

Members, and there are almost 15 pharmaceutical lobbyists for every 1 Senator, and they are doing everything they can. Their job is to stop competition, keep prices high, and they have done a very good job of it. It is wrong for people, but they have done a very good job of what they were assigned to do.

As I mentioned before, back in 2003, when Medicare Part D was signed into law, they blocked Medicare from harnessing the bargaining power of 43 million American seniors to bring down the cost of their prescription medicines. Now, 16 years later, pharmaceutical companies are still doing everything they can to put their company profits before people.

It is time—it is past time to help people afford their prescription medications and protect people with pre-existing conditions. People in America, right now, shouldn't be worried about a court case in the Fifth Circuit and what is going to happen and what that will mean for their family and their healthcare.

We could do something about that right now—today. We could do something right now if people wanted to. Let me remind you that it has now been 167 days since the House passed legislation protecting people with pre-existing conditions. It has been 167 days ago the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill and sent it over to the Senate, and we have not been allowed to vote on that. It has not been brought up for a vote. It needs to come up for a vote. It needs to be taken out of the legislative graveyard and walked to the floor of the U.S. Senate so we can vote to really protect people with preexisting health conditions.

Misty and other cancer survivors across Michigan and across the country shouldn't have to wait a day longer. This isn't about politics. It is about saving lives.

Misty closed her letter to me with this: "If [these elected officials] are truly as concerned about life as many of them claim to be, they need to be concerned about my life and the life of millions of others with cancer."

Here is my question for the majority leader: What are you waiting for? It is time for us to act. Healthcare is personal. It should not be political on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It is time to act in protecting people with pre-existing conditions and lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwith-

standing the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion on Executive Calendar No. 457 ripen at 12 noon on Thursday, October 24; further, that if cloture is invoked, at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. I further ask 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 be in 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.

NOMINATION OF JUSTIN WALKER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we have seen too many Trump judicial nominees in recent years who don't know their way around a courtroom. I suspect some of these nominees never even made it through a "Law and Order" episode.

The majority leader is now rushing a floor vote on Justin Walker, nominated to be a district court judge in Kentucky. Mr. Walker was just reported out of committee last week. The Walker nomination is leapfrogging a dozen other judicial nominees who have been on the calendar longer.

The American Bar Association, which does peer review evaluations of nominees, concluded that—Mr. Walker is not qualified to be a Federal trial judge. This is the eighth Trump judicial nominee to be rated "not qualified" by the ABA.

Mr. Walker is 37 years old and has been out of law school for only 10 years. He has never tried a case as lead or cocounsel, whether civil or criminal. He has only conducted a single deposition.

The ABA said that with Walker, "it was challenging to determine how much of his ten years since graduation from law school has been spent in the practice of law."

I find it hard to believe that there is a shortage of experienced, qualified attorneys or State court judges in Kentucky who could hit the ground running as a Federal trial judge. In fact, there is an experienced Kentucky State court judge sitting on the Senate Executive Calendar right now—David Tapp, whose nomination to the Court of Federal Claims I supported in the Judiciary Committee. Why can't we get district court nominees who actually know what they are doing in the courtroom, like Judge Tapp?

Rather than gaining actual courtroom experience, Mr. Walker has spent much of his time in recent years mak-

ing media appearances. In 2018 alone, he appeared on TV or radio 127 times. That is not what we need on the Federal bench.

I will oppose the Walker nomination. He simply lacks the litigation and trial experience to serve as a district court judge.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-61 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$150 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-61

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bahrain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.

Other \$150 million.

Total \$150 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Refurbishment of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class ship, ex ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49), spares, support, training, publications, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (BA-P-SAT).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: BA-P-GAL and BA-P-GAV.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 22, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bahrain—Refurbishment of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class Ship, Ex ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49)

The Government of Bahrain has requested refurbishment of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class ship, ex ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49), spares, support, training, publications, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is \$150 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important ally which is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key allies in the region with systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

The proposed sale will refurbish and support the grant transfer of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class ship, ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49), which was authorized for transfer under Public Law 115-232, Section 1020. Bahrain already operates another Oliver Hazard Perry Class ship. Bahrain will have no difficulty absorbing these defense articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor supporting the refurbishment has not yet been selected for this potential sale. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Bahrain.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

REMEMBERING TED STEVENS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague, the former senator from Alaska, Ted Stevens. He was an incomparable and one of kind senator.

With Ted, they broke the mold.

To me, he was my friend, mentor, and a person that comes along your pathway of life who changes everything.

In all my years in the House, I seldom sheathed my sword with appropriators who were always rustling our mandatory and authorized money. Our cause was just, but seldom successful.

It did not take Ted and Danny Inouye long to convince me not only to sheath my sword but give it to them. I had been in the Senate for just a few months when Ted cornered me on the Senate floor, jabbed me in my shoulder and said, "You're coming with me to North Korea. Don't argue with me, Dole says you are Mr. Agriculture. You don't have to say anything, just nod your head."

He was trying to arrange a third-party grain sale to alleviate constant famines in North Korea. He and Danny almost pulled it off.

If you wanted to get things done, it was a good idea to listen to Uncle Ted. His advice: "Get to really know people. Don't pay attention to partisan diatribes, socialize and gain their trust."

By following his advice, it is amazing what you can get done. I still apply those lessons today; it works: 87 votes for a farm bill that the President just signed last year.

Example may be better than advice, but when the two join hands they make a team that is hard to beat and that would be Ted Stevens and his friend—if not brother—Danny Inouye. Either one could be chairman, and the result would be the same in behalf of our military and national security.

We who have the public trust know we are only as good as our staff, and Ted had the best, many of whom are in the audience.

As the Senator toting the bucket for our beloved Marine Corps, I mention one: Sid Ashworth.

Back in the day, the Commandant would trust me to follow up after meeting with Ted. We all knew the Air Force got top dollar; then the Army, Navy, and maybe we got retread tires and bailing wire.

Sid said, "Take in three requests. Make the first so big, he'll say, 'You know we can't afford that.' Then with number two, make that difficult to understand and fill it with acronyms, and he'll shut you down. Finally for your third request: take your number one ask and plead your case, 'What am I going to tell the Commandant? At least give me this.'"

And it would work. Then I would call the Commandant and casually say, "Sir, we're okay, we got our top ask." Thanks, Sid.

My relationship with Ted was simple, I did what he asked. On a CODEL, very late at night, we were watching "Band of Brothers"—again; it was Ted's favorite. All lights were off, it was past midnight, everyone fast asleep. I was sitting next to Ted whose eyes were closed, so I got up quietly and attempted to turn the TV off. Ted said in a very loud voice, "Leave it on, this next part is the best part." I sat down.

"Temper is a valuable possession, don't lose it," Ted Stevens. Our Tuesday policy lunch often included discussions of appropriations bills versus policy and ideology. One day, Ted had enough and shouted, "When are you people going to understand, without Democrat votes, we cannot pass appropriations bills!"

He left the room, slammed the door so hard that Mike Mansfield's portrait almost fell to the floor.

I waited about a minute, followed him down to his Appropriations office.

I strode in and said, "Why in the hell did you do that?"

He said, "You don't understand, I'm not angry, I just use my anger as a tool."

Nevertheless, when he donned his "Hulk Tie" colleagues steered clear.

Ted Stevens had a wonderful perspective on life. A successful person can lay

a firm foundation with bricks that others have thrown at him. Even the longest day will have an end, and it did. The Alaskan of the Century was vindicated.

With this grand portrait, he returns to the Senate, and he will remain here for decades to come.

In just 7 months, Ted and Danny will be honored again at the dedication of the Dwight David Eisenhower Memorial, Ted's favorite President.

They led the charge to create the memorial. The dedication will be on May 8, 2020, and the memorial will be another part of Ted Stevens' legacy.

It was a privilege to know and serve with him and to share his friendship. Alaska and our country are better and stronger thanks to his duty and devotion.

We will never see the likes of Ted Stevens again. However, he still lives within all of our hearts, and we thank the Lord for enabling us to live in his space and time.

I yield the floor.

CONFIRMATION OF EUGENE SCALIA

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I want to express my disapproval of the confirmation of Eugene Scalia as Secretary of Labor. America's workers are the backbone of our economy, and the Secretary of Labor should be entrusted to strengthen worker protections, support unions, and play a crucial role in ensuring a just economy. Instead, Eugene Scalia has repeatedly demonstrated that he prioritizes the well-being of corporate interests over those of workers. Throughout his career as a corporate lawyer, he fought against unions, worker safety regulations, and consumer protections rules. For those reasons, I do not believe Eugene Scalia is fit to serve as Secretary of Labor.

My grandfather was one of the first Black members of United Auto Workers at Ford Motor Company, and through him, I learned the importance of worker rights that collective bargaining provides. Through collective action, unions are able to provide workers with livable wages, safe working conditions, and access to benefits like healthcare coverage and retirement savings. Not only has Eugene Scalia represented companies in arbitrations against collective bargaining agreements, but he identifies it as one of his most significant career moments. The Secretary of Labor should be doing everything in their power to make it easier—not harder—for working people to join unions.

Eugene Scalia also represented the Chamber of Commerce in working to overturn the fiduciary rule, a commonsense step towards protecting the retirement security of countless working families. Employers trying to design a quality plan for their workers, workers starting to save, and retirees trying to avoid spending down their nest egg too quickly deserve access to quality advice, without fear that financial bias is