

the Congress. The Chair may request additional reports from the Subcommittees regarding their activities and budgets at any time during a Congress. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 9, Standing Rules of the Senate.)

RULE 9. CONFIRMATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

A. Standards. In considering a nomination, the Committee shall inquire into the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which the nominee has been nominated. The Committee shall recommend confirmation, upon finding that the nominee has the necessary integrity and is affirmatively qualified by reason of training, education, or experience to carry out the functions of the office to which the nominee was nominated.

B. Information concerning the Nominee. Each nominee shall submit the following information to the Committee:

(1) A detailed biographical resume which contains information relating to education, employment, and achievements;

(2) Financial information, in such specificity as the Committee deems necessary, including a list of assets and liabilities of the nominee and tax returns for the 3 years preceding the time of the person's nomination, a list of any federal funding or awards sought or received or participation in other federal programs for the 10 years preceding the time of the person's nomination, and copies of other relevant documents requested by the Committee, such as a proposed blind trust agreement, necessary for the Committee's consideration; and

(3) Copies of other relevant documents the Committee may request, such as responses to questions concerning the policies and programs the nominee intends to pursue upon taking office. At the request of the Chair or the Ranking Minority Member, a nominee shall be required to submit a certified financial statement compiled by an independent auditor. Information received pursuant to this subsection shall be made available for public inspection; provided, however, that tax returns shall, after review by persons designated in subsection (C) of this rule, be placed under seal to ensure confidentiality.

C. Procedures for Committee inquiry. The Committee shall conduct an inquiry into the experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity of nominees, and shall give particular attention to the following matters:

(1) A review of the biographical information provided by the nominee, including, but not limited to, any professional activities related to the duties of the office to which the person is nominated;

(2) A review of the financial information provided by the nominee, including tax returns for the 3 years preceding the time of the person's nomination;

(3) A review of any actions, taken or proposed by the nominee, to remedy conflicts of interest; and

(4) A review of any personal or legal matter which may bear upon the nominee's qualifications for the office to which the person is nominated. For the purpose of assisting the Committee in the conduct of this inquiry, a Majority investigator or investigators shall be designated by the Chair and a Minority investigator or investigators shall be designated by the Ranking Minority Member. The Chair, Ranking Minority Member, other Members of the Committee, and designated investigators shall have access to all investigative reports on nominees prepared by any Federal agency, including access to the report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Committee may request the assistance of the U.S. Government Accountability Office and any other such expert opinion as may be necessary in con-

ducting its review of information provided by nominees.

D. Report on the Nominee. After a review of all information pertinent to the nomination, a confidential report on the nominee shall be made in the case of judicial nominees and may be made in the case of non-judicial nominees by the designated investigators to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member and, upon request, to any other Member of the Committee. The report shall summarize the steps taken by the Committee during its investigation of the nominee and the results of the Committee inquiry, including any unresolved matters that have been raised during the course of the inquiry.

E. Hearings. The Committee shall conduct a public hearing during which the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to the nominee's suitability for office, including the policies and programs which the nominee will pursue while in that position. No hearing shall be held until at least 3 calendar days after the following events have occurred: The nominee has responded to prehearing questions submitted by the Committee; and, if applicable, the report described in subsection (D) has been made to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, and is available to other Members of the Committee, upon request.

F. Action on confirmation. A mark-up on a nomination shall not occur on the same day that the hearing on the nominee is held. In order to assist the Committee in reaching a recommendation on confirmation, the staff may make an oral presentation to the Committee at the mark-up, factually summarizing the nominee's background and the steps taken during the pre-hearing inquiry.

G. Application. The procedures contained in subsections (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this rule shall apply to persons nominated by the President to positions requiring their full-time service. At the discretion of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, those procedures may apply to persons nominated by the President to serve on a part-time basis.

RULE 10. PERSONNEL ACTIONS AFFECTING COMMITTEE STAFF

In accordance with Rule XLII of the Standing Rules of the Senate and the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-1), all personnel actions affecting the staff of the Committee shall be made free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, state of physical handicap, or disability.

RULE 11. APPRISAL OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall keep each other apprised of hearings, investigations, and other Committee business.

RULE 12. PER DIEM FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL

A per diem allowance provided a Member of the Committee or staff of the Committee in connection with foreign travel shall be used solely for lodging, food, and related expenses and it is the responsibility of the Member of the Committee or staff of the Committee receiving such an allowance to return to the United States Government that portion of the allowance received which is not actually used for necessary lodging, food, and related expenses. (Rule XXXIX, Paragraph 3, Standing Rules of the Senate.)

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I appreciate that we are beginning an amendment process on S. 5 in the Senate. I hope we continue with that proc-

ess, as there are still significant improvements to be made to this bill. We must keep our communities safe and prioritize detention of violent offenders, and our focus must be on the most effective path to achieve that goal.

I have introduced, along with Senator KAINE, an amendment that directly addresses the circumstances that led to the tragic murder of Laken Riley without creating a system that diverts resources away from the detention and deportation of violent offenders. I have also offered an amendment that makes clear that the apprehension and deportation of convicted violent offenders should be our highest enforcement priority.

Yesterday, I voted against the Cornyn amendment, which would expand the category of offenses under which individuals are detained following an arrest only, not a conviction or even an indictment. While I appreciate the seriousness of those crimes, this would continue to take resources from detention and deportation of those who pose the greatest threat to our communities and who are actually convicted.

I also voted for an amendment proposed by Senator COONS that would strike the section of the underlying bill that allows States attorneys general to sue the Federal Government when they disagree with any of the thousands of complex immigration enforcement decisions ICE and CBP make every day. Conflicting lawsuits in State courts around the country would paralyze our immigration enforcement system, ultimately jeopardizing public safety. I am disappointed that this amendment failed to pass.

I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan way to improve this bill to keep our communities safe while ensuring that our immigration enforcement officials can focus on the greatest public safety risks.

REMEMBERING ELISE J. BEAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the life and contributions of one of the Senate's truly outstanding staff persons: Elise J. Bean. Elise, who worked for almost 30 years for Senator Carl Levin on various subcommittees of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, died on January 14 at the age of 68. She started in the Senate as an attorney/investigator on the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management and ended as staff director of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), leaving when Senator Levin retired. Having chaired PSI in the 118th Congress, I am personally grateful that this historic subcommittee continues to benefit from the powerful and enduring legacy that Elise left.

Anyone who knew Elise would tell you that there was no one like her. She was an institution of congressional oversight. During nearly three decades in the Senate, Elise drove some of the

Chamber's most significant investigations and, thereafter, was a force behind the Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy for a decade. There, she relentlessly promoted bipartisan, fact-based oversight. Elise embraced the notion that Congress is not only capable of high-quality oversight and, in doing so, would turn the tide of history toward fairness and equality.

In the days when Elise ran the PSI staff from its basement office in Dirksen, she led by example, spending long hours at her massive wooden desk, with tall stacks of reports and research lining the perimeter and posterboard hearing exhibits leaning on the walls. She was an irrepensible advocate for better financial policies by exposing wrongdoing, corruption, money laundering, tax avoidance, and all manner of form-over-substance abuses. She got there by way of the facts, hard work, and bipartisanship. PSI's reports were heavy tomes, accompanied by additional volumes of documentary evidence. She was undeterred in seeking the truth, such as when she worked every day through the DC Snowpocalypse of 2009–2010 in PSI's offices interviewing witnesses, lest PSI's ongoing financial crisis inquiry fall behind. For her many investigative and other achievements, she has been honored on a global scale—by the Washingtonian, the National Law Journal, the International Tax Review, and more.

In her 2018 book, "Financial Exposure," Elise joked about regularly drinking Manhattans with Republican colleagues—which was true—but her across-the-aisle attitude was real. Elise invited bipartisan involvement in every stage of PSI's investigations, leading to a final product that was often bipartisan. Her work paved the way for passage of bipartisan legislation, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the CARD Act of 2009, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and corporate transparency reforms, to name just a few.

"Well, why not?" Elise would often say. She was not cowed by power or distracted by really anything. She would teach you, too, as she did for hundreds of law clerks and staff, if you were willing to work—seriously work. And for people who wanted to be in public service, she made good on the promise of doing something important to contribute to the common good by being a constructive teacher and mentor. She also taught classes, published studies and a book, and started a law journal. Through the Levin Center, she hosted oversight boot camps for the next generation of staffers and was a regular lifeline for advice.

Elise was generous not just in her work, but also in her sense of fun and warmth for so many people in her circle. Elise threw parties for any reason at all—to recognize staff milestones, a holiday, a Friday, or because the azaleas blooming in spring were lovely. She was devoted to her family, including her husband Paul and her sons

Jacob and Joey, and delighted in getting to know the families of her staff and friends. She looked for the good in people, in our government, and created more good in the world. Those who knew her will cherish and strive to continue her legacy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING REVEREND PAUL D. MOONEY

• Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, on January 10, 2025, Indiana lost a remarkable man of faith with the passing of Rev. Paul D. Mooney of Indianapolis.

Reverend Mooney was born in Noblesville, IN, in 1943, and was raised on his parents' farm in rural Hancock County. From an early age, Paul's exceptional gift for communication was evident. As a teenager, he hosted his own radio show and graduated as president of his high school class. But God had even greater plans for his life. As Reverend Mooney often advised, "Don't plan your life, because you'll underplan what God has for you."

Reverend Mooney's parents pastored a small church in Indianapolis, where a young Paul helped with the youth ministry. He married his beloved Micki in 1963, and together, they embarked on a lifelong ministry journey, pastoring thriving churches in Michigan and Indiana.

Throughout his ministry, Reverend Mooney was entrusted by his colleagues in the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) to serve as superintendent of both the Michigan and Indiana districts. He was later elevated to assistant general superintendent of the international fellowship, which encompasses more than 5 million constituents. He traveled the world, inspiring leaders with his trademark positivity and his legendary storytelling abilities.

Reverend Mooney dedicated much of his life to training and inspiring young people for ministry. As president of Indiana Bible College and Calvary Christian School for over 30 years, he impacted thousands of graduates who are now serving in ministry around the world.

A trusted friend and counselor to Governors, mayors, and legislators in Indiana, Reverend Mooney was a vital source of strength and wisdom for Hoosier leaders. His heart for the people of Indiana will be long remembered. He devoted his life and ministry to serving and loving all people, and he will be greatly missed.

I offer my deepest condolences to Reverend Mooney's children Jonathan, Adena, Jaye, and their families and his many friends around the world who join me in celebrating the life of this great man.●

TRIBUTE TO TREVICK UDELHOVEN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing

4-year-old Trevick Udelhoven of Fergus County as Montanan of the Month for his courage that is larger than life as he battles a life-threatening seizure disorder.

Trevick is your typical Montana cowboy, who loves spending time on the farm, being outdoors and cheering on his beloved Montana State University Bobcats. Sadly, he has recently had to put a pause on farm life to receive care from the Seattle Children's Hospital to receive treatment for his Febrile Infection-Related Epilepsy Syndrome, also known as FIRES. This diagnosis is an extremely rare neurological condition that can affect even the healthiest of adults and children.

Despite the obstacles he has faced, Trevick continues to demonstrate his grit and determination every step of the way. While he suffered brain damage as a result of his seizures, Trevick is working hard in physical, occupational, and speech therapy sessions to regain his strength and abilities. This type of perseverance deserves to be celebrated and cheered for, just as Trevick has always cheered on his Bobcats.

Between Trevick's courage and his incredible support system—his parents Dillon and Lexi and four siblings—he is bound for great things and serves as an inspiration to all. My prayer is that God would continue to bless and heal this little cowboy so that he can get back to the Treasure State.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Trevick Udelhoven for his strength and bravery, in and out of the hospital. Know that Montana is rooting you on, just as you cheered for the Bobcats all season. Keep fighting, Trevick; you make Montana proud.●

TRIBUTE TO HARRY DENDY

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize Harry Dendy as he retires from the sales committee of the Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions. Each year, hundreds of young agriculture enthusiasts gather at the State fairgrounds in Jackson, MS, to show their livestock at this sale. Mr. Dendy has attended every sale since 1975, making this year's sale on February 6 his 50th.

The Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions consistently raises money for 4-H and Future Farmers of America scholarships and programs that shape Mississippi youth to become the State's agriculture leaders. The sale and the programs it supports enable youth to develop both the technical knowledge and soft skills that they will need to become professionals working to feed and clothe the world. There is hardly any better way for youth to learn essential life skills like patience, persistence, hard work, and personal responsibility than by working with livestock.

Mr. Dendy has been a cornerstone of this sale for decades, and his hard work and support have been essential to the