

Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Collins	Inhofe	Rosen
Coons	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Jones	Rubio
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Sasse
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shaheen
Cruz	Leahy	Shelby
Daines	Lee	Sinema
Durbin	Manchin	Sullivan
Enzi	McConnell	Tester
Ernst	McSally	Thune
Feinstein	Merkley	Tillis
Fischer	Moran	Toomey
Gardner	Murkowski	Udall
Graham	Murphy	Van Hollen
Grassley	Perdue	Wicker
Hassan	Portman	Young
Hawley	Risch	
Hoeven	Roberts	

## NAYS—22

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schumer
Bennet	Hirono	Smith
Blumenthal	Markey	Stabenow
Brown	Menendez	Warner
Cantwell	Murray	Whitehouse
Casey	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Harris	Schatz	

## NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Warren
Duckworth	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Hahn nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

# EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 150 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 150) expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I further ask that the resolution be

agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 150) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 9, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, we have just passed the Armenian genocide resolution recognition. It is fitting and appropriate that the Senate stands on the right side of history in doing so. It commemorates the truth of the Armenian genocide.

On Monday, we commemorated the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the victims of the crime of genocide and of the prevention of this crime. The UN General Assembly established this day of remembrance to commemorate and honor the victims of genocide and highlight efforts to combat and prevent genocide. Passing this resolution is a fitting tribute to this day of remembrance.

I have come to the floor on various occasions to talk about the history of the Armenian genocide. An Armenian priest, Krikoris Balakian, recorded some of the massacres against the Armenians. He said:

In Ankara and its surroundings, only a couple hundred miles east of Constantinople, the killing was done with "axes, cleavers, shovels, and pitchforks." It was like a slaughterhouse; Armenians were hacked to pieces . . . infants were dashed on rocks before the eyes of their mothers.

It was indescribable horror. Even when Armenians were supposedly deported, the conditions they were forced to live in made clear that Turkey's ultimate goal was to eliminate the Armenian people.

A visitor to one Turkish city in October of 1915 wrote: "The 16,000 deported Armenians who were living in the tents have been sent to Konia in cattle trucks. At night, while thousands of these unfortunate people, without food or shelter, shiver with cold, those brutes who are supposed to be their guardians attack them with clubs. And push them towards the station. Women, children, and old men are packed together in the trucks. The men have to climb on to the top of the trucks, in spite of the dreadful cold. Their cries are heart-breaking, but all is in vain. Hunger, cold, and fatigue, together with the Government's deeds of violence, will soon achieve the extermination of the last remnant of the Armenian people."

Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador for Turkey, from 1913 to 1916, understood full well what was transpiring. He left his post in early 1916 because, as he later recalled, "My failure to stop the destruction of the Armenians had made Turkey for me a place of horror."

American diplomats like Henry Morgenthau were on the ground in Turkey, and they made heroic efforts to help the Armenian people, but here in Washington at the time, no one did anything in the face of this heinous crime.

As former UN Ambassador Samantha Power wrote in her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "A Problem from Hell," "America's nonresponse to the Turkish horrors established patterns that would be repeated."

As my colleague from Texas, my co-sponsor who has been such a stalwart advocate with me, has very often noted, this is the first genocide to be recorded in this century. We know all too well the horrors in the 20th century with the Holocaust and other genocides around the world. So here in the Senate today, we break those patterns. We join the House and voted to do so by passing a resolution affirming the facts of the genocide, 405 to 11. Today, the Senate shows the same resolve.

I am deeply grateful to Senator CRUZ for his stalwart leadership on this issue and to the 27 other Senators from both parties who have cosponsored the resolution and demonstrated their commitment to the truth, and the truth finally will set us free.

I am thankful that this resolution has passed in a time in which there are still survivors of the genocide. We will be able to see that the Senate acknowledges what they left.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I thank my colleague and friend, the Senator from New Jersey, for his powerful remarks, and I rise today and celebrate a bipartisan achievement—an achievement of the Senate; an achievement for truth; an achievement for speaking the truth to darkness, for speaking the truth to evil, for speaking the truth to murder, for speaking the truth to genocide.

This journey has been a long journey. Senator MENENDEZ has been fighting this fight a long time. I have been proud to stand by his side. This is the third week in a row we have come to the Senate floor seeking to pass this resolution. I am grateful that today we have succeeded.

The Menendez-Cruz resolution affirms U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide. It has been far too long in coming. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out a forced deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians, of whom 1.5 million were killed. It was an atrocious genocide. That it happened is a fact and undeniable reality.

In fact, the very word "genocide" literally means the killing of an entire people, and it was coined by Raphael Lemkin to describe the horrific nature of the Ottoman Empire's calculated extermination of the Armenians. It is why we have the horrid word "genocide" in our English language.

Over 100 years ago, the world remained silent as the Armenian people

suffered and were murdered. Even today, many people are unaware of what happened. But we must never be silent in response to atrocity. We have a responsibility to stand up and speak the truth. With this resolution, the United States is now saying it is the policy of the United States of America to commemorate the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

We have a moral duty to acknowledge what happened to the 1.5 million innocent souls who were murdered. It is the right thing to do. I am grateful that, today, we have seen every Republican and every Democrat come together in support of the bipartisan Menendez-Cruz resolution. This is a moment of truth that was far too long coming.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate yet another major bipartisan victory that is included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act that the House has passed and the Senate is preparing to pass.

As it so happens, today is the 1-year anniversary—1 year to the very day that the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly to condemn the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline between Russia and Germany. By a vote of 433 to 105, the Members of the European Parliament called for the project to be cancelled because “It is a political project that poses a threat to European energy security and the efforts to diversify energy supply.”

In the coming days, the U.S. Congress will answer the call to stop this profoundly dangerous project. The House has acted, and the Senate will act very soon.

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act, sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline are included. The Cruz-Shaheen legislation—legislation I introduced, bipartisan legislation—Senator SHAHEEN and I and the Foreign Relations Committee brought our legislation to a vote. We won an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote—a vote of 20 to 2—out of the Foreign Relations Committee.

In the past weeks and months, there have been extended negotiations to include this legislation, these sanctions, in the National Defense Authorization Act. We have negotiated with Republicans and Democrats—Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Armed Forces, on the Foreign Relations Committee, on the Banking Committee, in leadership, and also Republicans and Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee, Foreign Relations Committee, Banking Committee, and leadership—and we have achieved a remarkable consensus.

Part of the reason we were able to achieve this bipartisan victory is that the sanctions are narrowly targeted, precisely targeted. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline is a pipeline from Russia to Germany to carry natural gas that, if completed, would generate billions of

dollars for Putin and billions of dollars that would fund Russian military aggression.

Not only that, if completed, this pipeline would make Europe even more dependent on Russian energy and even more vulnerable to Russian blackmail. Putin has demonstrated that he is more than willing to cut off the gas in the dead of winter as economic blackmail against his neighbors.

This pipeline is being built this very moment. It is near completion. The legislation we are passing is designed to operate like a scalpel, specifically directed to the ships that lay in the deep sea pipeline needed to complete Nord Stream 2.

There are only five companies on the face of the Earth with the technological capability to delay the deep sea pipeline. Russia does not have one of those companies.

The Russian Government lacks the expertise to lay this pipeline. As a result, Russia has contracted with the Swiss company, Allseas. Right now, as we speak, Allseas has a ship called the Pioneering Spirit that is laying this pipeline.

The legislation that has passed the House and that is about to pass the Senate imposes crippling sanctions on any company laying this pipeline. It is designed to operate like a scalpel so it doesn't impact anyone else, but if this legislation operates as Congress intends, as both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and House intend, then it will halt construction of this pipeline overnight.

The best estimates we have are that, if uninterrupted, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline would be completed by the end of January. That means the window to stop the pipeline is vanishingly small.

When the Senate passes the National Defense Authorization Act, which will be any day now, and the President signs it, which will be shortly thereafter, two things need to happen immediately.

No. 1, the Treasury Department and the administration need to immediately begin working on implementing these sanctions. I am confident the administration will follow the directives of President Trump. He has said that Nord Stream 2 is harmful to the national security interests of the United States of America, and it is harmful to Europe.

No. 2, there will be a decision made by the CEO and corporate leadership of Allseas. The instant this bill is signed into law—and we are only days away from that—if Allseas continues with construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, even for a single day after this law is signed, then Allseas risks crippling sanctions that could devastate the company.

The purpose of this legislation is not to see those sanctions implemented on Allseas; the purpose of this legislation is to stop construction. The only responsible and rational decision for the corporate leadership of Allseas to make is to stop construction.

My understanding is their contract with the Russians has an explicit escape path in case sanctions were passed. So the day this is signed, Allseas shareholders are at profound risk if Allseas corporate leadership does anything other than cease construction and stop the pipeline.

If and when that happens, that will be an incredible victory. It will be an incredible victory for Europe, an incredible victory for Ukraine, an incredible victory for energy security, and an incredible victory for jobs in the United States of America.

It is far better for Europe to be relying on energy from the United States than to be fueling Putin and Russia and dependent on Russia and subject to economic blackmail. That is why, as I noted, the European Parliament voted by a vote of 433 to 105 to condemn Nord Stream 2.

Passing these Nord Stream 2 sanctions are an incredible victory for the United States and national security, but it is also an incredible loss for Vladimir Putin and Russia.

I commend my Democratic cosponsor Senator SHAHEEN. I commend the cosponsors that this legislation has had, both Republicans and Democrats in a bipartisan way, and I commend the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House for coming together. At a time when so many other issues divide us, we have united in defense of America, in defense of Europe, and in opposition to Russia's military aggression. Passing Nord Stream 2 sanctions is a big, big deal, and I commend the U.S. Congress for acting swiftly in the rapidly closing window we have to stop this project.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here to speak about the success of the Affordable Care Act in Rhode Island. It has been very well managed in Rhode Island, and it has made a very big difference in many, many lives.

The marketplace plan that the Affordable Care Act set up in Rhode Island is called Health Source Rhode Island. It has been well run, and it has been successful. For 2019, it has 34,533 people getting health insurance through the plan.

We also expanded Medicaid, as the Affordable Care Act allowed. Under the Medicaid expansion, 72,000 Rhode Islanders got coverage that they didn't have before. So if you put those two together, that is 106,000-plus Rhode Islanders who got the benefit, the comfort, and the confidence of coverage for healthcare as a result of this bill. It is 10 percent of our population, and it has driven our uninsured numbers way, way down, into low single digits, which has been a very big win for us.

I will also say that we have taken very good advantage of the accountable care organization provisions of the Affordable Care Act, with two of the best

performing ACOs in the country as two of our lead primary care provider groups: Coastal Medical and Primary Care Partners. They are showing just terrific results, as they are changing the way they deliver care. They can do so because we have changed the way they can be reimbursed for care.

That Rhode Island snapshot is part of a larger story of success.

Eleven and a half million Americans around the country have enrolled in ACA marketplace insurance in 2019. There are 11.8 million Medicare beneficiaries who have saved a total of \$26.8 billion on prescription drug costs. That is over \$2,200 per senior. That is something to celebrate. Unfortunately, it is still at risk in the courts.

President Trump and this Republican administration are still trying to knock it down. If they succeed, 133 million Americans with preexisting conditions will be at risk of losing healthcare coverage protections.

One hundred and fifty-six million Americans with private or employer-sponsored insurance will lose the consumer protections in the ACA for preventive care, disallowing lifetime or annual limits and closing waiting periods to enroll—things that have really made a difference in people's lives.

These are big numbers, and they add to a tremendous story of success, but behind the numbers are faces. Every one of those 34,533 Rhode Islanders who signed up and got health coverage through Health Source Rhode Island has their own story.

Today it is my privilege to come to the floor of the U.S. Senate to tell the story of Bridget from Tiverton, RI. I can't tell it better than she does, so I will simply read her story. She says:

For the majority of my life, I have suffered from chronic pain. Though I am only in my 20's, I have suffered from acute arthritis in my left hip due to multiple surgeries to correct complications from a hip dysplasia surgery for almost 15+ years. I was told for years that I was not a candidate for hip replacement as I was still growing, so when I was finally developed enough and found a surgeon willing to perform the hip replacement surgery, my life felt like it was actually mine again. Last year, I finally was approved for a hip replacement. It has been a year since that day, and I thank God every day that I was able to receive the help I need. Without the hip replacement, I would still be living in bed and confined to a wheelchair or crutches.

Without my coverage, the preventive care that ensured my health would not backpedal would have been gone. I cannot stress enough how terrifying the thought of losing the opportunity of living my life was. I would not wish this endeavor on anyone, especially a child without coverage, as I have been in their situation.

Since my surgery, I have been able to hold my first full time job. I have been able to consider going back to college. I have lived pain free for the first time in practically my whole life.

No one should have to struggle with chronic issues or be discriminated against because of pre-existing conditions. Every day I grow stronger, and my voice, for those who are not as strong as I am now, grows louder. I will fight for my right to health care and for oth-

ers who deserve the treatment they need for the rest of my life.

Bridget, congratulations. Thank you. God bless you.

Let us make sure we do not let this administration tear down the millions of stories like Bridget's that they seek to undo with this reckless litigation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on the accomplishments that Chairman MURKOWSKI, my colleague and friend on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and I have been able to make this year. Today, I will focus on my remarks on the energy agenda we have put in place to address climate change, as well as a path forward for a bipartisan energy bill.

The year began with my appointment to ranking member of the committee. There were some expressions of uncertainty about where Chairman MURKOWSKI and I might lead that committee, and there was a great deal of skepticism about my ability and interest in addressing climate change, but I can assure you it is strong.

On March 5, 2019, we held the first hearing on climate in the committee in 7 years. Just this morning, we passed an additional five Energy bills, making the total count for this year 52 Energy bills reported out of committee.

We have endlessly examined our Nation's work on innovation in the energy and manufacturing sectors, and we have been reminded that the United States must lead in this space in order to ensure we can address climate change effectively.

As discussions about large climate bills move forward, it is important that Congress is doing the work to ensure we have the technology necessary to meet the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a comprehensive and timely way.

In the midst of all the political noise, our committee has been quietly leading this effort over the last year. The strong bipartisan nature of our committee has enabled us to move dozens of pieces of legislation that will push the Department of Energy and the private sector into their next phase of research and development as we seek technological emissions-reducing solutions.

In reflecting on this year's progress, I want to highlight that bipartisanship because I believe it is absolutely the reason we are delivering solutions worthy of the people of West Virginia, Alaska, and the entire country. It is

simple—the chairman and I talk to each other, we talk to one another's colleagues on either side of the aisle, and sometimes we disagree, but we never disrespectfully disagree because we are friends.

We must come together in this Chamber to solve this crisis and also ensure that no community is left behind.

From even before the founding of our country, my home State of West Virginia has poured its natural resources and its human resources into every one of our Nation's ambitions. It is well known that West Virginia has produced the coal that has powered our grid and built our steel skyscrapers for decades. We have literally done the heavy lifting. What you may not know is that our salt deposits were used to make gun powder in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. Our deeply ingrained culture of hard work and entrepreneurship led to James Rumsey's steamboat innovation in 1787, just as it is leading to the National Energy Technology Laboratory's inventions today.

West Virginians have applied all of our resources—coal, hydropower, natural gas, geothermal, wind, solar, and human ingenuity—to achieve our common goals. But these natural and human resources have been tested significantly in the past decade. The decline in coal production and use has gone beyond rising unemployment to unravel the tax revenues needed for our schools and communities. These economic and workforce downturns have occurred alongside the opioid crisis, the doubling of energy costs in our State, and historic flooding due to climate change in West Virginia—flooding that resulted in the tragic death of 23 of our friends, families, and neighbors.

None of these obstacles have or will get the best of West Virginia. Nothing ever has. Just as the innovators of my home State have sought to use all the resources at their disposal to seize opportunities and overcome challenges, we must reflect that resolve here in the Halls of Congress.

We cannot turn the American energy system on its head because the costs will fall too heavily on people in rural areas and energy-producing regions like West Virginia. At the same time, we cannot disregard what the science tells us about the reality and severity of climate change.

Across the country, we can clearly see that the costs of climate change are mounting, but we need to refocus our attention on the incredible opportunities presented by the solutions to it. Whether that is the upstart solar company hiring former coal miners in Jefferson and Cabell Counties; the collaboration between oil, gas, and geothermal on new ways to access hot rocks in Monongalia County; or the insulation installer who retrofits our homes, the opportunities and the needs exist in each and every community, not just on the coasts.

I have said time and again that the miners who built our country are the best workers we can employ to build our future economy. It is our responsibility as their representatives to include them and their communities in the economy of the future by passing the laws and making the investments needed to shape that future, creating those jobs and guiding the private sector and others toward new, ambitious climate solutions. That is why I have pursued bills that will build new energy and natural resource jobs in rural communities.

The Advanced Geothermal Innovation Leadership Act would significantly invest in new geothermal projects to unlock new and potentially vast resources in the Eastern United States—bringing proven renewable technologies to fossil fuel-producing regions.

The Enhancing Fossil Fuel Energy Carbon Technology Act would make the first Federal investments in direct air capture and firm up our commitment to carbon capture, utilization, and storage—necessary climate solutions and ones that can be built in the valleys of West Virginia.

The Clean Industrial Technology Act would incentivize new technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in industrial and heavy transport fuel sectors—solutions that reenergize the manufacturing heartland of the United States.

These bills and the many others we have reported out will lay the foundation for meeting our climate goals while creating the innovation jobs needed in our rural communities, all while leading the world.

That brings me back to the bipartisan nature of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The legislation we have passed in our committee reflects the diversity of our Members and our constituents who have sent us here on their behalf. These bills invest in the programs necessary to bring climate solutions to bear, and they will create jobs and opportunities.

Our bipartisan work on energy innovation is evidence of the good work that can be done in Congress and stands in contrast to the skeptical and cynical narrative that dominates our politics today. Our work is far from done. We will continue to work in a bipartisan fashion with our colleagues in this Chamber and in the House to take those 52 bills and turn them into an impactful energy package, one that can easily and readily move the needle on reducing emissions and one that can be signed into law.

I congratulate my dear friend and colleague Chairman MURKOWSKI and the members of the committee for their work, and I look forward to this Chamber taking up our energy innovation package in the new year.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Alaska.

**Ms. MURKOWSKI.** Mr. President, I thank my colleague, the ranking mem-

ber on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He is really a friend on not only energy matters but on so many of the other initiatives we have worked on.

As he mentioned, every now and again, our two States might see things differently, but we have come to understand where we come from, what we bring to the table, and figure out how we can work together collaboratively and then set that collaborative tone for the full committee as a whole. I appreciate the opportunity to highlight a few of the accomplishments we as a committee have achieved over this past year.

We had a holiday lunch at the first of this week with both of our staffs assembled—had some good food—and I was able to share with all of the staffs that I felt like we were the committee that was kind of like “The Little Engine that Could”—the children’s storybook wherein the tiny little engine is kind of plugging along. We are not typically the headline-grabbing committee in this Senate, but just like the little engine, we kind of put our heads down and get to work, and we achieve a lot.

In our case, even in a divided time, we are seeing good, strong bipartisan legislation that is helping just about every Member of our Senate in all areas of the country.

Think about where we started off this year. You will recall that it was unfortunately in the midst of a government shutdown. But what we were able to do even at that time was to move through a significant victory, and that was the passage of our sweeping lands package containing more than 120 individual measures that reflected the priorities of dozens of Members in the Senate and the House. We passed that out of the Senate 92 to 8, the House passed it out 363 to 62, and the President signed it shortly thereafter. It was sweeping. We recognized that it provided for economic development for so many small communities, protected treasured landscapes, addressed a range of sportsmen’s priorities, and permanently reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

It took a long time. There were many initiatives we had been working through for a considerable period of time. But our ability to be able to pass it shortly after this government shutdown underscored that even at a time when we are known for our divisions, we can still achieve bipartisan success.

The committee really took the momentum, and we ran with it—as Senator MANCHIN has pointed out, some 51 bills, 52 bills here. Today, we just moved 19 bills out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee markup. We have moved out measures that are focused on energy efficiency, renewables, energy storage, advanced nuclear energy, carbon capture, utilization, and storage. We focused on mineral security, cyber security, and a range of additional technologies that really

work to ensure that energy becomes more affordable as it becomes cleaner.

We have been working very hard on the public lands side of our jurisdiction as well. One bill you are sure to hear more about in the first of the year is the Restore Our Parks Act, which will address the multibillion-dollar deferred maintenance backlog at our national parks—the crown jewels of our Nation. That bill provides \$6.5 billion over the next 5 years to fix dilapidated trails, buildings, roads, bridges, monuments, and historic markers.

Working on the parks and the land side, we reported 13 nominees for key leadership positions at the Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, and the FERC. Nearly all of them were confirmed, ensuring the President has a good team to carry out our Nation’s energy and resource policies.

We have also held hearings—about two a week while we have been in session—to highlight the opportunities and the challenges we face within our jurisdiction. These range from everything from the need for new and innovative technologies—as Senator MANCHIN pointed out—to the future of our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. As he mentioned, we have held hearings—many hearings now—on climate change, making that a priority among priorities.

I think it is fair to say we have been very productive as a committee. We know the work isn’t done. It is one thing to report the measures out of committee; it is another thing to get them enacted into law. Our eyes are directed right now on these next steps.

Early next year, we hope to bring much of the work we have processed through the committee, bring it to the Senate floor. We are counting on our colleagues to join us and to help move these bills to the House and to the President for his signature. Whether you are interested in energy innovation, resource security, or access to public lands, this work should appeal to just about every Member and provide a great opportunity to advance the security, prosperity, and competitiveness of our Nation.

I want to share the deep appreciation I have for my ranking member, Senator MANCHIN, and his partnership. We have navigated some complicated stretches, but we have done so by working together to ensure a good outcome for the committee, for the Senate, and for the American people. I think you have seen some of that.

**TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON**

**Mr. President,** we saw some of the good work reflected of a gentleman we have lauded on the floor now throughout this week and will continue to laud because he is a most laudable and wonderful human being, and that is our friend, the Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON, who will soon be stepping down after a very good and honorable career in the U.S. Senate and before that.

It was a pleasure to know we were able to move out of the Energy Committee this morning. One of the priorities he has been working on is the Preserving America's Battlefields Act. He is a great historian and has put a great deal of himself into advancing that important legislation.

Another markup I was part of this morning was in Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, where we moved out two significant bills that had JOHNNY ISAKSON's fingerprints all over it. His care, his compassion for the most vulnerable children who have been abused—he has been a leader in the CAPTA legislation that moved out of that committee by voice vote this morning.

He was also instrumental in another measure that moved through the committee, the Adoption Opportunities Act. It gives you a glimpse of the range and the breadth of this extraordinary legislator, whether it is his great effort working for our veterans and his leadership on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, his leadership on those matters that he cares so personally and passionately about in the HELP Committee, or what we see in the other committees as we have seen in Energy with his focus on America's history.

JOHNNY ISAKSON is not only a great legislator, a laudable man, but he is also a true friend. He is one who has reminded us all that relationships matter; that how we speak to one another matters; that how we treat one another as human beings and friends matters.

I know that as we say our goodbyes to Senator ISAKSON from this Chamber, we will long remember not only the contributions he has provided from a legislative perspective and a policy perspective but as a person and as a lovely and decent human being.

With that, I yield floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise for a few moments to compliment my colleague, the chair of the Energy and Natural Resources committee, along with her ranking member, JOE MANCHIN, who spoke a few minutes ago, the Senator from West Virginia.

I have done a lot of thinking about leadership. One of the observations I have made is that the character and personality and thoughtfulness of the leader infect the entire organization. In this case, the chair and the ranking member of our committee have produced one of the most remarkable records of achievement in a committee that I have seen since I have been here over the past year. It has been because of their willingness to listen, their willingness to work with all of the members of the committee—and it is quite a diverse committee in terms of geography and in terms of ideology and in terms of representation of various interests at the table of the important questions of energy that face us.

This has been an amazingly productive year. I attribute that to the skill and leadership and character of Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska and of Senator MANCHIN of West Virginia.

It has been a wonderful experience for me to see what can be done in this institution. The next step, of course, is to get to the floor of the U.S. Senate and move these bills forward, as I think they can and should, through the House of Representatives and to the President.

Again, I rise not only to congratulate but also to thank the leadership of this committee for the great work they have done this year. I look forward to even better and greater things in the years to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am on the floor briefly today to remind my colleagues to remind their constituents that December 15 is the open enrollment deadline for healthcare at healthcare.gov. This is incredibly important because if you are uninsured or you are currently on an Affordable Care Act plan, if you don't renew or sign up by the 15th, you will be frozen out of the marketplace unless you have what is called a qualifying event.

As we head back for the weekend, I want to ensure we do everything we can to make sure there are aren't more people who go into the New Year without insurance than absolutely necessary. This is especially important because we have seen a big decline in the number of people who have insurance in this country since President Trump took office.

Obviously, we made enormous progress after the passage of the Affordable Care Act. We were able to get the percentage of Americans without insurance down to around 5 percent. That is really extraordinary. Yet we have seen that progress reverse. We have seen more and more people go without insurance since this administration started to wage what is a pretty consistent, remarkable war on the Affordable Care Act.

As we speak today, the Trump administration is in court trying to get the court system—the Federal court system—to strike down the entirety of the Affordable Care Act. If they are successful in that endeavor, then next year's deadline will not matter because the Affordable Care Act will be gone; 20 million people will lose their health insurance; insurers will once again be able to charge you more because you have a preexisting condition or your kid has cancer or you are a woman.

As we fight that court case, we need to remember that the Affordable Care Act is still out there and is still very affordable for millions and millions of Americans. Seventy percent of enrollees who go on to healthcare.gov find they qualify for financial help, meaning the sticker price is not actually

what you pay. The tax credits in ObamaCare will help you get that premium lower.

In fact, on average, folks are getting pretty sizable premiums—in the neighborhood of \$500. That could make healthcare incredibly affordable, even if the sticker price looks out of your range.

A woman in Hartford, named Deborah, visited a local enrollment fair after receiving a letter saying her premiums actually might be going up. She said this:

That scared me a little bit so I wanted to come in and have someone explain it to me whether it was going to go up, decrease, you know, what were my options. What ended up happening is that actually my premium went down for the same plan but I also learned that just because they renew you that I had the opportunity to go in and say no, I don't want that plan, I want to choose this plan. I am ecstatic with my new plan. . . . I got educated on the insurance process and I like that.

You can still get that help. You can still get somebody on the phone to walk you through your choices. I really encourage people to do that by this Sunday.

For folks who do find an affordable plan, I hope you will also step up and try to help us maintain the protections and the coverages we have. We have been fighting a battle with the Trump administration. It doesn't like the Affordable Care Act simply because the President's name is on it, despite the fact that Americans don't want the Affordable Care Act repealed. But the administration has been doing everything within its power to try to make it harder for people to sign up. The administration has rolled back the advertising for the Affordable Care Act.

This is what qualifies for advertising today—charts on the floor of the U.S. Senate. The administration has rolled back the money for the navigators—the people who help you pick which plan is right for you. The administration, for a period of time, threatened to stop paying insurance companies, which chilled the interest of insurers to actually offer plans on these exchanges. As I mentioned, the administration is going to court to try to unroll and unwind the entirety of the act through a court case.

Lastly, though, what you will find, if you go and enroll in some States, are plans that look like an Affordable Care Act plan on these websites but actually aren't. They are what we call junk plans, short-term plans—plans that don't really cover anything. They might not cover maternity care or addiction care or mental health or prescription drugs. Some of these junk plans don't cover you if you get admitted into the hospital on a Friday or Saturday.

Be careful of those plans because the sticker price is going to look really low, but that is for a reason. It is because they don't cover anything.

The President has allowed for those junk plans to be shown right next to

the Affordable Care Act plan. Make sure you are signing up for a regulated, Affordable Care Act plan. That is a plan that is bronze or silver or gold, not one of these junk short-term plans that is not going to be right for the vast majority of Americans.

It is not too late. Sunday is the deadline. If you are in Connecticut, make sure to go to Access Health CT or your State exchange, if your State runs an exchange. If not, you can get healthcare through [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled at 1:45 p.m. begin right now.

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

#### VOTE ON HAHN NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hahn nomination?

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 397 Ex.]

#### YEAS—72

Alexander	Brown	Cornyn
Baldwin	Capito	Cortez Masto
Barrasso	Cardin	Cotton
Bennet	Carper	Cramer
Blackburn	Casey	Crapo
Blunt	Cassidy	Cruz
Boozman	Collins	Daines
Braun	Coons	Durbin

Enzi	Lee
Ernst	Manchin
Feinstein	McConnell
Fischer	McSally
Gardner	Menendez
Graham	Murkowski
Grassley	Murphy
Hawley	Perdue
Hooven	Peters
Hyde-Smith	Portman
Inhofe	Risch
Johnson	Roberts
Jones	Romney
Kaine	Rosen
Kennedy	Rounds
Lankford	Rubio

#### NAYS—18

Blumenthal	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Gillibrand	Markey	Smith
Hassan	Merkley	Stabenow
Heinrich	Murray	Udall
Hirono	Reed	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—10

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Warren
Duckworth	Moran	
Harris	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from South Dakota.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

#### PALLONE-THUNE TRACED ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, every American has had to deal with annoying and illegal robocalls. All of us have been interrupted at one time or another by a robocall's announcing "You have won a prize" or claiming to need important banking information so that our accounts will not be closed. These calls are a major nuisance. Of course, they are not just a nuisance. Too many Americans fall victim to sophisticated robocall scammers and have their money or identities stolen. These individuals spend months or years struggling to get their lives back after falling prey to these scammers.

There are currently laws and fines in place to prevent scam artists from preying on people through the telephone. Unfortunately, these measures have not been sufficient. In many cases, robocall scammers simply build the current fines into the cost of doing business, and the Federal Communications Commission's enforcement efforts are hampered by a tight time window for pursuing violators.

I have been working on this issue since my time as chairman of the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and at the end of last year, I introduced the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or the TRACED Act, with my colleague Senator MARKEY.

The Senate passed our bill in May, and last week our bill was passed by the House of Representatives. The TRACED Act provides tools to discourage illegal robocalls, protect consumers, crack down on offenders.

Criminal prosecution of illegal robocallers can be difficult. Scammers are frequently based abroad and quickly shut down shop before authorities can get to them, but I believe we need to make sure there is a credible threat of criminal prosecution and prison for those who use robocalls to prey upon the elderly and other vulnerable Americans.

The TRACED Act convenes a working group with representatives from the Department of Justice, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Commerce, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, State attorneys general, and others to identify ways to criminally prosecute illegal robocalling.

In the meantime, it expands the window in which the FCC can pursue scammers and levy fines from 1 year to 4 years.

The bill also makes it easier for your cell phone carrier to lawfully block calls that aren't properly authenticated, which will ultimately help stop scammers from getting through to your phone in the first place.

The TRACED Act also tackles the issue of spoof calls, where scammers make the call appear as if it is coming from some known number.

I remember an article from my home State a couple of years ago that reported that scammers had successfully spoofed the number of the Watertown Police Department. To anyone who received a call, it looked as if it really was the Watertown Police Department calling.

The TRACED Act also addresses the issue of so-called one-ring scams, where international scammers try to get individuals to return their calls so they can charge them exorbitant fees, and it directs the Federal Communications Commission to convene a working group to address the problem of illegal robocalls being made to hospitals.

There are numerous stories of hospital telephone lines being flooded with robocalls, disrupting critical lines of communication, literally, for hours. This can't be allowed to go on.

I want to thank Senator MARKEY for partnering with me on the TRACED Act, and my House colleagues for advancing this legislation. I am proud of the bipartisan support our bill has received in both Houses of Congress.

One last step remains before we can get this bill to the President's desk, and that is Senate passage of the final