levels of budget authority for overseas contingency operations and budget authority and outlays for program integrity spending in the conference report are consistent with the previously filed levels and appropriately designated, those funds are now available for use in this conference report. However, the amount of outlays flowing from the overseas contingency operations funding in the conference report is estimated to be \$214 million less than my earlier adjustment. Therefore, I am reducing the general purpose outlay allocation to the Appropriations Committee and budgetary aggregates to reflect this new estimate at this time.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES	
(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)	
\$ in millions	2019
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority .....	3,617,479
Outlays .....	3,546,608
Adjustments:	
Budget Authority .....	0
Outlays .....	-214
Revised Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority .....	3,617,479
Outlays .....	3,546,394

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

\$ in millions	2019
Current Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	715,835
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	598,897
General Purpose Outlays .....	1,352,999
Adjustments:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0
General Purpose Outlays .....	-214
Revised Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	715,835
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	598,897
General Purpose Outlays .....	1,352,785