

past and the resources now requested by the President and his team. There is no big difference in principle. There has just been a shift in the political winds on the far left. This is knee-jerk, partisan opposition to the administration's reasonable and flexible requests. This is making political obstruction a higher goal than the integrity of our Nation's borders. Frankly, it is just political spite, and the American people know it when they see it.

So the Senate will continue our work on the remaining bills—the products of much bipartisan hard work and collaboration, and, in the meantime, we will turn to a clean continuing resolution later today so we can make sure we don't end this year the way we began it—with another government shutdown because of the Democrats' allergy to sensible immigration policies. That is what they did at the beginning of the year.

We need the government to remain open for the American people. We need to wrap up our work for this year, and I hope that my Democratic friends return next year ready to join the President, this Senate majority, and the American people in our desire to secure our border.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL RYAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on a completely different matter, from time to time, each of us has indulged in jokes and finger-pointing that sustain the friendly rivalry between the House and the Senate—the Founders' metaphorical teacup and saucer. Make no mistake. I am thankful every day that so many former Representatives see the light and come over to join us in the Upper Chamber, but for the past 3 years, there is no one outside of the Senate with whom I have partnered more closely than the Speaker of the House, PAUL RYAN.

As history will remember, the speakership was far from the destination that the contented Ways and Means chairman had in mind when our friend John Boehner announced his retirement in 2015, but to the great fortune of the entire Republican Party, PAUL had demonstrated over his years in the House the very qualities his conference needed most.

Everyone knew he had uncompromising integrity, seemingly inexhaustible energy, the trust and admiration of his fellow Members, and he had an aspirational message about what we stood for as Republicans. He has reminded our party, as clearly and forcefully as any leader of his generation, about all that our party can and should aspire to be—“not pale pastels,” in Ronald Reagan's timeless words, “but bold colors.” His colleagues knew he had all of these qualities, and we knew it here in the Senate.

While I was far from the most crucial member of the pressure campaign—a draft effort that even roped in the Cardinal Archbishop of New York—I will

admit that I picked up the phone too. I called PAUL and told him exactly what he didn't want to hear—that he was the right man at the right moment. Conveniently, I was about to get on a plane to Iraq at the time. So PAUL didn't have much of an opportunity to push back.

Over the past 3 years, I have had more opportunities than most to see the right man in action. We have met weekly to coordinate the efforts of our majorities and present a united front on behalf of the American people. At times the cohesion between our teams made it feel like we shared one large staff. So I have seen firsthand how much of what we have been able to accomplish this Congress has been due in huge part to PAUL's serious approach and to his principles and his pragmatism alike.

He helped lead the way on last year's comprehensive reform of our Tax Code, turning his decades-long personal mission into a brighter future for millions of American workers and job creators.

He navigated tense funding negotiations with a deep understanding of his Members' concerns and stood firm in support of America's military, helping to deliver the largest year-on-year increase in defense funding in 15 years.

He stayed true to his heart, putting Catholic social teaching into practice and fighting for policies of all shapes and sizes to lift up the most vulnerable among us, from the working poor to the victims of human trafficking.

His tenure as Speaker has proved a perfect capstone to a remarkable career in Congress. Every step of the way, PAUL has shattered myths and stereotypes about what conservative leaders are like.

Through his long list of accomplishments and his personal witness alike, he has demonstrated that faith in American free enterprise and individual liberty are not quaint, outdated ideas but essential and timeless principles.

He has helped prove that right-of-center values are not only the basis for protest movements, as some cynics had liked to suggest, they are also the foundation for governing majorities.

He has shown that our party's ideals and principles do not clash whatsoever with the moral priority we should place on those at the margins of society but rather that those ideas are often the best means to honor that commitment.

Talk about a product of the Jack Kemp coaching tree. It is safe to say the Speaker's cherished mentor would be mighty proud. PAUL's time at the center stage of our Nation's politics has inspired countless Americans, including a new generation of leaders, but speaking personally, more than any one of the accomplishments that I have been proud to work with PAUL to help to secure, I think I will most remember how he has done that job; how energetically and happily the Speaker has poured himself into each task at

hand. No matter if some said it couldn't be done, no matter that he hadn't sought the job in the first place, the happy warrior has been undeterred.

For all this says about PAUL RYAN the Speaker, it says even more about PAUL RYAN the man. He has a big heart and a razor-sharp mind. It doesn't take long to notice either one, and he knows how to lead with both.

He is a man of profound faith and abiding patriotism, and even after 20 years of Washington, he remains a staunch optimist. PAUL is quick to insist that America's brightest days are yet to come and even quicker to back up the sentiment with action.

Working with Speaker RYAN has been among the great joys of my career in the Senate. The Nation is so much better for his leadership, and I am better for his friendship. I am so grateful to PAUL for everything. I wish him, Janna, and their lovely family great happiness in whatever adventures lie ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CORNYN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now I am down to my very last end-of-year tribute to a Member of this body. I offer this one with the very greatest reluctance.

This one isn't occasioned by any retirement. Fortunately, for all of us, Senator JOHN CORNYN isn't going anywhere. He will be right here with us when the 116th Congress convenes in January, but he will no longer be serving as Republican whip. His tenure in this key leadership role is almost complete. So I could not let the week pass without sharing for the official Record—and with all of our colleagues—a small slice of the tremendous gratitude and respect and admiration I feel for the senior Senator from Texas.

JOHN and I were already well acquainted when he took over the whip role 6 years ago in relief of JON KYL, but still, I wasn't sure exactly what our relationship would look like. You never quite know in advance. Everybody is different, but just a few weeks into our partnership as leader and whip, JOHN presented me with a birthday gift that told me at least three things about him.

He framed and autographed a picture of ourselves—just an ordinary, not particularly glamorous shot of the two of us, plus JOHN BARRASSO, probably talking with the press there in the Ohio Clock corridor.

A somewhat unusual gift, I thought. Lesson No. 1: This guy has a sense of humor and good cheer. In this photo, I am kind of standing front and center. Six-foot-one JOHN is standing right behind me, a little out of focus and halfway in the shadow. So there is lesson No. 2: Humility.

Then there was his handwritten message: “Happy birthday, Mitch—I've got your back.” That was lesson No. 3. It spoke for itself and how fortunate I

have been to be reminded every single day since that JOHN CORNYN meant exactly what he said.

JOHN has proven to be a stunningly effective whip for the Republican conference these past years. He has also been more than a solid friend and a wiser, more loyal counselor than I had any right to expect.

The whip is a powerful position. The conference trusts you to help lead them. Your peers trust you with your candor and their concerns. As each piece of legislation progresses, different groups of your colleagues are trusting you to help secure accomplishments that are huge priorities for them and their own constituents.

So it is easy to imagine ways this critical role could go off the rails. You could wear out your welcome with some of your colleagues. You could become too focused on notching today's win at the expense of tomorrow's relationships and good feelings. You could let personal disagreements threaten the unity of your leadership team and your conference, but as those who know him well can attest, these aren't worries that keep John up at night. That is because he is the quintessential team player, not focused on personal gain, dedicated to the causes that matter to Texas and his Members, and willing to roll up his sleeves and do the hefty lifting himself to advance those goals.

You know, they say everything is bigger in Texas, and sure enough, "Big John" has been known to ride across the screen in campaign spots from time to time, but somewhere along the way, JOHN's ego didn't get the message. JOHN doesn't twist arms or get angry. He doesn't playact at being the bad cop. Instead, he listens. He learns. He pours his time and energy into learning all about his colleagues, their concerns, their State's priorities.

People outside the Senate might think someone in JOHN's position would need to act like a bully. The term "whip" certainly sends that message, but JOHN knows that scare tactics don't do many favors in the long run. The winning strategy on Team Cornyn has been less like the Mafia and more like savvy and heartfelt customer service, and they sure have a lot to show for it. The more I have been reflecting on why JOHN has had so much success, I have kept coming back to the fact that this man was a judge—a Texas Supreme Court justice, to be exact. In a courtroom, the judge has the power, but their job isn't to wheedle or persuade. It is to listen fairly to all parties, all theories, and all ideas. Give everyone a hearing, take it all in, and then chart the best course possible.

How lucky we have all been to have somebody like that whipping votes for the last 6 years.

It is a privilege to see JOHN at work. It has been an honor to work in the trenches with him day after day these past 6 years. To be more accurate, it has been a pleasure to stand shoulder to shoulder with him here in the well.

We have had our fair share of quality time. At the end of any Congress, you would expect the majority leader and whip might have a small handful of close shaves and dramatic moments to reflect on, but JOHN has helped steer the ship with the slimmest possible majorities. Week after week, 51 to 49, then 50 to 49, in many cases.

We have seen this play out in the confirmation of a historic number of well-qualified nominees to the Federal judiciary and in the passage of major legislation of delicate moving parts, from comprehensive tax reform to a landmark opioids package.

The truth is, even a comprehensive catalog of all the big floor votes would only capture a fraction of JOHN's excellent work. More key nominees and important pieces of legislation have traveled quietly through the Senate because JOHN has been there, diligent and patient and respectful, working through challenges and addressing concerns, literally, around the clock.

As if this wasn't enough to fill JOHN's plate, let's remember, while serving as whip, he has also been a vital member of the Intelligence Committee, Judiciary Committee, and the Finance Committee, and he has been an outstanding senior Senator for Texas all at the same time.

In fact, in each of the past two Congresses, no Senator has been the lead sponsor of more bills that have become law than JOHN CORNYN. He led on Fix NICS. He led the fight against human trafficking—all in a couple of years' work.

Of course, he doesn't do it alone. JOHN has assembled a whip staff that are as much a testament to his eye for talent as they are a tremendous asset for the entire conference. At the helm of the operation as chief of staff in his whip office, Monica Popp.

In so many ways, JOHN and Monica seem to be cut from the same cloth. Like her boss, Monica has a sixth sense when it comes to reading a room and getting people what they need. She relishes the chance to tackle tough problems. As far as she is concerned, a troublesome situation is really just an opportunity. Just like JOHN, Monica is an attentive listener. This has made her an encyclopedic authority on what makes each Member of the conference tick. When Monica makes a recommendation, you know it is based on the best possible information, and on so many occasions, I have relied directly on her sharp counsel out here on the floor.

I am not sure I have ever worked with someone who had such a warm heart and ice in her veins at the very same time. She operates with calm and confidence precisely because she has built so many genuine and solid friendships that she knows just where things stand.

Outside observers get Congress wrong when they say, "It's all about the math." It is really all about the relationships. Ironically enough, this

former math teacher turned all-star Hill staffer is just about the ultimate living proof of that.

We may not be losing Senator CORNYN this month, but I am sorry to say we are saying goodbye to Monica. I will miss her, and I know the entire conference will miss her.

It is all about relationships with JOHN too. Even as he was constantly tasked with walking a tightrope through a pressure cooker, he has also managed to be one of the kindest, most down-to-earth human beings around. In no place is this more evident than the way he treats the unelected members of this Senate family. He gets to know everyone. He wants to earn your trust. He wants to know how you are doing.

After all, before he was the Senate's majority whip or a justice on the Texas Supreme Court or the State's attorney general, he was a husband and father. I know his wife, Sandy, and their family are hoping the end of JOHN's service as whip will bring at least a nominal relaxing of his schedule. I doubt that, by the way.

Ordinarily, I might guess that JOHN might be able to spend more time on his hobbies, but somehow—as his prolific Twitter and Instagram pages regularly notify the whole world—he has kept right at them all along.

For all the different hats JOHN wears in the Senate, he has managed to hang on to his chef's cap too—marching through the "Rasika" cookbook and whipping up feasts for the family. The dove hunts certainly haven't gone anywhere either.

So, really, whatever his title happens to say, what I am looking forward to from JOHN is more of the same—more invaluable guidance, more exemplary legislating. I know the press corps is certainly hoping for more of his informative one-liners.

Like I said, I am so happy we aren't saying goodbye to JOHN today. What I am saying—with complete personal sincerity, and also for the entire conference—is thank you. Thank you for your friendship, partnership, and thank you for making all of us look better than any of us deserve. Thank you for helping the Senate deliver for the country. Thank you for always having all of our backs.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks by the ranking member, that I be recognized.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

CHILD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate has received a message from the House to accompany H.R. 695.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 695.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill (H.R. 695) entitled "An Act to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes." and be it further

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the aforementioned bill, with an amendment to Senate amendment.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on the Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 1922, to change the enactment date.

McConnell Amendment No. 1923 (to the instructions) Amendment No. 1922), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell Amendment No. 1924 (to Amendment No. 1923), of a perfecting nature.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AN AMENDMENT NO.
4163

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 695, with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McConnell] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment, with an amendment numbered 4163.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted:

DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (division C of Public Law 115-245) is further amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 105(3) and inserting "February 8, 2019"; and

(2) by adding after section 136 the following:

"SEC. 137. Notwithstanding section 251(a)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and the timetable in section 254(a) of such Act, the final seques-

tration report for fiscal year 2019 pursuant to section 254(f)(1) of such Act and any order for fiscal year 2019 pursuant to section 254(f)(5) of such Act shall be issued, for the Congressional Budget Office, 10 days after the date specified in section 105(3), and for the Office of Management and Budget, 15 days after the date specified in section 105(3).

"SEC. 138. The authority provided under title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), as amended by section 2(a) of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-254), shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 105(3).

"SEC. 139. Section 319L(e)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(e)(1)(A)) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 105(3) of this Act.

"SEC. 140. Section 405(a) of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6a note) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 105(3) of this Act."

This division may be cited as the "Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019".

DIVISION B—MEDICAID EXTENDERS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON REBALANCING DEMONSTRATION.

(a) GENERAL FUNDING.—Section 6071(h) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) subject to paragraph (3), \$112,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "Amounts made" and inserting "Subject to paragraph (3), amounts made"; and

(B) by striking "September 30, 2016" and inserting "September 30, 2021"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR FY 2019.—Funds appropriated under paragraph (1)(F) shall be made available for grants to States only if such States have an approved MFP demonstration project under this section as of December 31, 2018."

(b) FUNDING FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; OVERSIGHT.—Section 6071(f) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) FUNDING.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (h)(1)(F) for fiscal year 2019, \$500,000 shall be available to the Secretary for such fiscal year to carry out this subsection."

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 6071(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(10) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services."

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF PROTECTION FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AGAINST SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) is amended by striking "the 5-year period that begins on January 1, 2014," and inserting "the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on March 31, 2019,".

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) PROTECTING STATE SPOUSAL INCOME AND ASSET DISREGARD FLEXIBILITY UNDER WAIVERS AND PLAN AMENDMENTS.—Nothing in section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) or section 1924 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5) shall be construed as prohibiting a State from disregarding an individual's spousal income and assets under a State waiver or plan amendment described in paragraph (2) for purposes of making determinations of eligibility for home and community-based services or home and community-based attendant services and supports under such waiver or plan amendment.

(2) STATE WAIVER OR PLAN AMENDMENT DESCRIBED.—A State waiver or plan amendment described in this paragraph is any of the following:

(A) A waiver or plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based services under a waiver or plan amendment under subsection (c), (d), or (i) of section 1915 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n) or under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315).

(B) A plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based services for individuals by reason of being determined eligible under section 1902(a)(10)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(C)) or by reason of section 1902(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(f)) or otherwise on the basis of a reduction of income based on costs incurred for medical or other remedial care under which the State disregarded the income and assets of the individual's spouse in determining the initial and ongoing financial eligibility of an individual for such services in place of the spousal impoverishment provisions applied under section 1924 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5).

(C) A plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based attendant services and supports under section 1915(k) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(k)).

SEC. 103. REDUCTION IN FMAP AFTER 2020 FOR STATES WITHOUT ASSET VERIFICATION PROGRAM.

Section 1940 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) REDUCTION IN FMAP AFTER 2020 FOR NON-COMPLIANT STATES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a calendar quarter beginning on or after January 1, 2021, the Federal medical assistance percentage otherwise determined under section 1905(b) for a non-compliant State shall be reduced—

"(A) for calendar quarters in 2021 and 2022, by 0.12 percentage points;

"(B) for calendar quarters in 2023, by 0.25 percentage points;

"(C) for calendar quarters in 2024, by 0.35 percentage points; and

"(D) for calendar quarters in 2025 and each year thereafter, by 0.5 percentage points.

"(2) NON-COMPLIANT STATE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'non-compliant State' means a State—

"(A) that is one of the 50 States or the District of Columbia;

"(B) with respect to which the Secretary has not approved a State plan amendment submitted under subsection (a)(2); and

"(C) that is not operating, on an ongoing basis, an asset verification program in accordance with this section."

SEC. 104. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(1)) is amended by striking "\$31,000,000" and inserting "\$6,000,000".

SEC. 105. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be