

As AOPA reported at the time, “In a strange coincidence, the propeller was found by one of Inhofe’s high school classmates from Tulsa, who called the airport asking if anyone had lost a prop. G. W. Curtiss returned the prop to the airport and reunited with the senator, whom he hadn’t seen in some 40 years.”

Senator INHOFE is a rightfully proud of his role on the Armed Services Committee in producing the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, each year, and it is fitting that this year’s NDAA bears his name. He has worked especially hard on building U.S. relations with countries in Africa and led the effort to establish AFRICOM as a separate combatant command in 2007. I have appreciated his strong support for Israel and for cosponsoring my measure, the Israel Anti-Boycott Act.

On EPW, I have enjoyed collaborating with Senator INHOFE on surface transportation and water development bills. For many years, Senator INHOFE was the only Republican to join my Dear Colleague letters to fund the Water Resources Development Acts of 2014 through 2020, with the grant programs under those bills receiving steady increases in their appropriated levels. These increases have accrued to State Revolving Funds for wastewater and drinking water but also to smaller, objective-specific programs to reduce lead in drinking water, for instance.

Senator INHOFE and his beloved wife Kay celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary this Monday. He is devoted to her and to his 20 children and grandchildren. I know he is eager to spend more time with them.

There is much that Senator INHOFE and I disagree on, but we both know that our friendship transcends those disagreements by a wide margin, and, as a result, we have accomplished much together where we agree, especially on water infrastructure. I am grateful for our friendship and for his public service spanning eight decades—from his Army service in the 1950s to today—and wish him a happy, well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BLUNT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague and, more importantly, my dear friend, Senator ROY BLUNT. By Senate standards, Senator BLUNT has had a brief career—two terms—but he has been extraordinarily effective. I know I speak on behalf of all of our colleagues when I say we will miss Senator BLUNT’s calming influence and steady hand at the helm of good old-fashioned bipartisan legislating.

Senator BLUNT is native Missourian. He grew up on a dairy farm, so he knows about hard work. He received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in the State. He entered public service at the age of 22 when he became the Greene County Clerk and Election Official, a post he held for 12 years.

In 1984, Senator BLUNT was elected to serve as Missouri’s secretary of state, the first Republican to hold that position in 50 years. In 1996, he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives and was reelected six times. I got to know him while we both served in the House.

Before Senator BLUNT was elected to serve in Congress, he was a high school history teacher. He also taught at his alma mater, Southwest Baptist University, and served as its president from 1993 to 1996.

Senator BLUNT was well-schooled in civics and governance when he arrived in Congress, so it is no surprise that he quickly rose through the ranks to hold Republican leadership posts both in the House and in the Senate. He became the majority whip in the House earlier in his career than any predecessor over the previous 80 years. He entered Senate Republican leadership as a freshman.

I have had the privilege and the pleasure of working with Senator BLUNT on many issues, chief of which is the New Markets Tax Credit program, NMTC. We have worked together since 2015 to extend and increase the allocation for the New Markets Tax Credit program, which provides a 39 percent Federal tax credit for businesses or economic development projects in areas with poverty rates of at least 20 percent, or median incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median, driving investment and strengthening communities in areas that need it most. In Missouri, I understand that more than 500 projects have benefited from the tax credit, covering everything from afterschool programs and affordable housing to research hubs and local small businesses.

Senator BLUNT and I serve as co-chairs of the Atlantic Council’s U.S.-Colombia Task Force, where we have worked together to strengthen the economic, diplomatic, and security ties between our two nations.

Earlier this month, Senator BLUNT, who serves as the ranking member on the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, was instrumental in helping pass S. 5229, a bill I introduced directing the Joint Committee on the Library to remove the bust of Roger Taney from the Old Supreme Court Chamber and to obtain a bust of Thurgood Marshall. Taney was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who wrote the majority opinion in the infamous Dred Scott case in 1857. Marshall was the first Black Supreme Court Justice.

Senator BLUNT is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, and he has skillfully looked after his State’s interests. But he has had a much broader vision, too, particularly when it comes to the National Institutes of Health—NIH—located not in Missouri, but in my home State of Maryland. As the former chair and now the ranking member on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and

Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS), Senator BLUNT secured seven consecutive funding increases for NIH totaling \$15.4 billion.

Thanks in large part to Senator BLUNT’s leadership, Alzheimer’s disease research funding has more than quintupled, increasing from \$631 million to nearly \$3.5 billion. In September, NIH dedicated the ROY BLUNT Center for Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias Research in Bethesda, MD.

Thanks in large part to Senator BLUNT’s leadership, the National Cancer Institute has received an increase of nearly \$2 billion, or 40 percent, over the past 7 years.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which President Biden signed into law in June, included more than \$8.5 billion to expand the successful Excellence in Mental Health Program, which created Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics—CCBHCs—to every State that chooses to participate. Nine states, including Missouri and Michigan, are currently participating in the CCBHC program; 10 additional States may opt into the program every 2 years.

Senator BLUNT worked with Senator STABENOW to pass the Excellence in Mental Health Act in 2014. The law, which marked the most significant expansion of community mental health and addiction services in decades, created CCBHCs that provide a wide range of services, including 24/7/365 crisis services, immediate screenings, risk assessments, and diagnoses. Missouri was one of the first eight States selected to participate in the Excellence pilot program, and has done so since 2017.

Start-up grants have expanded the number of clinics to more than 300 communities across 40 States, plus Washington, DC, and that number continues to grow. Annual funding for CCBHC expansion grants started at \$100 million in fiscal year 2018 and is now \$315 million. The total funding for fiscal years 2018 through 2022 exceeds \$1 billion. In 2020, Congress also provided an additional \$850 million through emergency COVID funding. These clinics serve about 1.5 million people across the country.

These are just a few of Senator BLUNT’s many accomplishments on behalf of his beloved Missourians, all Americans, and people around the world. Senator BLUNT is always interested in trying to find consensus, and he usually succeeds. Wherever there are bipartisan “gangs,” as we call them, working on thorny issues from infrastructure to marriage equality to Electoral Count Act reform, you will find Senator BLUNT. His service provides a model all Senators should strive to emulate.

I will miss collaborating with Senator BLUNT but am grateful that our congressional careers have overlapped for the past 26 years. We all owe a debt of gratitude to his lovely wife Abigail—

Abby—and his 10 children and grandchildren for “sharing” him with Congress and the Nation for a public service career spanning half a century. Senator BLUNT has made his mark, and we are all better for it.

HORSERACING INTEGRITY AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, in the early hours of Tuesday morning, we were given the text to the omnibus appropriations bill. With the end of the year fast approaching, everyone is trying to get this bill signed into law quickly. That is true even if it has not been fully reviewed and every consequence thought out.

We saw this 2 years ago, when the omnibus was included with COVID-relief funding, within the 2020 omnibus was the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act.

Prior to this 2020 act becoming law, with no process and no opportunity to debate the merits of the act, horseracing was regulated by States, and Congress had no role on how the industry was regulated.

What this 2020 bill did was impose a one-size-fits-all Federal regulatory approach on all States, from Iowa to Kentucky, to West Virginia, to New York. This is a bill that had never gone through the committee process, but it managed to end up in the omnibus.

As a result of this hasty lawmaking, last month, we saw the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals strike down the law on the grounds that the act is unconstitutional. Regular order in the Senate, especially through committee process, would have prevented this unconstitutional language.

This did not come as a surprise. It was clear that the private nonprofit Horseracing Authority created in the 2020 omni wielded nearly unlimited Federal rulemaking authority and answered to no one, not even the President of the United States.

The court ruled that the power of the Federal Government can be wielded only by the Federal Government, not private entities like the “Authority.”

For months I have worked with horsemen in Iowa and my colleagues in the Senate to address the obvious failures with implementation of this law since it went into effect earlier this year.

I specifically asked the FTC about the extent of its oversight of the FTC, a key factor for the Fifth Circuit’s ruling.

The FTC response was simple. It said it did not have any oversight over the “Authority.” This is clearly unconstitutional and is inconsistent with conservative principles of small government and reigning in the Federal bureaucracy.

Now that the courts have found HISA unconstitutional, Congress should work a fix through the regular committee process to avoid the pitfalls of the previous legislation.

But that is not what is happening today. In the 2022 omni once again, the special interests that invented the unconstitutional “Authority” in the first place have convinced their supporters a quick fix is needed in this omnibus. The same people who pushed the unconstitutional “Authority” through in an end of year omnibus are once again forcing legislation without any input from Senators like me.

This fix to the unconstitutional Federal rulemaking power wielded by the “Authority” is included on page 1,930. How many members of Congress even know that this is included? Probably very few.

I have since introduced an amendment that would strike this text with Senator MANCHIN. Since then numerous offices reached out to find out what this is—and once they do—have expressed the same opposition to this becoming law that I have.

This is just one example of which there are many, of legislating on an omnibus. It lets a select few Members, or in this case just one Member, of leadership create new Federal regulatory frameworks for entire industries.

I support ensuring safe, humane horseracing. But I also support small tracks, like Prairie Meadows in Iowa, which don’t have the billionaires backing like those in States that host Triple Crown races.

And I am not alone because most other States have tracks like Prairie Meadows.

Instead of governing this way, Congress should work with State racing commissions to regulate horseracing in a responsible way to ensure racetrack safety and the economic viability of small tracks across the country.

I will work with any Senator who is willing to stand up for small tracks in the next Congress and fix this broken way of governing.

ELECTORAL COUNT REFORM AND PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2023 includes the reforms of the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act, a bill I coauthored with Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia. This bipartisan legislation has 39 cosponsors, including Senate Leaders CHUCK SCHUMER and MITCH MCCONNELL and Senate Rules Committee Chairman AMY KLOBUCHAR and Ranking Member ROY BLUNT. The bill was favorably reported out of the Senate Rules Committee by a vote of 14-1.

The Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act would reform and modernize the outdated Electoral Count Act of 1887 to ensure that electoral votes tallied by Congress accurately reflect each State’s vote for President. In addition to my prior remarks about the reforms

this bill makes to the Electoral Count Act, it is important that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect the purposes and intended implementation of these reforms, which were made by a bipartisan working group of Senators led by me and Senator MANCHIN. Our legislation amends title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act of 1887, and amends the Presidential Transition Act of 1963. Title I of the bill, described in the following analysis, contains the Electoral Count Reform Act.

Sec. 101. Short Title. This section designates the name of the bill as the “Electoral Count Reform Act of 2022.”

Sec. 102. Time for Appointing Electors. This section streamlines section 1 of title 3, United States Code, requiring that the electors of President and Vice President be appointed in each State on election day, in accordance with the laws of the State enacted prior to that date. The phrase “in accordance with the laws of the State enacted prior to election day” forecloses any opportunity that a subsequent day could be selected for choosing a State’s electors or taking other post hoc actions.

This section also repeals section 2 of title 3, often referred to as the “failed election” provision, which states that “[w]henver any State has held an election for the purpose of choosing electors, and has failed to make a choice on the day prescribed by law, the electors may be appointed on a subsequent day in such a manner as the legislature of such State may direct.” The phrase “failed to make a choice” is not defined in law. Since its enactment in 1845, this provision has never been used, and it was a source of uncertainty during the Presidential elections of 2000 and 2020. In striking this provision, our legislation ensures that Congress does not authorize any State to declare an election “failed” when the outcome is undesirable.

The authors of this bill recognize that there may be exceedingly rare circumstances in which a State may truly be unable to conduct its election on the day designated by law. Such rare circumstances are understood to include catastrophic natural disasters, terrorist attacks, or similar calamities. The definition of election day in the new legislation allows a State to modify the period of voting in a popular election “as necessitated by force majeure events that are extraordinary and catastrophic, as provided under laws of the State enacted prior to such day.” Such circumstances are so rare that they have yet to arise in our Nation’s history, thus this provision was included with the understanding that such an event requiring its use would be unprecedented in nature.

This provision contains several Federal restrictions: No. 1, the events must be necessitated by force majeure events that are extraordinary and catastrophic, No. 2, the processes for modifying the period of election must be established by the State prior to election