

FAFSA—that 20 million families, including 8 million minority students, fill out every year to qualify for Federal student aid.

This bipartition provision—which was sponsored by Senators MURRAY, WHITEHOUSE, and GARDNER when it passed the Senate by unanimous consent last December—stops families from having to give their same tax information to the Federal Government twice—first to the IRS, then again to the Department of Education. Students give permission to the IRS and the Department of Education to share tax return data, which eliminates up to 22 questions on the FAFSA with one click.

It should eliminate most of the so-called verification process, which is a bureaucratic nightmare that 5.5 million students go through annually to make sure the information they gave to the Department of Education is exactly the same as they gave to the IRS. The president of East Tennessee State University recently told me that half the students applying to ETSU go through verification at some point.

According to the Department of Education, it helps taxpayers by eliminating up to \$6 billion each year in mistakes—both in overpayments and underpayments—in Pell grants and student loans.

It has taken 20 years to reach this result, and it would not have happened without Jeff Appel, a longtime staff member at the Department of Education who recently passed away, and Secretary DeVos and Secretary Mnuchin's commitment to getting this over the finish line.

In addition, I want to thank the staff who have been instrumental in getting the proposal to this place: on Senator MURRAY's staff, Kara Marachione, Bryce McKibben, Mary Barry, and Evan Schatz. Conor Sheehey with Senator SCOTT. Rebecca Howard with Senator JONES. Christopher Toppings with Senator BURR. Corey Linehan with Senator COONS. And from my staff, Robert Moran, Lauren Davies, Andrew LaCasse, Mary Catherine Cook, and David Cleary.

The final step to simplify the FAFSA is to pass additional legislation that will reduce the 108 questions on the FAFSA to a total of between 18 and 30 questions and make Pell grants predictable so students can know how much grant aid they will receive to attend college.

I and Senators MURRAY, SCOTT, JONES, BURR, and COONS worked together to reach this result and I am glad the Senate passed it today so it can be sent to the House and signed into law by the President before the end of the year.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, Florida is the Nation's greatest melting pot, with people from all over the Nation choosing to make Florida their permanent home. Our State has the best colleges and universities in the Nation, including many Historically

Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions. As Governor of Florida, I made historic investments in higher education and fought to keep higher education affordable so more students can get a great education in Florida.

As Senator, I will continue to fight to make sure every child has access to a quality education at a price they can afford. Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions are critical to the success of our State and the future of our children, and I will always work to support their mission.

The best way to support our colleges and universities is to make sure our economy is thriving so we have the resources we need to invest in education. That means we have to be careful about how we are spending taxpayer dollars. I have concerns any time the government permanently funds a program, no matter what that program is. Funding anything permanently means there is little to no accountability or oversight. We must be careful to regularly review every government-funded program to make sure taxpayers are always getting the best return on their investment.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JORDAN KAHN

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the service of my defense fellow, Maj. Jordan Kahn, who is approaching the end of his assignment with my office as part of his experience in the U.S. Air Force Legislative Fellowship Program.

Major Kahn joined my office in January and his dedication, work ethic, and intelligence quickly made him a trusted voice on my legislative team. A proud member of the U.S. Air Force, as well as being a graduate of both the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Jordan has deployed to defend our country multiple times, and because of his service, our Nation is safer. Most importantly, Jordan is a devoted husband and father, and I have had the pleasure of watching his family grow over the last year. In November, his wife Becky gave birth to their second son Haden, and his firstborn son Harrison has now dutifully taken on the responsibility of big brother.

As Major Kahn moves on to his next assignment, I have full faith that he will continue to excel as a leader in the Air Force and would trust him in the most demanding and sensitive positions within our Armed Forces. I extend my sincere thanks for his service to our Nation and our office and wish him and his family continued success in his future endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO BETH WALSH, CLAIRE PICHETTE, THOMAS REDMON, AND JUSTINE HURLEY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing four Montana school teachers for their passion and dedication to teaching math and science to young Montanans.

Beth Walsh from East Valley Middle School, Claire Pichette from Helena High School, Thomas Redmon from Daly Elementary, and Justine Hurley from White Sulphur Springs Elementary School have all been awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching between 2017 and 2018.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is an incredibly high honor for school teachers across the country and no easy task to receive. A committee of Montana math and science teachers select finalists from a collection of statewide applications followed by a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematician, and educators who select four national award winners from those finalists.

These teachers won the Presidential Award for their superior abilities to educate young Montanans on mathematics and science ranging from kindergarten children to seniors in high school. They show passion for their profession daily, and this award is a symbol of that passion. We are lucky to have such highly qualified teachers educating Montana students.

It is my honor to recognize Beth Walsh, Claire Pichette, Thomas Redmon, and Justine Hurley for their exemplary work educating Montana students. They are a true testament to the incredible education system we have throughout Big Sky Country.●

#### REMEMBERING DR. WOODIE FLOWERS

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the life of an extraordinary individual, Dr. Woodie Flowers.

As an engineer, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—MIT—and an integral part of FIRST—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—Woodie helped educate and inspire people in New Hampshire, across the country, and around the world.

I first had the privilege of meeting Woodie in the 1980s when I was doing legal work for MIT. Almost immediately, I recognized his curiosity and eagerness to learn, his patience and understanding, and his desire to collaborate and work effectively. Woodie extended that ethos and enthusiasm for education to every aspect of his life, including through his groundbreaking leadership at MIT and FIRST.

Throughout his career, Woodie brought a unique vision to his work

and frequently stressed that technology is changing at a pace that the human brain simply cannot keep up with. This understanding and concern led him to emphasize the importance of teaching critical thinking and an allegiance to objective truth, which he posited would push back against the tribalism and binary thinking afflicting our society.

As part of his efforts to bridge division and expand human understanding, Woodie served as a mentor to countless students. While following Woodie in a speaking program was certainly a daunting task, I always looked forward to hearing his perspective at FIRST events. The major theme that Woodie sought to impart to students is that life is not a zero sum game. He would encourage them to work and compete with “gracious professionalism,” where you work hard and challenge one another to be your very best, but you always engage with respect and kindness. FIRST encourages its participants to consider the annual contest as “coopertition,” and Woodie used the opportunity to interact with the students and coaches as a way to reinforce this critical concept, that success comes through bringing out the best in each other and in humanity.

Woodie understood what a good leader should be, and his vision and example are characteristics that all Americans should aspire to. And in many ways, his confidence in our ability as human beings to solve problems and transcend our most basic tribal instincts, informed by science and grace, was uniquely American.

Dr. Woodie Flowers was one of the most brilliant, kind, and creative people I have ever met, and it was an honor to know him. I extend my condolences to Woodie’s talented and magnificent wife and partner, Margaret, and their entire family. And I join them and the FIRST community in mourning an extraordinarily intelligent inventor, humanist, and American.

We will miss Woodie more than I can say, but I am certain that his legacy will live on through the countless lives he has touched. The world is a smarter, better, and more hopeful place because Woodie Flowers lived his life with love and purpose.●

#### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD HALL

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, today it is my honor to pay tribute to Edward Hall, an incredible 96-year-old Nevadan, whose story began when he answered the call to defend his country. Eighty years ago, in 1939, at the age of 16, Ed lied about his age to enlist in the Army Air Corps and began his military service to our great Nation. On December 7, 1941, at just 18 years old, he found himself stationed at Hickam Field, Hawaii, working in the mess hall cleaning up and preparing for the day when he and his fellow troops heard an explosion. This was the beginning of the

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and Ed, like many of the men on Hickam Field, stopped what he was doing to respond to this attack on the American Base. Without hesitation, Ed put his life on the line, joining in to rescue his fellow servicemembers injured in the ongoing attack. Along with an Army officer, Ed commandeered a truck and began driving around the flight line picking up the injured to move them to the base hospital in spite of coming into direct fire from Japanese aircraft. Upon returning from his third round of picking up the injured, Ed’s truck was strafed by a Japanese Zero fighter and taken out of action, but Ed kept at it, as he knew helping the injured was his priority. As the bodies of the dead and injured continued to mount, Ed grabbed a .45-caliber pistol off one of his fallen comrades in order to have the means to defend himself from the attack as enemy planes buzzed the skies above him. He would go on to keep that pistol for the remainder of the war.

As the attack on Pearl Harbor ended, the recovery of the base began as Ed and other survivors began dealing with the aftermath of the attack and preparing for our formal entry into World War II in the Pacific theater. Ed kept going, as many of the members of that “greatest generation” did throughout World War II, embodying the American spirit of tenacity when faced with the greatest adversity, the spirit that eventually led to our success in defeating tyranny and enabling freedom across the world at the end of the Great War in 1945.

Mr. President, to Edward Hall, I join citizens across Nevada and the Nation in sending our sincere gratitude to him for his service to the United States. It is heroes like Ed whose service has kept our communities, States, Nation, and world safe. His service during World War II, and the life he has led since are an incredible testament to resilience, and we are forever grateful.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY BORDA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Anthony Borda, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Anthony is a graduate of Nutley High School in Nutley, NJ. Currently, he is attending American University in Washington, DC, where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Anthony for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM SHUSTER DIXON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize William Shuster Dixon, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Will is a graduate of Altoona Area High School in Altoona, PA. Currently, he is attending American University in Washington, DC, where he is pursuing a degree in communications, law, economics, and government. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Will for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER REINKE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Alexander Reinke, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Alex is a recent graduate of South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, having earned a degree in history. This spring, Alex plans to continue serving the public by working on Capitol Hill. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alex for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 151. An act to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5277. An act to amend section 442 of title, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,