

century of their good work doing just that.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill for the Department of State and Foreign Operations was reported unanimously by the committee earlier today. There is a great deal in the bill that the American people can feel good about, as the summaries released by both the majority and minority indicate. However, as is always the case with bipartisan legislation, there are also things that I wish were not in the bill, and there are things missing from the bill that I wish had been included. I want to speak about one of those.

I deeply regret that the bill does not even mention the words “climate change.” That is remarkable, or perhaps a better word is “appalling,” when one considers the existential threat that climate change poses for every living thing on Earth. If Democrats were in the majority, funding for programs to combat global warming and adapt to climate change would be a priority in the bill. Instead, it is completely missing.

An example is the Green Climate Fund, GCF, which was created in 2010 with the active participation of the United States. Its mission is to respond to climate change by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. The GCF was established to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The United States contributed a total of \$1 billion in the first 2 years of operation of the GCF.

Then President Trump was elected. Even though, according to press reports, the Trump Organization had previously cited climate change in its application for a permit to build a barrier to protect a Trump golf course from the rising sea level and increasingly powerful storms, he continues to publicly refuse to recognize climate change as a serious threat. Despite that hypocrisy and overwhelming scientific recognition of the impact of burning fossil fuels on the Earth’s climate, the Trump White House withdrew from the Paris climate agreement and opposed further U.S. funding for the GCF. Republican majorities in the Congress fell into line, and in the past two appropriations bills, there has been no funding for a U.S. contribution to the GCF.

The next replenishment for the GCF is scheduled for 2020. Since there are no funds in the bill just reported by the Appropriations Committee for a U.S. contribution to the GCF, absent an about-face by the White House, the United States will not make a replenishment pledge. It will be left to other countries to ensure that the GCF continues to operate. Once again, U.S.

leadership to address what many believe to be the most ominous threat facing the world is nowhere to be seen.

Despite that inexcusable failure by the White House and the Republican leadership in Congress, it is important to emphasize that overwhelmingly the American people recognize the threat that climate change poses and they want strong action to address it. They see what is happening here and around the world, as extreme climatic events—hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, droughts, and forest fires, coupled with crop failures, displacement of people whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed, and unprecedented migration flows—become more and more frequent and destructive. They rightly fear that if we fail to act, not long from now, these types of disasters will be exponentially worse, and they worry about the chaos this would cause for their children and grandchildren.

I mention this because I am confident that as soon as we have a President who puts the lives of future generations above the profits and campaign contributions of the fossil fuel companies, the United States will once again become a leader against climate change and a leading contributor to the GCF. Other countries should understand this. Despite President Trump and his cheerleaders in Congress, the United States has not turned its back on the threat of climate change, nor have we abandoned the GCF. Presidents come and go, and while U.S. support for diplomacy and programs to combat climate change is currently suspended, the American people, and especially the younger generation, will make sure that suspension is only temporary.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we remember and remind the world that nearly 1 year has passed since the premeditated murder of Jamal Khashoggi by the Saudi Government.

That horrific crime, carried out so brazenly as if it were just a routine job, exposed the true character of the Saudi Government not only as it pertains to Mr. Khashoggi but to the ruthless treatment of critics of the Saudi royal family more broadly.

While the Crown Prince systematically orders the execution of his opponents, he has so far escaped punishment for the murder of Mr. Khashoggi and for the lies about that crime.

Multiple Saudi officials, including the Foreign Minister, Minister of Interior, and others—all members of the royal family—flagrantly and shamelessly lied to the world, repeatedly changing their story.

The Crown Prince called Khashoggi a “dangerous jihadist.” That too was a lie.

The Saudis, who have refused to turn over Mr. Khashoggi’s remains, insist that the men who were arrested are the

only ones involved in the murder. No one who knows anything about the Saudi royal family, which is the Saudi Government, believes that.

Despite all the incriminating evidence and all the lies, the White House continues to ignore its own intelligence experts and the U.N. Special Rapporteur, relying instead on the Saudi royal family to investigate itself. What a sham.

This crime reminds us that journalists the world over who shine a spotlight on corrupt, repressive governments risk their lives and the safety of their families. They are threatened and killed for nothing more than doing their job.

Today we are also concerned about the fate of hundreds of courageous pro-democracy activists who have recently been arrested for protesting against corruption and repression in Egypt. Journalists, members of opposition political parties, and civil society activists in Egypt are routinely persecuted, denied due process, and subjected to prolonged physical and psychological abuse.

If the Saudi royal family can escape punishment for the premeditated murder of a Washington Post journalist, what does that say to journalists everywhere? What does it say about our own government, if we accept that?

I want to remind the Saudi Government, the White House, and the State Department that we do not—and we will not—accept that. Jamal Khashoggi was murdered, and there is no reasonable doubt about who is culpable. Justice will be done—no matter how long it takes.

CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL JOHN E. HYTEN

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, earlier today, this body confirmed Gen. John Hyten as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The vote was 75 to 22. It should have been 100 to 0.

General Hyten has weathered a storm of malicious attacks on his character—attacks that have been elevated by credulous pundits and politicians, even as they have been debunked again and again by independent investigations.

Today, General Hyten got his due, and Joint Chiefs gained a great leader—all because he refused to back down and because a majority of this body was willing to follow the facts where they lead.

General Hyten has devoted his life to public service. He attended Harvard University on an ROTC scholarship and spent the next three decades mastering warfare in a new domain: space. Today, he is an undisputed expert in space technology and operations, having served in senior positions at Strategic Command, Central Command, Air Force Space Command, and the 50th Space Wing at Schriever Air Force Base.

Gen. Hyten’s expertise and leadership will only grow more valuable in the

years ahead, as the United States competes with China for dominance in space and cyberspace.

Unfortunately, we haven't spent the past few months discussing General Hyten's qualifications for the job or the strategic challenges we face as a nation. Instead, Gen. Hyten's nomination was marred by false accusations of misconduct by a subordinate. This accuser has a long and disturbing history of responding to professional setbacks with serious accusations against her superiors. These accusations—all of them, against General Hyten and others in her chain of command—have been dismissed by competent, independent military investigations. Multiple inspectors general have now looked into these claims. Countless manhours have been devoted to uncovering the truth. And the truth is that General Hyten is innocent.

Today the Senate said "enough" to the malicious claims against him.

Ensuring justice for General Hyten meant nothing more and nothing less than following the facts where they lead. When we follow the facts, it sends a clear message to our men and women in uniform that they will be treated fairly by the armed service, not railroaded by a media mob or hung out to dry by their chain of command.

For victims of sexual assault and harassment, following the facts will ensure that justice is done. It will mean the same for victims of false claims like General Hyten.

I know of few leaders who take sexual misconduct more seriously than my colleague, Senator MARTHA MCSALLY—herself a victim of sexual assault. It speaks volumes about this case, as well as her own courage, that Senator MCSALLY has stood up for a good man in the face of truly reprehensible attacks. I will close with her words. "[T]he full truth was revealed in this process," she said. "The truth is that General Hyten is innocent of these charges." Indeed he is. So today he has been confirmed as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, with our full confidence that he will continue to serve with the courage and brilliance that have so far distinguished his career.

U.S. SENATE DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE REGULATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, in accordance with rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Rules and Administration and pursuant to Public Law 115-364, on September 25, 2019, the Committee adopted the U.S. Senate Disabled Veteran Leave Regulations.

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

U.S. SENATE DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE REGULATIONS

ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

§1301 Purpose and authority.

These regulations implement 5 U.S.C. §6329, which establishes a leave category, to

be known as "disabled veteran leave," for an eligible employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more. Such an employee is entitled to this leave for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability. Disabled veteran leave must be used during the 12-month period beginning on the first day of employment. The Committee's authority to promulgate these regulations is found in section 1(b) of Public Law 115-364.

§1302 Applicability.

These regulations apply to a Senate employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more, subject to the conditions specified in these regulations. These regulations apply only to a Senate employee who is hired on or after November 5, 2016.

§1303 Definitions.

In these regulations:

"12-month eligibility period" means the continuous 12-month period that begins on the first day of employment.

"Agency" means an agency of the Federal Government. In the case of an agency in the Executive branch, it means an Executive agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. §105.

"Employee" has the meaning given that term in 5 U.S.C. §6329(d).

"Employing office" has the meaning given that term in 2 U.S.C. §1301(9).

"Employment" means service as an employee during which the employee is covered by a leave system or leave policy under which leave is charged for periods of absence. This excludes service in a position in which the employee is not covered by 5 U.S.C. §6329 due to application of another statutory authority.

"First day of employment" means the first day of service that qualifies as employment that occurs on the later of—

(1) The earliest date an employee is hired after the effective date of the employee's qualifying service-connected disability, as determined by the Veterans Benefits Administration; or

(2) The effective date of the employee's qualifying service-connected disability, as determined by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

"Health care provider" has the meaning given that term in 5 C.F.R. §630.1202.

"Hired" means the action of—

(1) Receiving an initial appointment to a civilian position in the Federal Government in which the service qualifies as employment under these regulations or any other regulations promulgated to implement 5 U.S.C. §6329;

(2) Receiving a qualifying reappointment to a civilian position in the Federal Government in which the service qualifies as employment under these regulations or any other regulations promulgated to implement 5 U.S.C. §6329; or

(3) Returning to duty status in a civilian position in the Federal Government in which the service qualifies as employment under these regulations or any other regulations promulgated to implement 5 U.S.C. §6329, when such return immediately followed a break in civilian duty (with the employee in continuous civilian leave status) to perform military service.

"Medical certificate" means a written statement signed by a health care provider certifying to the treatment of a veteran's qualifying service-connected disability.

"Medical treatment" means any activity carried out or prescribed by a health care provider to treat a veteran's qualifying service-connected disability.

"Military service" means "active military, naval, or air service" as that term is defined in 38 U.S.C. §101(24).

"Qualifying reappointment" means an appointment of a former employee of the Federal Government following a break in employment of at least 90 calendar days.

"Qualifying service-connected disability" means a veteran's service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more by the Veteran Benefits Administration, including a combined degree of disability of 30 percent or more that reflects the combined effect of multiple individual disabilities, which resulted in the award of disability compensation under title 38, United States Code. A temporary disability rating under 38 U.S.C. §1156 is considered a valid rating in applying this definition for as long as it is in effect.

"Senate employee" means an employee occupying a position of employment the pay for which is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate and who is covered by the leave policies of the employee's Senate employing office.

"Senate employing office" means the personal office of a Senator, a committee of the Senate, and any other office headed by a person with the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and set the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment of a Senate employee.

"Service-connected" has the meaning given such term in 38 U.S.C. §101(16).

"Sick leave" means any paid leave offered by a Senate employing office that can be used by an employee to continue pay during periods of absence caused by the employee's medical illness or injury or the employee's medical appointments.

"Veteran" has the meaning given such term in 38 U.S.C. 101(2).

"Veterans Benefits Administration" means the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

§1304 Eligibility.

(a) A Senate employee who is a veteran with a qualifying service-connected disability is entitled to disabled veteran leave under these regulations, which will be available for use during the 12-month eligibility period beginning on the first day of employment. For each employee, including a Senate employee, there is a single first day of employment.

(b) To be eligible for disabled veteran leave, a Senate employee must provide to the Senate employing office documentation from the Veterans Benefits Administration certifying that the Senate employee has a qualifying service-connected disability. The documentation should be provided to the Senate employing office—

(1) Upon the first day of employment, if the Senate employee has already received such certifying documentation; or

(2) For a Senate employee who has not yet received such certifying documentation from the Veterans Benefit Administration, as soon as practicable after the Senate employee receives the certifying documentation.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, a Senate employee may submit certifying documentation at a later time, including after a period of absence for medical treatment, as described in §1306(c). The 12-month eligibility period is fixed based on the first day of employment and is not affected by the timing of when certifying documentation is provided.

(d) If a Senate employee's service-connected disability rating is decreased or discontinued during the 12-month eligibility period such that the Senate employee no longer has a qualifying service-connected disability—

(1) The Senate employee must notify the Senate employing office of the effective date of the change in the disability rating; and