

floor under the credit. This gives more certainty to those who are building housing and producing it and rehabilitating that in the market.

It also maximizes the availability of the private activity bonds by recycling any multifamily bonds that are used along with housing credits to build affordable housing. Together, these steps would help us build hundreds of thousands of new units of affordable housing over the next 10 years.

In my State and other States, it would mean that we would see a 50-percent increase in the amount of credit available over the next 10 years. That is so important because each housing project that is built takes more people out of the dire situations they are in, takes the vulnerable population and gives them the opportunity to move forward.

It also saves us dollars. The Senate Finance Committee has heard time and again from those testifying—whether it is the homebuilders or the health insurance industry—that it is more costly to deal with this population while they are homeless. That is to say, you can't deliver job training to a tent. And somebody who doesn't have proper home and a stable place to live is more likely to show up in our healthcare delivery system, costing us more money.

This legislation will also make it easier for formerly homeless students to also get help from the affordable housing tax credit under current HUD rules of the program.

It also helps those who are protected under the Violence Against Women Act can also qualify for affordable housing as they have in the past.

We know that the challenge of moving forward on affordable housing is something that is a bipartisan issue. The tax credit has had bipartisan support for many, many years in the U.S. Congress. We just need to put the pedal to the metal and provide more of the tax credit so that we can get more affordable housing built in the United States of America.

I hope my colleagues will help by signing on to this legislation, and as we discuss various proposals in the Finance Committee regarding tax policy, I hope my colleagues will help us push to our States and communities more solutions that will deal with this crisis.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 1708. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for the installation of a storm shelter at a qualified residence; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, the second bill I have introduced today would create a one-time refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 for homeowners to build or purchase a storm shelter for their home. It would ensure that people won't have to travel dangerous distances to seek shelter in the event of sudden severe weather.

Alabamians know all too well that extreme weather can strike at any

time, especially now as we move from the spring tornado season into the summer hurricane season. That is why I want to use this opportunity today to urge every single one of my colleagues to support these bills and these efforts so that all of our communities can be better prepared when natural disasters strike, and they will.

In Lee County, I have been discussing with local officials these two bills, which are just a step. They are obvious steps to me. Not everybody can afford to buy a storm shelter, so the tax credit would not be available. So, working with the Lee County M.A. and officials on the ground, we are trying to learn best practices. What can we better do to harden those areas where people live in the rural communities so they will not lose their lives, much less all of their possessions? That is what we are planning to do, and the two bills today are first steps.

I sincerely hope going forward that helping fellow Americans who have suffered disasters will no longer be the partisan issue that it suddenly became this year and that we can get back to the business of taking care of our citizens and those who have sent us here to represent them.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1709. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to improve evacuation routes in rural communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, while it is critical that communities get the disaster relief they need after the fact, it is also important that folks can better prepare for natural disasters and help make our communities safer so that we can reduce the impact and costs of the inevitable severe weather we will have in this country.

The 2019 hurricane season is upon us. It started just last Saturday. Folks in my neck of the woods and especially down in South Alabama know that means storms can come at any time. Fortunately with hurricanes, they can get some warning, but for tornadoes like the ones that hit Lee County, it is just minutes.

It is not a question of whether severe weather will happen; it is a question of when and where. It is also a question of whether we will be prepared when it strikes again. That is why today I am introducing two bills. The first is co-sponsored by my Louisiana colleagues, Senators KENNEDY and CASSIDY. It would establish a new grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation that would award up to \$100 million for projects to improve emergency evacuation routes in small and rural communities.

Generally in our State and in a lot of the coastal States, there is only one or two major evacuation routes, which is just not enough to handle the situation should another hurricane hit the gulf.

This grant money would help expand those routes.

The grants would be used for two purposes: to build State and local connector roads that would improve access to the broader thoroughfares and to expand existing roads and bridges so that folks can evacuate safely during extreme weather events. These infrastructure investments would also have the additional benefit of serving rural Alabama communities year-round and expanding and improving some of our aging roadways. With expanding and improving aging roadways and giving better access to rural communities, economic expansion will follow.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 228—SUPPORTING MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TAIWAN TO DETER, OR IF SO COMPELLED, DEFEAT, AGGRESSION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 228

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has reaffirmed its intent to seize control of Taiwan, including by force;

Whereas, on May 28, 2019, Taiwan conducted the annual Han Kuang Exercise, demonstrating the ability of Taiwanese forces to defend against invasion and other military threats;

Whereas, in May 2019, United States and Taiwanese national security advisors met in Washington for the first time since Taiwan and the United States ended formal diplomatic ties in 1979;

Whereas the Government of Taiwan has gone to great lengths to cooperate and build relations with the Government of the United States and other nations; and

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have continued to strengthen their relationship, even as the Government of the People's Republic of China has intensified its threats against the Government of Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms and encourages strengthening of United States-Taiwanese relations;

(2) condemns threats by the Government of the People's Republic of China against the Government of Taiwan, including—

(A) continued rhetoric that could insinuate an attack on the people or the Government of Taiwan;

(B) military exercises demonstrating intent to invade or otherwise attack Taiwan; and

(C) propaganda used by the Government of the People's Republic of China;

(3) applauds the Government of Taiwan's adoption of the Overall Defense Concept;

(4) urges the Government of Taiwan to continue development of a more lethal and resilient defensive posture in accordance with the new Overall Defense Concept; and

(5) calls on the governments of all nations to support a strong, prosperous, and democratic Taiwan as part of a shared commitment to the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 229—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM THAD COCHRAN, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 229

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi, in 1937;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran graduated from Byram High School in Hinds County, Mississippi, as valedictorian, an Eagle Scout, a member of 4-H, and a student athlete;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran studied at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi;

Whereas, while a student at the University of Mississippi, the Honorable William Thad Cochran was president of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, vice president of the student body, company commander in the Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and head cheerleader;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve, served aboard the USS MACON from 1959 to 1961, served on staff of the Commandant of the Eighth Naval District in New Orleans, Louisiana, taught military law and naval orientation at the Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, from 1962 to 1964, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran studied at the University of Mississippi School of Law in Oxford, Mississippi, and at Trinity College, University of Dublin, in Dublin, Ireland, on a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran joined the law firm of Watkins & Eager in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964, was made a partner at that firm in less than 3 years, and served as chairman of the Mississippi Law Institute, lawyers' chairman for the Heart Fund and United Givers Fund, president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar Association, a board member of the Jackson Rotary Club, and chairman of the Legal Services program of the Jackson Junior Bar;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was elected to the House of Representatives to represent the Fourth District of Mississippi in 1972, and was reelected in 1974 and 1976;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was elected to the Senate in 1978, becoming the first Republican in more than 100 years to win a statewide election in the State of Mississippi, and was reelected in 1984, 1990, 1996, 2002, 2008, and 2014, with a total period of service lasting from December 27, 1978, to April 1, 2018;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran served as Chair of the Senate Republican Conference from 1991 to 1997;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran served as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate from 2003 to 2005;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran served as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate from 2005 to 2007 and from 2015 to 2018;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran championed education programs, including programs to increase educational achievement among disadvantaged children,

particularly in rural areas, to build the research capabilities of universities, and to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran worked to strengthen the Armed Forces by supporting shipbuilding programs for the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and other critical Federal organizations and the military bases and installations in the State of Mississippi and across the United States;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was the chief sponsor of the National Missile Defense Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-38; 113 Stat. 205), which made the United States exponentially safer by creating the missile defense system used by the United States as of June 2019;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was a leader in agriculture and worked to promote United States agricultural innovation around the world through the development of the Cochran Fellowship Program of the Department of Agriculture, which trains fellows from middle-income countries to strengthen and enhance trade linkages between the countries of the fellows and agricultural interests in the United States;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran led the effort to provide critical Federal assistance to the State of Mississippi and other Gulf Coast States devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was a devoted father, grandfather, and husband;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was awarded honorary degrees from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, the University of Richmond, Belhaven University, and Tougaloo College;

Whereas the Honorable William Thad Cochran was recognized as the tenth-longest serving Senator in the history of the United States;

Whereas the service of the Honorable William Thad Cochran on behalf of the people of the State of Mississippi and all people of the United States earned the Honorable William Thad Cochran the respect and devotion of colleagues and the title "the Quiet Persuader"; and

Whereas the death of the Honorable William Thad Cochran has deprived the State of Mississippi and the United States of one of the most distinguished statesmen: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable William Thad Cochran, former Senator for the State of Mississippi; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(A) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(B) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable William Thad Cochran.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 230—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE OF SENIOR CORPS VOLUNTEERS SERVING 50,000,000 HOURS IN 2018**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JONES, Ms. SMITH,

Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KING, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MCSALLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 230

Whereas volunteers in the United States who are 55 years of age and older (referred to in this preamble as "senior volunteers") provide much needed services to their communities, neighbors, and friends;

Whereas Senior Corps, through the RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, provides meaningful volunteer opportunities to 220,000 senior volunteers and recruits thousands of additional community volunteers;

Whereas, for more than 5 decades, RSVP volunteers, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions have played an important role in strengthening communities by contributing their experience, knowledge, and accomplishments in order to—

- (1) help their neighbors recover from natural and manmade disasters;
- (2) provide nutrition services;
- (3) mentor and tutor schoolchildren;
- (4) support veterans and military families; and
- (5) provide respite care to caregivers;

Whereas in 2018, Senior Corps volunteers provided more than 50,000,000 hours of direct service through more than 23,000 nonprofit, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide;

Whereas structured volunteering by senior volunteers—

- (1) keeps those senior volunteers active, healthy, and engaged;
- (2) helps communities across the United States by solving local problems;
- (3) helps the United States by saving taxpayer dollars, reducing health care costs, and strengthening democracy; and
- (4) helps seniors live independent and productive lives;

Whereas the RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion programs have proven to be cost-effective ways to engage senior volunteers in volunteer service that meets pressing community needs;

Whereas recent research suggests that—

(1) volunteering not only slows the cognitive decline of aging for older individuals in the United States, but also provides an important pathway for alleviating loneliness; and

(2) throughout the United States, and especially in rural areas, older individuals are "aging in place" and are thereby particularly susceptible to loneliness, which undermines health and is linked to early mortality;

Whereas the United States should expand senior volunteer service opportunities to take advantage of the talents and experiences of the 10,000 baby boomers who will retire each day for the next 20 years;

Whereas, at a time of mounting social need and growing interest in service by older individuals in the United States, the United States has an unprecedented opportunity to harness the talents of senior volunteers to address community challenges; and

Whereas the people of the United States should join in the celebration of Senior Corps volunteers during "Older Americans Month" in May 2019; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the contributions that Senior Corps volunteers make to—

- (A) the communities in which those volunteers live and serve; and
- (B) the United States; and