

MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 3339

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3339) to restore military priorities, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to join with the leader and my colleagues in thanking and recognizing Laura Dove, who is leaving us and the Senate at the end of the week. I don't think there is anybody else more identified with the U.S. Senate by Senators and their staffs than Laura.

When the leader was arriving here as a freshman Senator, I was arriving as a young 24-year-old staffer and happened to, I think, overlap, as well, when Laura was a page here. So she has been here; this has been her life; and many of us have had the opportunity through the years to observe her in action and to realize not only how talented and gifted she is but what a person of incredible integrity and character as well.

She spent more than two decades serving in the Senate and three weeks serving as my seatmate during the impeachment trial, which I am hoping wasn't the last straw in convincing her to retire.

For the last 7 years, she has been the Secretary of the Minority and Majority, a role that involves managing the Republican cloakroom, helping develop the floor schedule, keeping Members informed about votes, and providing Members with legislative and parliamentary counsel.

Laura has done all that and more over the past 7 years and has done it with distinction. All of us on this side of the aisle rely on her counsel, and there is no way we would have been able to accomplish all that we have accomplished in the past few years without her wisdom and expertise. She has the rare ability to tell Senators no—always with a smile—and actually have them listen.

I have sought Laura's advice many times, especially since becoming whip last year, and I will greatly miss her counsel, although I am hopeful she will be leaving a forwarding address for future questions.

As the leader pointed out, you might say Laura was raised on the Senate. Her father Robert "Bob" Dove twice served as Senate Parliamentarian and had a Senate career that spanned nearly 40 years, so Laura grew up steeped in Senate procedure and tradition.

But her own career began as a Senate page, and I think perhaps her proudest accomplishment in the Senate has been mentoring literally the scores of pages who have passed through the Republican cloakroom on her watch. I know she has made their experience a richer and more meaningful one.

So, Laura, we thank you for your tireless work, the long days and the nights you put in. Your wisdom, patience, and unfailing good humor will be sorely missed by Senators and staff of both parties. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavors, and I hope that your next job will involve fewer late nights and more time for leisure, including loading up the RV and making another trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

5G

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, most of us think that today's internet is pretty fast. We receive traffic updates basically in realtime, get emails within a second or two, and stream our favorite shows whenever and wherever we want. But as advanced as today's internet is, the next generation of internet 5G will make 4G look like dial-up.

For instance, 5G mobile broadband technology will deliver speeds up to 100 times faster than what today's technology can deliver. It will be vastly more responsive than 4G technology, and it will be able to connect 100 times—100 times—the number of devices that can be connected with 4G.

While that will make it even easier to do the things we do today, like check our email or stream our favorite shows, the biggest benefits of 5G will lie in the other technologies it will enable—precision agriculture, medical and surgical innovation, safer vehicles, and much more.

The technology for 5G is already here, but there is more work to be done to get to nationwide 5G deployment. A key part of getting to that point is developing the workforce that will be required to install and maintain the 5G network.

Current internet technology relies on cell phone towers, but 5G technology will require not just traditional cell phone towers but small antennas called small cells that can often be attached to existing infrastructure like utility poles or buildings.

Wireless providers will have to install nearly 800,000 small cells around the Nation to support a nationwide 5G network. Of course, after installation, every one of those small cells will have to be monitored and maintained. That will require a substantial increase in the telecommunications workforce.

It is estimated that deploying the necessary infrastructure for 5G will create approximately 50,000 new construction jobs each year over the build-out period, and that is just for construction. Right now there simply aren't enough workers with the necessary training to meet the needs of nationwide 5G.

Industry and community colleges have stepped forward to provide train-

ing opportunities, but more work needs to be done if the United States wants to step forward into the 5G future.

As past chairman of the Commerce Committee and the current chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, 5G has long been a priority of mine. I have spent a lot of time focused on advancing 5G deployment, especially to rural States like my home State of South Dakota. I was very proud to be in Sioux Falls a few months ago when the city unveiled one of the first 5G networks in the country.

In 2018, the President signed into law legislation that I developed to increase access to critical spectrum, and I have also introduced legislation to facilitate small cell deployment, especially in rural areas.

Today, I am introducing legislation to address the other part of the 5G equation—creating a large enough workforce to deploy and maintain all those small cells. As I said, industry and community colleges have both stepped forward to provide programs to train workers. Places like VIKOR Teleconstruction and Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls, SD, are already helping to train the 5G workforce of the future. But more work needs to be done.

My Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act would help increase the number of workers enrolled in 5G training programs and identify ways to grow the telecommunications workforce to meet the demands of 5G. My bill would require the Department of Labor to bring together our Federal partners, as well as individuals on the ground, deploying next-generation telecommunications services. The resulting working group would be required to identify any current laws or regulations that are making it difficult for educational institutions and businesses to establish programs to help meet the workforce needs of the telecom industry.

It would also be required to identify existing Federal programs to help address workforce shortages, as well as ways the Federal Government could encourage or incentivize growth in the telecommunications workforce, including the deployment of fixed broadband in our rural areas. My bill would also direct the Department of Labor and the Federal Communications Commission to issue guidance for States to help them leverage existing Federal resources for growing their telecommunications workforces and to help them improve recruitment for industry-led telecommunications development programs like the Wireless Infrastructure Association's Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program.

I appreciate my colleagues, Senators Tester, Moran, and Peters, for partnering with me on this bill.

Getting to 5G in the near future is important for our whole country—both economically and for the advances it will bring in fields like medicine and

auto safety—which is why it has been a major priority of mine over the past few years.

I am particularly motivated by the benefits that 5G could bring to my home State of South Dakota. The ability to deploy precision agriculture on a wide scale would have huge benefits for South Dakota farmers. Better access to telemedicine could bring better healthcare to thousands of residents in my home State and other rural areas. To get to these benefits, we have to ensure the telecommunications companies are able to find the workers they need.

I hope we can quickly advance this legislation so the United States can continue her march into the 5G future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH.) The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor for two reasons. I am first going to recognize the good work that the Secretary for the Majority, Laura Dove, has done for the entire U.S. Senate, particularly for the majority but mostly for the smooth running of the Senate.

Before I speak on another issue, I want to associate myself with the great comments that Leader MCCONNELL made this morning about the work of the Secretary for the Majority, Laura Dove. Laura's work in the U.S. Senate has been tremendous, with over 20 years of service. Few know Senate procedures as well as Laura Dove. She keeps the Senate firing on all cylinders, working for the American people.

I am a Senator who hasn't missed a vote in almost 27 years. Laura Dove and the Republican cloakroom, partnering with her and with me in my commitment to not miss a vote—they ensure that I am here when I am needed for those votes. I thank Laura for helping me serve the people of Iowa effectively.

I wish Laura all the best in her next chapter. There is no doubt that we will miss her sharp intellect and warm smile here in the Senate Chamber.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as Iowa farmers count down the days to get into the fields, baseball fans are counting down the days for that first pitch to cross the plate. As a farmer and also as a baseball fan, hope springs eternal.

However, we have gotten wind that Major League Baseball is throwing

local clubs a curve ball—a curve that would hurt baseball, hurt local economies, and the fields of dreams in my home State. That is three strikes right there.

I have got news. Don't count us baseball fans out. These local communities and this U.S. Senator aren't going to sit on the sidelines. Now, here is the news: Major League Baseball said that it may cut ties with as many as 42 Minor League clubs, including three historic affiliates in Iowa: The Burlington Bees, the Clinton LumberKings, and the Quad Cities River Bandits.

I have been in communication with the deputy commissioner of Major League Baseball, Dan Halem, both in letters and on the phone, about the importance of these teams to Iowa. I am sure a lot of my colleagues have made the same contacts.

I have also joined, with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, in introducing a resolution today supporting all Minor League Baseball teams across the country. For generations of Iowans, these ball clubs are a vibrant source of civic pride, a vibrant source of entertainment, and—would you believe it—also a vibrant source of economic development.

While I have been to just a handful of Major League Baseball games, I have fond, fond memories of going to Minor League Baseball games in Waterloo, IA. We call them the Waterloo White Hawks, a club team for the Chicago White Sox. I had an opportunity, as a young person, to see Luis Aparicio play there in Waterloo before he made it big in the majors as a shortstop for the Chicago White Sox.

You can see that I want Iowans to continue to have that same experience. For the record, I am and will always go to bat for Iowa. As Iowa's senior Senator, I will do what I can to "root, root, root for the home team."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. SCOTT of Florida.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today as the Democrats continue to scare the American public when it comes to their healthcare.

This week's Democratic Presidential debate the other night in South Carolina was a free-for-all. Their frontrunner, a man I believe to be a dangerous democratic Socialist, BERNIE SANDERS, is in the spotlight, and he seems to be in the lead. Socialist tax-and-spend policies remain on full display.

The top policy priority of the Democrats would destroy healthcare freedom in America. They are proposing a complete government takeover of our Nation's healthcare system—a complete government takeover. They call it Medicare for All, but let's take a look at what that actually means. It means that 180 million Americans who get their health insurance through work would lose that insurance. They would lose that health insurance. Washington bureaucrats would be in control of healthcare.

The Sanders proposal has a price tag of \$34 trillion—\$34 trillion with a "t." It would bankrupt the country and everyone in it. The only way to even try to pay for it is with massive, across-the-board tax hikes, and BERNIE SANDERS said he is willing to do it.

Do not be deceived when they first talk about targeting the rich because the tax increases would hit working families and even people making \$29,000 a year. That is according to BERNIE SANDERS' own math. And taxes are likely to double. Medicare for All would deliver a crushing blow not only to family budgets but I believe to the entire economy. It would end America's success story.

Thanks to Republican tax and regulatory relief, we have a record-setting economy, record low unemployment, record job growth—7 million new jobs. Wages are rising. Middle-class wages and blue-collar wages are going up. It is a worker windfall, a blue-collar boom. A record 61 percent of Americans say they are better off financially than when President Trump took office. People are confident about the future, and the President's job approval is at an alltime high.

Still, the 2020 Democrats don't seem to get it. You don't hear a positive word about the economy. Instead, Democrats seem to attack one another and try to move further and further to the Left. During the debate last week, the crowd actually booed a defense of free markets.

Some Democratic candidates are proposing a scaled-back version of Medicare for All that they call a "public option," but this proposal would create a